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Daily Sitting 42

Thursday, April 26, 2001.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The following Private Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. J. Betts,

Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Moncton Act.*

By Mr. McGraw,

Bill 48, *An Act to Incorporate SG Hambros Trust Company (Canada) Inc.*

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Université de Moncton Act.*

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mrs. Jardine,

Bill 50, *An Act Respecting the Transfer of Authority.*

Ordered that the said Bill be read a second time at the next sitting.

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 88 that on Thursday, May 3, 2001, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House statistical reports and tables for the New Brunswick civil service employees for the years March 1994 to March 2001 outlining gender breakdown including but not limited to departmental breakdowns, breakdown by occupational category, breakdown by salary range, breakdown by age and years of government service, distribution of employees in the civil service, representation within each occupational category and representation by occupational category and group, statistical data by classifications and by departments where women hold 20% or less of the positions, statistical data regarding women's representation in Senior Executive Officers positions; a gender breakdown of all agencies, boards and commissions appointments since 1999-2000.

Hon. Mr. Lord gave Notice of Motion 89 that on Wednesday, May 2, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Betts:

WHEREAS Canada is a federation in which provinces have constitutional responsibility for the delivery of a number of essential public services to citizens, including health, social services and education;

AND WHEREAS section 36(2) of the Constitution Act 1982 recognizes the commitment of Parliament and the Government of Canada to the principle of making equalization payments to ensure provincial governments have sufficient revenues to provide reasonably comparable levels of public services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation;

AND WHEREAS all Premiers of Canada have further agreed the federal government should strengthen its commitment to the Equalization Program so the Program meets its constitutionally mandated objective of addressing the fiscal imbalance in Canada;

AND WHEREAS a properly functioning equalization program is necessary to ensure fiscal disparities across this country do not widen resulting in noncompetitive tax rates;

AND WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick is currently a recipient of equalization payments and relies on a properly functioning program to provide quality services to its citizens and maintain its competitive position relative to the rest of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the people of New Brunswick believe a strong and effective federation is best achieved through the cooperation of all levels of government working to meet the needs of Canadians;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly reaffirms its commitment to section 36(2) of the Constitution Act 1982 and the principle of making equalization payments to ensure provincial governments have sufficient revenues to provide reasonably comparable levels of public services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation;

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the Legislative Assembly recognizes the fundamental importance of the provision of equalization payments as an essential characteristic of the Canadian federation;

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to enhance the current equalization program, including removal of the ceiling on equalization payments, to ensure it meets its constitutional mandate.

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 90 that on Thursday, May 3, 2001, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House copies of any and all agreements, offers of assistance, letters, correspondence, reports, reviews, analyses, memos, including electronic mail, concerning the Canada Winter Games between January 1996 and the present time, and not restricting the foregoing, the following: all documentation regarding New Brunswick's bid for the 2003 Canada Winter Games, and the acceptance of the bid, together with all aspects of the games relating to Campbellton and Bathurst; all documentation relating to meetings involving Government of Canada officials and the Province of New Brunswick officials relating to the Games; all documentation relating to other meetings involving officials of the Province of New Brunswick and the Games and the Canada Games Council; all documentation relating to the use and development of the Sugarloaf Park with respect to the Games; all documentation relating to the financing and funding of the Games; and any additional relevant materials with respect to the Games which would provide New Brunswickers transparency with all arrangements concerning the Games.

Hon. Mr. Green welcomed to the House J. Lorne McGuigan, a former Cabinet Minister and Progressive Conservative Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saint John Centre (1967-1974) and Joanne Cowan McGuigan.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that following Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of the government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy followed by consideration of legislation in the Committee of the Whole.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 19, moved by Mr. Allaby, seconded by Mr. Richard, as follows:

AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 19 be amended by:

In the second whereas clause, strike "eliminate" and replace with "hide", and;

By amending the resolution clause by striking the words "its commitment to eliminating the tolls from" and substituting the words "hiding the tolls on".

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, advised that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time, the Chairman declared it to be 6 o'clock p.m., and left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Ashfield in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard, took the chair.

And after some further time spent therein, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the Chair as Acting Speaker and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had made some progress in the consideration of the matters referred to them, had passed several items and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Deputy Speaker then put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2001-2002
ORDINARY ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$85,886,000 to defray the expenses of the following programs:

Forest Management 47,329,000
Fish and Wildlife Management 9,517,000
Minerals Management 3,889,000
Corporate Services 7,377,000
Land Management and Natural Areas 4,787,000
Regional Management 11,077,000
Energy Secretariat 1,019,000
First Nations Wood Harvest 925,000
Less amounts authorized by law 34,000
Voted 85,886,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES
2001 - 2002 Voted

WORKING CAPITAL ADVANCES

Natural Resources and Energy 500,000

PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Natural Resources and Energy 25,000

INVENTORIES

Natural Resources and Energy 510,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid before the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 75 - April 24, 2001