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Daily Sitting 45

Wednesday, May 2, 2001.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Green laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "Treatment of Gambling Addiction in New Brunswick."

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 95 that on Tuesday, May 8, 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 the number of vacant positions not back filled by casuals, contracts or other means in Part I of the Civil Service from April 1, 1999, to March 31, 2000, by region, by department, by classification including salary range indicating the savings incurred by the government as a result of the vacancies, indicating the positions slated to be filled and those which will be eliminated and also indicating the vacancies which resulted from the special early retirement package.

Ms. Weir gave Notice of Motion 96 that on Tuesday, May 8, 2001, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. S. Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House from the Minister of Public Safety, the number of deaths by suicide annually that have been linked to gambling problems for the last five (5) years.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the intention of the government that Government Motion 89 be debated, following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Business New Brunswick followed by those of the Department of Environment and Local Government.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 89, Hon. Mr. Lord, seconded by Hon. Mr. N. Betts, moved:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Allaby, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 89 be amended by:

Adding after the third resolved clause the following:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of New Brunswick to endorse the same principle of equalization in its dealings with municipal governments in New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division:

	YEAS - 5	
Mrs. Mersereau	Mr. Richard	Mr. Kennedy
Mr. Allaby	Mr. S. Graham	
	NAYS - 29	
Hon. Mr. N. Betts	Ms. Poirier	Mr. Laforest
Hon. Mr. Green	Mr. Carr	Mr. Huntjens
Hon. Mr. Furlong	Mr. Jordan	Mr. Savoie
Hon. Mrs. Jardine	Mr. Stiles	Mr. MacKenzie
Hon. Mr. Volpé	Mr. MacDonald	Ms. Dubé
Hon. Mr. Sherwood	Mr. Forbes	Mr. Weston
Hon. Mrs. MacAlpine	Mr. Holder	Mr. Alward
Mr. J. Betts	Mr. Kinney	Mr. Dubé
Mrs. Fowlie	Mr. McGraw	Mr. Moore
Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Steeves	

At the request of Hon. Mr. Green, the House reverted to the Order of Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to adjourn the debate on Motion 89 until 2 o'clock p.m., to sit beyond 12.30 o'clock p.m. until 1 o'clock p.m. to consider the estimates of Business New Brunswick, and to recess the House between 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock p.m. when the House would resume debate on Motion 89.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Carr in the chair as Acting Chairman.

And after some time Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair and Mr. Carr, the Acting Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had passed several items and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Bernard, the 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 BUSINESS NEW BRUNSWICK

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$23,613,000 to defray the expenses of the following programs:

Administration 2,503,000

Small Business and Industry Development 8,152,000

Business and Tourism Infrastructure 12,992,000

Less amounts authorized by law 34,000

Voted 23,613,000

LOANS AND ADVANCES

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS NEW BRUNSWICK

Voted, Supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the following programs:

Economic Development Act,

Agricultural Development Board and

Fisheries Development Act 58,800,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

2001 - 2002 Voted

PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Business New Brunswick 21,000

INVENTORIES

Business New Brunswick 5,150,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

At 1 o'clock p.m. Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, left the chair to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2 o'clock p.m.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Debate resumed on Motion 89.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 89 was carried unanimously.

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

And after some further time spent therein, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration 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 ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$47,768,000 to defray the expenses of the following programs:

Corporate Services 4,002,000
Local Government and Regional Services 34,342,000
Environmental Management 3,606,000
Sciences and Planning 5,852,000
Less amounts authorized by law 34,000
Voted 47,768,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then 5.53 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 84 - May 1, 2001