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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, April 7, 2011

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

Thursday, April 7, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Boudreau laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to overturn the decision to eliminate the film and television tax credit. (Petition 11)

Mr. Kenny gave Notice of Motion 37 that on Thursday, April 14, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

WHEREAS the federal government has offered significant financial enticements to neighbouring provinces in recent days as it strives for re-election;

WHEREAS the federal government has offered the province of Quebec \$2 billion as compensation for harmonizing its sales tax;

WHEREAS the federal government has announced its financial support for the Lower Churchill project in the form of a \$6.4 billion loan guarantee for the provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has yet to secure any federal compensation for cost overruns on the Point Lepreau refurbishment project associated with the contract with the federal Crown Corporation AECL;

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy has publicly stated he will accept nothing less than full compensation from the federal government for excess costs attributed to AECL;

WHEREAS the timing is now right to secure a compensation deal from the federal government, as the Conservative Party of Canada struggles to hold on to power;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to consider using the timing of the federal election campaign to its advantage in securing an agreement for full compensation for project cost overruns incurred by AECL delays in the Point Lepreau refurbishment project.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 38 that on Thursday, April 14, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the province's consumer advocate for insurance is warning of an impending crisis in home insurance rates;

WHEREAS home insurance rates are rising at an alarming rate;

WHEREAS damage from climate related events such as flooding are now the number one source of insurance claims;

WHEREAS many of those whose homes suffer damage from climate-related events have not been successful in receiving payment from insurance companies;

WHEREAS the Minister of Justice and Consumer Affairs has informed the House she will be conducting a consultation with insurance companies;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Minister of Justice and Consumer Affairs to include ALL stakeholders, particularly consumers, in any consultation on insurance.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 39 that on Thursday, April 14, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Albert:

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 documentation, including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, between the Office of the Premier, the Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs, the Office of the Attorney General, the President of the New Brunswick Insurance Board, and the Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly's Crown Corporations Committee, and pertaining to a report commissioned by the New Brunswick Insurance Board on profitability within the insurance industry in New Brunswick.

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Thursday, April 14, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the Agreement of March 25, signed with the federal government regarding the Saint John Harbour Bridge, clearly states in Section 1.2 that "this Agreement does not deal with certain commitments made by Canada and the Province with regard to the forgiveness by Canada of the debt owing to Canada by the SJHBA or its successors or assigns"; and

WHEREAS this section makes it very clear that forgiveness by Canada of the Bridge debt is not part of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS Section 1.2 of the Agreement also states "No prior document, negotiation, provision, undertaking or agreement in relation to the subject of the Agreement has legal effect, unless incorporated by reference into this Agreement"; and

WHEREAS this section makes it clear that any previous discussions or tentative agreements on matters relating to the

Saint John Harbour Bridge now have no legal effect unless specifically stated within the Agreement of March 25;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature ask the Government to admit that there is no agreement with the Government of Canada to forgive the debt of the Saint John Harbour Bridge Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislature ask the Government to admit that when the Government of New Brunswick took over the Saint John Harbour Bridge, it also took on the debt owed by the Bridge to the Government of Canada.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 35, Mr. Haché, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick film tax credit is an essential component of New Brunswick Film's mandate of promoting and supporting the development of an economically viable and vibrant film industry in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Conservative government has eliminated funding for the New Brunswick film tax credit;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick film industry is a multimillion-dollar industry, and a \$3.5-million investment in 2009 generated \$55.8 million in economic spin-offs for the province;

WHEREAS, without the New Brunswick film tax credit, production companies and other industry players will simply go elsewhere;

WHEREAS, since the elimination of the film tax credit was announced, at least two film production companies have already announced plans to move out of the province, taking jobs with them;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to acknowledge the importance of the New Brunswick film tax credit and reinstate this tax credit.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. P. Robichaud, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 35 be amended by:

replacing all the WHEREAS clauses with the following :

“WHEREAS government has a role in promoting and supporting organizations and enterprises that foster the arts and our culture, including the film industry;

WHEREAS New Brunswick artists from all sectors deserve our support and recognition;

WHEREAS the arts are critical assets in preserving and strengthening the cultural mosaic of our province;

WHEREAS culture is a key ingredient in attracting and retaining knowledge and creative workers in a modern economy;”

deleting all the words in the resolution clause after “the New Brunswick government to acknowledge the importance” and substituting the following: “of promoting our culture and providing strategic support to viable industries, including the film industry, in order to strengthen our heritage and enhance the arts.”.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Fraser rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment moved by Hon. P. Robichaud was out of order as it was a direct negative of the original motion and not within its spirit and intent. Hon. P. Robichaud spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment to be in order as it retained certain elements of the original motion and offered a new proposition to the House.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion as amended as follows:

WHEREAS government has a role in promoting and supporting organizations and enterprises that foster the arts and our culture, including the film industry;

WHEREAS New Brunswick artists from all sectors deserve our support and recognition;

WHEREAS the arts are critical assets in preserving and strengthening the cultural mosaic of our province;

WHEREAS culture is a key ingredient in attracting and retaining knowledge and creative workers in a modern economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to acknowledge the importance of promoting our culture and providing strategic support to viable industries, including the film industry, in order to strengthen our heritage and enhance the arts.

And the question being put, Motion 35 as amended was carried.

Debate resumed on Motion 21, moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Kenny, as follows:

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 post-secondary 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 after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate continuing, 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.