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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Thursday, December 18, 2008

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

Thursday, December 18, 2008.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier welcomed to the House Jean-Paul Savoie, a former Liberal MLA and Minister (Restigouche West, 1987-1999) and now Mayor of Kedgwick. Mr. Volpé joined with the Premier in this regard.

Mr. Urquhart welcomed to the House Keith Ashfield, Progressive Conservative Minister and MLA for New Maryland (1999-2006) and New Maryland-Sunbury West (2006-2008), now the Member of Parliament for Fredericton and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Mr. Williams, Member for Kent South, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of support workers employed by The Harbour Family Support Services urging the government to work with the New Brunswick Home Support Association to improve working conditions and increase pay and compensation for travel expenses. (Petition 22)

Mr. Betts, Member for Moncton Crescent, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of the province urging the government to make changes to legislation relating to uranium exploration in order to protect water, health and property rights. (Petition 23)

The Honourable the Premier laid upon the table of the House the following documents:

Building Stronger Local Governments and Regions, An Action Plan for the Future of Local Governance in New Brunswick, Report of the Commissioner on the Future of Local Governance, November 2008.

Building Stronger Local Governments and Regions, An Action Plan for the Future of Local Governance in New Brunswick, Report of the Commissioner on the Future of Local Governance, Addendum, November 2008.

Hon. Mr. Haché laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Be informed, Lawn Care and Landscape Pesticide Use, Summary of Public Consultation, December 2008.*

Ms. Blaney gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, December 25, 2008, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Williams:

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 advertising purchased to promote the Department of Health, services the Department provides or the Minister responsible since March 1, 2008 to December 18, 2008.

Mr. Williams gave Notice of Motion 33 that on Thursday, December 25, 2008, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Robichaud:

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 any equipment under contract, rented or leased by the Department of Transportation by district and Department of Transportation garage or depot whether tendered or untendered, lists of the names of contractors or individuals, amount and value of each contract and a description of the services delivered since October 3, 2006.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Murphy moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 34)

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has referred the subject matter of Bill 28, *Limitation of Actions Act*, to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments;

WHEREAS pursuant to Standing Rule 39, the Minister of Justice and Consumer Affairs and Attorney General intends to file with the Clerk of the House a Commentary Paper respecting Bill 28;

WHEREAS it is the intention of government that the said Commentary Paper be considered by the Standing Committee on Law Amendments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that upon being filed, the said Commentary Paper be deemed to have been referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for review.

And the question being put, the motion was carried.

Debate resumed on Motion 21, moved by Ms. Dubé, seconded by Mr. Alward, as follows:

WHEREAS businesses in New Brunswick are being faced with growing financial pressures in the current economic crisis; and
WHEREAS it is incumbent on government to find ways to ensure that New Brunswick's businesses are in a position to succeed; and
WHEREAS the current process for businesses to remit their property taxes is in a one-time lump sum payment; and
WHEREAS in many cases this has a significant impact on cash flow;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon government to allow for businesses in New Brunswick to remit their property tax payments on an equalized monthly basis.

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. Lamrock, seconded by Hon. Mr. Jamieson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 21 be amended by:

After the fourth whereas clause, add the following:

“WHEREAS the government currently allows property taxes to be paid in instalments;”

In the resolution clause, delete all words after “government” and replace with:

“to encourage businesses to consider property tax payment options available to them to address cash flow pressures.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and the amendment was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 21 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS businesses in New Brunswick are being faced with growing financial pressures in the current economic crisis; and
WHEREAS it is incumbent on government to find ways to ensure that New Brunswick's businesses are in a position to succeed; and
WHEREAS the current process for businesses to remit their property taxes is in a one-time lump sum payment; and
WHEREAS in many cases this has a significant impact on cash flow;
WHEREAS the government currently allows property taxes to be paid in instalments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon government to encourage businesses to consider property tax payment options available to them to address cash flow pressures.

And the question being put, Motion 21 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 26, and with leave of the House, Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Northrup, moved the following corrected version of the motion:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest industry is undergoing unprecedented changes and hardships; and

WHEREAS these hardships are being felt by thousands of New Brunswickers including the 40,000 woodlot-owning families; and

WHEREAS the seven regional woodlot marketing boards and the Federation of Woodlot Owners are also being negatively impacted by the economic crisis facing the industry; and

WHEREAS these eight organizations provide considerable support and services to the industry, including silviculture, certification, education and training, market development, forest management, administration of government programs, non-timber forest products, woodlot owner rights, and day-to-day inquiries; and

WHEREAS in 2007, the Self-Sufficiency Task Force recommended that the Government should "support private woodlot marketing boards in strengthening their role with respect to silviculture, certification, education and market development," and that said recommendation should be acted upon within one year; and

WHEREAS in January 2008, the Government of Canada provided the Government of New Brunswick with \$30 million through the Community Development Trust; and

WHEREAS the province and the forestry industry would benefit from having strong private woodlot marketing boards and a strong federation; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to consider the advisability of providing a one per cent per acre tax sharing on the private woodlot land base to the Federation of Woodlot Owners and another one cent per acre tax sharing on the private woodlot land base to the regional marketing boards as a source of sustainable funding; and, that said tax sharing, if implemented, remain in place for a period of three years.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And then, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 25	December 16, 2008
Annual Report 2007-2008 Department of Post- Secondary Education, Training and Labour	December 16, 2008
Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, By-Election, New Maryland- Sunbury West, November 3, 2008	December 17, 2008