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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, March 31, 2011

**First Session of the 57th Legislative Assembly
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

Thursday, March 31, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Leonard paid tribute to the memory of the late Lawrence Garvie, Q.C., former Progressive Conservative MLA (City of Fredericton, 1968-1974; Fredericton North, 1974-1978), a Cabinet Minister and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (1971-1972) recently deceased.

Mr. Fraser, Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of concerned citizens of Miramichi urging the government to build a new K-5 elementary school to replace the loss of the schools in their community. (Petition 9)

Mr. Speaker interrupted the proceedings and reminded the House that while it is acceptable to use the term "Alward Government," Members should be referred to either by riding or by portfolio, and not by name.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Blais,

Bill 16, *An Act to Amend An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act.*

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 29, Mr. Boudreau, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women was created under the Progressive Conservative government of Richard Hatfield in 1977;

WHEREAS the Conservative government of David Alward has eliminated funding for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women;

WHEREAS women make up more than 50 per cent of the population of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Advisory Council has been an effective and recognized voice for women in the province of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the elimination of the Advisory Council's funding has effectively silenced this very important advocacy group;

WHEREAS the Opposition is unaware of any submission to the budget consultation process that suggested the elimination of the Advisory Council's funding;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Government of New Brunswick to acknowledge the importance of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women by reinstating it as an arm's-length independent entity.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 29 was defeated on the following recorded division:

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Mr. S. Graham	Mr. Doucet	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Albert	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Kenny	Mr. Melanson
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Collins	Mr. D. Landry
Mr. Haché		

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Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Stultz	Mr. B. Macdonald
Hon. Mr. Alward	Hon. Mr. Northrup	Mr. Tait
Hon. P. Robichaud	Hon. Mr. Olscamp	Mr. S. Robichaud
Hon. Ms. Dubé	Hon. Mr. Trevors	Mr. Savoie
Hon. Mr. Holder	Mr. K. MacDonald	Mr. Bonenfant
Hon. Ms. Blaney	Ms. Shephard	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Steeves	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Betts
Mr. Harrison	Mr. McLean	Mr. C. Landry
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Soucy	Mr. Urquhart
Hon. Ms. Blais	Mr. Lifford	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Ms. Lynch	Mr. Davis
Hon. Ms. Coulombe	Mr. Malloch	

Debate resumed on Motion 16, moved by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Melanson, as follows:

WHEREAS a strong education system is vital to the future of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education has required school districts in the province to cut 1% from their budgets this year and 2% for the next four years;

WHEREAS economists and experts at the Future NB Summit agreed that education spending should be maintained and exempted from across-the-board budget cuts;

WHEREAS the government believes strongly in consulting with New Brunswickers before making decisions that affect them;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to reverse its decision to cut school district budgets by 1% this year and 2% for the next four years.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 16 was defeated.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Kenny, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS according to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the average undergraduate arts tuition cost in New Brunswick has been frozen at \$5,423 for the last four academic years, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and

WHEREAS affordable tuition is very important to allow students access to postsecondary education in New Brunswick, and

WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that an educated work force is vital to the future of New Brunswick;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to ensure that a public university education in New Brunswick will continue to be affordable and accessible.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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