

26



Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Thursday, March 27, 2008

**Second Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

Thursday, March 27, 2008.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Mockler, Member for Restigouche-la-Vallée, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by 806 residents of the Fredericton area including 27 Grade 3 and Grade 4 students at the Garden Creek Elementary School urging the government to disregard the report entitled “A Comprehensive Review of French Second Language Programs and Services Within the Anglophone Sector of the New Brunswick Department of Education” and to rescind the changes to the Department of Education Policy Statement 309 in order to restore Early French Immersion in New Brunswick. (Petition 6)

Mr. Northrup, Member for Kings-East, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by citizens of the Sackville area urging the government to retain the teaching of Early French Immersion in elementary schools in the province. (Petition 7)

Mr. Alward, Member for Woodstock, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by residents of the Westmorland County area urging the government to reinstate the teaching of Early French Immersion in elementary schools in the province. (Petition 8)

Mr. Olscamp, Member for Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by New Brunswick citizens who support the Early French Immersion program in New Brunswick. (Petition 9)

Hon. Mr. Haché laid upon the table of the House a document entitled “New Brunswick Air Quality Monitoring Results, Report for 2006, Environmental Reporting Series.”

On motion of Hon. Mr. Murphy, seconded by the Honourable the Premier,

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday April 4, 2008, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

Hon. Mr. Murphy, Government House Leader, announced that on Friday, March 28, 2008, it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget

(Motion 56); second reading of Bill 34; and the Royal Assent Ceremony for Bill 45 would take place at noon.

Hon. Mr. Murphy announced that following Opposition Members' Business, it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 34.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 61, Ms. Dubé moved, seconded by Mr. Northrup:

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in all of Canada; and

WHEREAS the current government is hampering access to one of the official languages to a majority of our school children until Grade 5; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick will become the only province in Canada without an Early French Immersion Program; and

WHEREAS the efficacy of this educational strategy has not been supported by a single study; and

WHEREAS the Early French Immersion Program has proven to be very effective, and is supported by experts, many studies and the experiences of students, parents and teachers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government to reconsider its decision and re-establish French programs, that government commit to making the necessary improvements to the Core and French Immersion programs, and that Government ensures that parents will continue to have the choice to determine which is the right program for their children.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, at the request of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Northrup withdrew the term "dictator" in reference to the Minister of Education.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Hon. Ms. Schryer, seconded by Hon. Mr. Lamrock, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 61 be amended by:

THAT the second, third, fourth and fifth WHEREAS clauses be deleted and replaced with the following:

WHEREAS the current government committed in *When kids come first* to “an ambitious target of ensuring that 70% of all high school graduates will function effectively in speaking their second official language”; and

WHEREAS the current government is committed to improving all students’ literacy, math, and science achievement levels; and

WHEREAS keeping the status quo will not achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS it is time to share successful French second language education programs with all New Brunswick children; and

WHEREAS the current government has announced improvements to French-second language programs in the Anglophone education sector to help meet that goal;

AND THAT the resolution clause be deleted and replaced with the following:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly endorse the government’s goal of having 70% of high school graduates function in their second official language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly endorse the reforms that will ensure a universal access to quality French second language program for students in the Anglophone school system that will serve all students well through a single entry point to French second-language learning and an informed choice for parents between an effective post-intensive French option and a proven immersion option of learning French as a second language.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And after some time, the debate being ended and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 61 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in all of Canada; and

WHEREAS the current government committed in *When kids come first* to “an ambitious target of ensuring that 70% of all high school graduates will function effectively in speaking their second official language”; and

WHEREAS the current government is committed to improving all students' literacy, math, and science achievement levels; and
WHEREAS keeping the status quo will not achieve this goal; and
WHEREAS it is time to share successful French second language education programs with all New Brunswick children; and
WHEREAS the current government has announced improvements to French-second language programs in the Anglophone education sector to help meet that goal;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly endorse the government's goal of having 70% of high school graduates function in their second official language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly endorse the reforms that will ensure a universal access to quality French second language program for students in the Anglophone school system that will serve all students well through a single entry point to French second-language learning and an informed choice for parents between an effective post-intensive French option and a proven immersion option of learning French as a second language.

And the question being put, Motion 61 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 60, Mr. Betts moved, seconded by Mr. Holder:

WHEREAS with a recent increase in the price for uranium, much of the area in southeast New Brunswick has been staked in preparation for the mining of uranium; and

WHEREAS the possible health risks to individuals resulting from the mining operations, radioactive tailings, and chemicals used to extract the uranium are substantial; and

WHEREAS the potential for water supplies to become contaminated with uranium, radon gas and chemicals is significant; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the Turtle Creek watershed, which is a major source of drinking water for the City of Moncton and surrounding areas, has been staked for prospecting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly calls on the Government for an immediate moratorium on uranium exploration in the Moncton area, and that the moratorium remain in force until appropriate and acceptable

public hearings have been held, which demonstrate a worthwhile financial benefit to the Province, and that there is no health risk to New Brunswickers.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Haché, seconded by Hon. Mr. Jamieson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 60 be amended by:

In the first “whereas” clause strike “preparation for the mining of” and replace it with “hopes of possibly mining for”.

In the second “whereas” clause strike “substantial” and replace it with “potentially substantial”,

In the resolution clause strike all words after “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” and replace them with “that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to affirm that any decisions regarding mineral exploration and mining activities are made in accordance with existing legislation intended to protect municipal water supplies, using tools such as the *Watershed Protected Area Designation Order* and the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation*, as well as other federal and provincial legislative instruments.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment and a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 60 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS with a recent increase in the price for uranium, much of the area in southeast New Brunswick has been staked in hopes of possibly mining for uranium; and

WHEREAS the possible health risks to individuals resulting from the mining operations, radioactive tailings, and chemicals used to extract the uranium are potentially substantial; and

WHEREAS the potential for water supplies to become contaminated with uranium, radon gas and chemicals is significant; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the Turtle Creek watershed, which is a major source of drinking water for the City of Moncton and surrounding areas, has been staked for prospecting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to affirm that any decisions regarding mineral exploration and mining activities are made in accordance with existing legislation intended to protect municipal water supplies, using tools such as the *Watershed Protected Area Designation Order* and the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation*, as well as other federal and provincial legislative instruments.

And the question being put, Motion 60 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

At 6 o'clock p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the chair, to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Regional Health Authorities Act*, be now read a second time.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some time, Mr. Kenny, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

During the debate, Mr. Robichaud stood on a point of order and submitted that the Government House Leader had used the term "for God's sake." Hon. Mr. Murphy withdrew the remark.

And after some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the time of daily adjournment had arrived.

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