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Daily sitting 26

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. Crossman, Member for Hampton, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to make FibreOP internet available to certain rural communities. (Petition 25)

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Urquhart,

Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Holder,

Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C.,

Bill 44, *Construction Remedies Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Cardy,

Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Early Childhood Services Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Civil Service Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Urquhart,

Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act.*

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Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 59 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Rogers:

WHEREAS the Premier has indicated that his budget projections have had to be revised and the originally projected surplus of \$92.4 million is now expected to be a deficit of \$299.2 million;

WHEREAS the Premier has embarked on a series of decisions including major policy decisions to address the budget shortfall without proper consultation;

WHEREAS these decisions include things like putting approved projects on hold, making significant decisions related to the education system, cutting positions and programs, and restructuring departments;

WHEREAS there should be an update on funds transferred between programs and the status of major funds like the regional development fund;

WHEREAS in the interest of openness and transparency, the details of all changes to programs and services made in relation to revised budget figures should be available to the public;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to table within two weeks a list of all decisions made by government in relation to changes to the 2020-2021 budget as presented in the Legislative Assembly.

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Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 60 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS a diverse and competitive media industry is important in a well-functioning democracy;

WHEREAS all daily English-language newspapers in New Brunswick are owned by Brunswick News Inc.;

WHEREAS 84% of daily newspaper circulation in New Brunswick is held by Brunswick News;

WHEREAS 71% of weekly newspaper circulation in New Brunswick is held by Brunswick News;

WHEREAS Brunswick News is owned by James K. Irving, who also owns J.D. Irving, Limited;

WHEREAS the House of Commons Final Report on the Canadian News Media found that the Irvings' corporate interests form an industrial-media complex that dominates New Brunswick and that this situation is unique in developed countries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to institute a 40% cap on the concentration of print media ownership in the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prohibit the cross-ownership of media and non-media businesses.

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Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 61 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS no worker should fear losing their job as a result of getting ill or having to take care of a family member;

WHEREAS the pandemic has made it clear that minimum wage workers do essential work in our communities and do not receive a fair wage for it;

WHEREAS workers who work overtime in New Brunswick are only required to receive overtime pay at one and a half times the minimum wage, and not one and a half times their wage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to give all workers access to 5 paid sick days and 10 additional emergency days, if required due to a health pandemic or other emergency situation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to a path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage over the coming 2 years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that workers receive overtime pay of one and a half times their wage.

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Ms. Harris gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers elected a minority government with an expectation that decision making should be more consultative, open, and transparent;

WHEREAS the Minister of Social Development announced a major policy decision on the reorganization of the Department of Social Development without consultation with stakeholders or the public;

WHEREAS many are concerned that this decision might cause a two-tier system with an inequality of service for rural regions;

WHEREAS according to the New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice, the vulnerable of our society will be negatively impacted by this decision;

WHEREAS since assuming the role as leader of the government, the Premier has called for greater cooperation between all political parties and for parties to be less political;

WHEREAS the Premier should ensure his Ministers also recognize the need for proper consultation and public engagement prior to making major policy announcements;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put this reform on pause until proper consultation is undertaken, a full reform proposal outlining all potential implications is brought forward by government, there is an indication of social acceptance, and it has been established that such a reform is necessary and in the best interests of the most vulnerable members of our population.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 33, and with leave Bills 42 and 43, be called for second reading, and that, with leave, any Bills that received second reading be considered by the Standing Committee on Economic Policy forthwith.

Unanimous consent was denied to call Bills 42 and 43 for second reading.

Unanimous consent was denied to consider Bill 33 in committee forthwith following second reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Days of Rest Act.*

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act.*

Bill 15, *An Act Respecting the Enhancement of Off-Road Vehicle Safety.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 33 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 33, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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And then, 3 p.m., the House adjourned.

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The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2018-2019

Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne

June 1, 2020