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# Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson  
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

**Thursday, April 23, 2009**

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

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Thursday, April 23, 2009.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following statement:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

Yesterday, following Oral Questions, a point of order was raised with respect to the use of the word "blackmail."

In speaking to the point of order, both the Government and Opposition House Leader made reference to past instances where the word "blackmail" had either been ruled acceptable or ruled unparliamentary.

Honourable Members, such references to previous rulings on unparliamentary language can serve as a guide to the Speaker. However, I wish to quote Marleau and Montpetit's "House of Commons Procedure and Practice" at page 526:

"In dealing with unparliamentary language, the Speaker takes into account the tone, manner and intention of the Member speaking; the person to whom the words were directed; the degree of provocation; and, most importantly, whether or not the remarks created disorder in the Chamber."

It goes on to say:

"The codification of unparliamentary language has proven impractical as it is the context in which words or phrases are used that the Chair must consider when deciding whether or not they should be withdrawn."

Yesterday, the Member for Rothesay twice submitted that the Minister of Education was using "emotional blackmail" against teachers.

I reviewed both the written transcript and the video of the relevant proceedings.

Members, I have a concern with the use of the word "blackmail", particularly when used in reference to the actions of a Member of the House, in this instance a Minister.

In my opinion, the word "blackmail" itself has certain connotations. Although the Member used the term "emotional blackmail", I found myself uncertain as to the exact meaning this was intended to convey.

In any event, such a word, when used in relation to a Member of this House, has a tendency to create disorder.

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I have stated many times that we must treat all Members in this House as Honourable and our choice of language in debate should reflect this.

In this instance, I am going to reiterate this fact and ask Members to refrain from using language that may be taken as accusatory against another Member or terms that are likely to create disorder in this House. After all is said and done, I ask the member for Rothesay to withdraw the word "blackmail."

The Member withdrew the remark.

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Ms. Blaney, Member for Rothesay, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of the Rothesay area urging the government to make the required capital investments in Kennebecasis Park Elementary School. (Petition 43)

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Mr. Holder, Member for Saint John Portland, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of concerned citizens opposed to the removal of regional government services and jobs in rural New Brunswick, including jobs from the Canterbury Government Garage and the ferries in the lower St. John River. (Petition 44)

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Mr. Harrison, Member for Hampton-Kings, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of the St. John River Valley in opposition to the removal of the ferry service across the St. John River at Gagetown, Hampstead and Belleisle. (Petition 45)

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Mr. MacDonald, Member for York North, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of Mactaquac and surrounding communities opposing the closure of the Mactaquac Provincial Park during the winter months and urging the government to reconsider the decision or to seek alternative sources of revenue. (Petition 46)

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Ms. Poirier, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of Richibucto protesting against the LSD rate and exorbitant 2009 property assessments. (Petition 47)

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During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and reminded Members that questions must be within the administrative competence of the government and cannot relate to the personal matters of a Minister.

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Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. MacDonald withdraw the term "lie." The Member withdrew the remark.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. MacDonald's microphone should not have been shut off during his response to the remarks of Hon. Mr. Jamieson. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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

By Mr. Miles,

Bill 51, *An Act Respecting Respiratory Therapists*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 52, Mr. MacDonald moved, seconded by Mr. Urquhart, the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park was built as part of a historic commitment by Premier Louis J. Robichaud to the people of York County; and

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park has served as a key employer in the York County Region for both year-round and seasonal employees; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Park hosts an average of 18,000 visitors during the winter season alone and is a vital economic aspect of the York County region during all seasons of the year for both employment and revenue generated by the visitors; and

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park facility also serves as a key supplier of water for local fire departments during all four seasons of operation; and

WHEREAS the employees of the park are also an integral part of the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the portion of the Mactaquac Park known as York Centennial; and

WHEREAS the proposed cuts to the provincial park budget for the winter season will negatively effect the operation and maintenance of the park during the spring and fall seasons and hinder the quality of service provided during the busy summer months; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to meet with the employees and key stakeholders of the Mactaquac Provincial Park to determine alternate methods of generating increased revenue and alternate

methods to reduce costs to ensure that this critical facility remains open year-round to serve all of the people of New Brunswick that use this park throughout the year to enhance their physical wellness and to enjoy the beauty of the Mactaquac Region.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 52 be amended by:

In the resolution clause, deleting all words after the word “government” and before the word “serve” and replacing with “to continue to be open to good and responsible suggestions for alternate approaches to operation of a winter program at Mactaquac Provincial Park to”

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

And after some time, Ms. Robichaud, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate continuing, Madam Deputy Speaker advised the House that a Member who moves a motion during the time reserved for Opposition Members’ Business is permitted to speak on the original motion, any amendments proposed thereto, and in reply, to close the debate.

And after some time, Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Urquhart, moved the following sub-amendment:

#### SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 52 be amended by:

Deleting all words after the word “suggestions” and before the word “winter” and replacing with

“for innovative ways to reduce expenditures and increase revenues by working with employees and key stakeholders within the context of a provincially owned and operated facility to operate the”

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended and the question being put on the sub-amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 52 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park was built as part of a historic commitment by Premier Louis J. Robichaud to the people of York County; and

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park has served as a key employer in the York County Region for both year-round and seasonal employees; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Park hosts an average of 18,000 visitors during the winter season alone and is a vital economic aspect of the York County region during all seasons of the year for both employment and revenue generated by the visitors; and

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Provincial Park facility also serves as a key supplier of water for local fire departments during all four seasons of operation; and

WHEREAS the employees of the park are also an integral part of the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the portion of the Mactaquac Park known as York Centennial; and

WHEREAS the proposed cuts to the provincial park budget for the winter season will negatively effect the operation and maintenance of the park during the spring and fall seasons and hinder the quality of service provided during the busy summer months; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to continue to be open to good and responsible suggestions for innovative ways to reduce expenditures and increase revenues by working with employees and key stakeholders within the context of a provincially owned and operated facility to operate the winter program at Mactaquac Provincial Park to serve all of the people of New Brunswick that use this park throughout the year to enhance their physical wellness and to enjoy the beauty of the Mactaquac Region.

And the question being put, Motion 52 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 54, Mr. Fitch moved on behalf of Mr. Alward, seconded by Mr. Fitch, the following resolution:

WHEREAS economies across Canada have been in a state of decline during recent months and local, provincial and federal governments have been searching for tools to infuse money into regions to generate more stable financial markets; and

WHEREAS the province of New Brunswick is currently facing an extremely difficult financial position with yearly deficits increasing and the provincial net debt growing at an unsustainable rate that will have negative impacts on the province's finances for decades and generations to come; and

WHEREAS research and development funds must be a key component to revitalizing the New Brunswick economy by investing money in education, technology, infrastructure, and industry; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick currently ranks as one of the lowest amongst all Canadian Provinces for investments in research and development from federal, provincial, business, nonprofit organizations, higher education, and foreign investment sectors; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to seek out every available resource for increased funding including new federal, provincial, and private industry funds so that this vital component of our economy can help New Brunswickers and our businesses revitalize our provincial economy in order to return this province to one of job creation, prosperity, and a leader in technology, research and development of world class products and services.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Robichaud, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair.

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 hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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

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

Responses to Petitions No. 33, 34, 35, and 36

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Documents requested in Notice of Motion 37

April 22, 2009