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# Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson  
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

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

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Thursday, April 2, 2009.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Betts, Member for Moncton Crescent, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of the Bouctouche, Cocagne and surrounding areas urging the government to make changes to legislation relating to uranium exploration in order to protect water, health and property rights. (Petition 33)

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Ms. Blaney rose on a point of order and requested a copy of the statement being delivered by the Minister of Energy. Hon. Mr. Murphy spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker advised that the provision of copies of Ministers' Statements is a courtesy and not a requirement.

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Hon. Mr. Lamrock rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. William's use of the term "dictator," in reference to the government, was unparliamentary. Mr. Holder spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement to review the transcript and report back, if necessary.

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Hon. Mr. Murphy, Government House Leader, announced that Royal Assent would take place immediately after Prayers tomorrow and following the Royal Assent ceremony, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to take into consideration Bills 41 and 33; followed by consideration of the estimates of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour in the Committee of Supply.

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The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time.

By Ms. Robichaud,

Bill 42, *An Act Respecting The Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

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Ms. Blaney moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Alward: (Motion 51)

WHEREAS New Brunswick's Health care system requires the very best facilities and the very best resources at its disposal in order to best serve patients and protect lives;

WHEREAS Canadian Blood Services is a national, not-for-profit charitable organization that manages the blood supply in

all provinces and territories outside of Quebec, including New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick contracts with Canadian Blood Services for the delivery of blood services, permanent collection and blood donor clinics through a Distribution Centre located in Saint John, and the funds for such services are provided by New Brunswick taxpayers;

WHEREAS the Canadian Blood Services Distribution Centre located in Saint John is an essential aspect of our healthcare system providing a timely and vital supply of blood and blood products to the Province, and serves as the production and distribution facility for blood products to hospitals throughout New Brunswick;

WHEREAS Saint John is also the location of the Provincial Trauma Centre and Provincial Heart Centre and is therefore a necessary location for the collection, storage and distribution of essential blood and blood products;

WHEREAS the closure of the Canadian Blood Services Distribution Centre located in Saint John, New Brunswick will result in all blood products being located and distributed from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS the logistical difficulty of maintaining an adequate supply of blood and blood products to the Province based out of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia is simply not a reasonable alternative to maintaining a distribution centre in Saint John; and

WHEREAS it is essential that all Members of this Legislative Assembly do everything within their power to protect the lives of patients needing timely access to blood and blood products as an integral part of the provincially delivered healthcare system; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly unanimously urge all levels of government to work together to preserve the Blood Distribution Centre located in Saint John to include collection, storage and distribution, as it is a vital aspect of New Brunswick's healthcare delivery system, trauma network and Provincial Heart Centre;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Health and the Official Opposition Critic to immediately request a meeting with Canadian Blood Services and any other relevant stakeholders, and to work collaboratively to carry out any other activities which may lead to the preservation of this vital service.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 51 was carried unanimously.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 46, Mr. Fitch moved, seconded by Mr. Alward:

WHEREAS property tax bills that have been recently received by New Brunswick residents are determined by both property tax rates and property assessments; and

WHEREAS the significant swell in property value assessments in recent years has drastically increased property tax bills and is generating undue financial strain on individuals and families; and

WHEREAS the downturn in global markets, restriction to credit and a national recession have made paying increased property tax bills increasingly difficult for all New Brunswickers; and

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government and the municipalities must be held accountable for additional revenues that may be generated by increased property assessments and because no property owner should have to pay higher property taxes without explanation and proof that the market value of their property has increased; and

WHEREAS both provincial and municipal governments have a responsibility to be open, fair and transparent with regard to taxation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to pass legislation to cap property tax assessments to protect individuals and business against drastic increases in tax bills;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge this government to work with all stakeholders across the province in order to promote home ownership and to create a positive business environment so that New Brunswick may prosper and so that the issue of property taxes is not transferred to municipalities.

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, Ms. Robichaud, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 46 was defeated.

Debate resumed on the motion that Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Auditor General Act*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, the debate being ended and the question being put, the motion for second reading was defeated.

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:

Annual Report 2008 WorkSafe NB

March 31, 2009