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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Thursday, April 3, 2008

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

Thursday, April 3, 2008.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Stiles laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "Government of New Brunswick Workforce Profile 2007."

Mr. Volpé gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Thursday, April 17, 2008, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ashfield:

WHEREAS the forestry industry in New Brunswick is in a state of crisis; and

WHEREAS the importance and value of the forestry industry is of the utmost significance to the well being of the province's economic stability; and

WHEREAS thirty three of New Brunswick's sixty one mills have closed their doors during the last several months; and

WHEREAS the future of New Brunswick's forestry industry including silviculture, is in jeopardy, leaving thousands of New Brunswickers without employment and thousands more adversely affected by the economic downturn that will result; and

WHEREAS the government has helped organize and has actively participated in industry summits for agriculture and the fisheries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government to immediately join with all parties interested in the future of New Brunswick's forests to organize a Forestry Summit in order to bring together all levels of government and all forestry stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of this Forestry Summit be to provide a forum for an open dialogue on the future of forestry in New Brunswick and how to get the best return for all New Brunswickers in terms of the economic, environmental, social and tourism factors; to engage the public in an open discussion, to examine potential solutions to the key challenges affecting New Brunswick's forests, and to ensure the survival and viability of this critically important component of New Brunswick's economy and the New Brunswick way of life.

Mr. C. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, April 17, 2008, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fitch:

WHEREAS the revenue generated by property taxes in New Brunswick is determined by two variables, to wit, property tax rates and property assessments;

WHEREAS significant increases in property values generally increase tax revenues considerably, for both the provincial government and municipalities;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government and the municipalities are never held accountable for additional revenues that may be generated by increased property assessments;

WHEREAS no one should have to pay higher property taxes without getting an explanation to justify the increase;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government has a duty to be fair and transparent with regard to taxation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ask the government to pass legislation to establish a system designed to lower property tax rates to reflect the increase in property values for assessment purposes;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ask the government to establish a structure to promote transparency, so that anyone can find out how property tax revenues are spent.

Mr. Carr gave Notice of Motion 64 that on Thursday, April 17, 2008, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

That an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House comparative budget and spending information for the Department of Social Development, formerly the Department of Family and Community Services, for the fiscal years 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, shown by program area.

Hon. Mr. Murphy, Government House Leader, announced that following Opposition Members' Business, it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget (Motion 56); following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 34 be read a second time.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 59, Mr. Volpé moved, seconded by Mr. Fitch:

WHEREAS the Premier and the Liberal Party of New Brunswick campaigned on a promise to not raise any taxes; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Government did raise taxes for individuals and businesses both large and small; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Government has created an economic environment that is uncompetitive and detrimental to the financial stability of the Province by maintaining a taxation rate that is unnecessarily inflated to off-set this Government's poor financial management; and

WHEREAS the Government has failed to decrease small business and personal taxes while maintaining a budget surplus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly condemn the Government for failing the people and businesses of New Brunswick by over-taxing and mismanaging the once good financial condition of the Province of New Brunswick.

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, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 59 was defeated on the following recorded division:

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Mr. Mockler	Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Betts
Mr. D. Graham	Ms. Blaney	Mr. Northrup
Mr. Volpé	Ms. Poirier	Mr. Olscamp
Mr. Harrison	Ms. Dubé	Mr. Urquhart
Mr. P. Robichaud	Mr. Carr	Mr. C. Landry
Mr. Ashfield	Mr. Williams	Mr. C. LeBlanc
Mr. Steeves		

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Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Hon. Mr. Lamrock	Hon. Mr. Foran
Hon. V. Boudreau	Hon. Mr. Burke	Hon. Mr. Stiles
Hon. S. Graham	Hon. Mr. Keir	Ms. Lavoie
Hon. Mr. Murphy	Hon. Mr. Albert	Mr. Miles
Hon. Mr. Byrne	Hon. Mr. Arseneault	Ms. MacAlpine-Stiles
Hon. C. Robichaud	Mr. A. LeBlanc	Mr. Collins
Hon. Mr. Haché	Mr. C. LeBlanc	Mr. Fraser
Hon. D. Landry	Mr. Kenny	Mr. Brewer
Hon. Mr. Doherty	Hon. Mr. Ouellette	Mr. Kennedy
Hon. Ms. Schryer	Hon. Mr. Doucet	

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 24, *Referendum Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the motion for second reading of Bill 24 was defeated.

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 Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 56),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

And the debate continuing, after some time, on motion of the Honourable the Premier, the further consideration thereof was adjourned over.

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, Mr. Kenny, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

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

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