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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier thanked staff of the various government departments, the Red Cross, and all New Brunswickers who had assisted in any way during the recent flood of the St. John River Valley.

Mr. Northrup, Member for Kings East, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of the Kings East area questioning the advisability of the proposed Brine Pipeline from Penobsquis Mine to Cassidy Lake. (Petition 19)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Burke,

Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Credit Unions Act.*

Mr. C. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 74 that on Thursday, May 22, 2008, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Carr:

That an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information, in any format, in the possession of the Government related to the fact finding trip that Minister Schryer made to Australia in October of 2007 including the names of all the people that attended that trip, the meeting itineraries, the names of the persons that the Minister met with, all expense receipts and reports and a full itinerary of the trip including additional stops made.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to vary the Orders of the Day and to consider Opposition Members' Business until 6 o'clock p.m.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Opposition Members' Business be considered in the following order: resumption of debate on Motion 62; debate on Motion 72, and resumption of the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 15.

Hon. Mr. Murphy, Government House Leader, announced that following Opposition Members' Business, 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 Energy,

the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency, Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs, and the Office of the Attorney General.

The Government House Leader further advised that on Wednesday, May 14, it was the intention of the government that Bill 56 be called for second reading; following which, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 62, moved by Hon. Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Hon. Mr. Foran, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 62 be amended by:

In the 4th whereas clause, delete all words after “industry” and replace them with “is uncertain with thousands of New Brunswickers who work in forestry being currently adversely affected;”

Delete the 5th whereas clause.

Delete the two resolution clauses and replace them with the following:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call upon the government to proceed with the planned release, reviews and response to the Wood Supply and Forest Diversity Task Force Report, to proceed with the global market assessment initiative, to support viable long-term initiatives, and to instruct various government departments to continue to work with respective stakeholders in developing solutions for making the forest sector more competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly asks the Cabinet Committee on Forestry to continue its active involvement in the issues that challenge the forest industry.”

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 amendment was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 62 as amended as follows:

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 is uncertain with thousands of New Brunswickers who work in forestry being currently adversely affected; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call upon the government to proceed with the planned release, reviews and response to the Wood Supply and Forest Diversity Task Force Report, to proceed with the global market assessment initiative, to support viable long-term initiatives, and to instruct various government departments to continue to work with respective stakeholders in developing solutions for making the forest sector more competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly asks the Cabinet Committee on Forestry to continue its active involvement in the issues that challenge the forest industry.

And the question being put, Motion 62 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 72, Mr. Volpé moved, seconded by Mr. Alward:

WHEREAS the government has said that they will make this province self-sufficient by the year 2026; and

WHEREAS the government has not tabled a financial plan to support their objective; and

WHEREAS David Foord and John D. McLaughlin have stated that achieving the government's objective means receiving no equalization payments in 2026; and

WHEREAS equalization payments as a percentage of total provincial revenue have increased as opposed to decreased from fiscal 2007-08 to fiscal 2008-09; and

WHEREAS Mr. Foord and Mr. McLaughlin wrote in 2007 that for New Brunswick to achieve this goal we must achieve average annual real GDP increases over the next twenty years that are 1.5 points higher than the Canadian average; and

WHEREAS the Bank of Canada has forecasted that the economic slowdown in the United States will have direct consequences for the Canadian economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to table a long-term financial forecast that will support their objective of self-sufficiency by 2026.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. V. Boudreau, seconded by the Honourable the Premier, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 72 be amended by:

In the second whereas clause, after the phrase “tabled a” add “long-term”; and after the word “objective” add “given that long-term fiscal forecasting is impractical”,

After the last “whereas” clause add “Whereas Newfoundland and Labrador has demonstrated that moving towards self-sufficiency is possible; and,

Whereas the government has established targets useful in measuring progress toward self-sufficiency,”

In the resolution clause, delete all words after “government” and replace with “continue to establish targets that will help New Brunswickers to measure progress toward self-sufficiency.”

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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 carried.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the Motion 72 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the government has said that they will make this province self-sufficient by the year 2026; and

WHEREAS the government has not tabled a long-term financial plan to support their objective given that long-term fiscal forecasting is impractical; and

WHEREAS David Foord and John D. McLaughlin have stated that achieving the government’s objective means receiving no equalization payments in 2026; and

WHEREAS equalization payments as a percentage of total provincial revenue have increased as opposed to decreased from fiscal 2007-08 to fiscal 2008-09; and

WHEREAS Mr. Foord and Mr. McLaughlin wrote in 2007 that for New Brunswick to achieve this goal we must achieve average annual real GDP increases over the next twenty years that are 1.5 points higher than the Canadian average; and

WHEREAS the Bank of Canada has forecasted that the economic slowdown in the United States will have direct consequences for the Canadian economy; and

Whereas Newfoundland and Labrador has demonstrated that moving towards self-sufficiency is possible; and,

Whereas the government has established targets useful in measuring progress toward self-sufficiency;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to continue to establish targets that will help New Brunswickers to measure progress toward self-sufficiency.

And the question being put, Motion 72 as amended was carried.

Debate resumed on the motion that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, be now read a second time.

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

It was agreed by unanimous consent to vary the hours of sitting, to recess at 6 o'clock p.m. and to return at 7.30 o'clock p.m.

At 6 o'clock p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the chair to resume again at 7.30 o'clock p.m.

7.30 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

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

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. 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, 2008-2009

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND

CONSERVATION AGENCY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,688,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2009:

Administration	1,059,000
Energy Efficiency Programs	11,629,000
Less amounts authorized by law	0
Voted	12,688,000

LOANS AND ADVANCES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND

CONSERVATION AGENCY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,400,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocation for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2009:

Loans for energy efficiency upgrades	13,400,000
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The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then 10.03 o'clock p.m. the House adjourned.