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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, April 14, 2011

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

Thursday, April 14, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Melanson, Member for Dieppe Centre-Lewisville, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of Grade 6 students in French and Science and Technology courses at Carrefour de l'Acadie School who take issue with New Brunswick becoming a national nuclear waste depository. (Petition 15)

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 16)

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted the proceedings and requested that Mr. Albert withdraw the term "lie." The Member withdrew the remark.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker reminded Members that the use of cell phones is not permitted in the Chamber.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 44 that on Thursday, April 21, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS during the last election, on a campaign stop in Campbellton, the Premier and the Health Minister promised New Brunswickers the implementation of a catastrophic drug program "within the first year of our mandate," and the Premier also stated, and I quote, "My word is my contract";

WHEREAS the cost of catastrophic drugs causes extreme economic hardship to many New Brunswick families;

WHEREAS one-third of New Brunswickers do not currently have access to any type of drug coverage;

WHEREAS New Brunswick remains only one of two Canadian provinces and territories without such coverage;

WHEREAS this government refuses to be up front about the actual implementation date for such a plan;

WHEREAS this government's target date for implementation continues to change going from "within the first year" to "before 2014" to "early in the mandate";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier to immediately involve all stakeholders in the process

to honour his original campaign commitment of implementing a catastrophic drug plan by September 2011.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 37, Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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, Hon. Mr. Leonard, seconded by Hon. P. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 37 be amended by:

In the first whereas clause, replacing all the words following “the federal government has” with “not offered compensation to the Province of New Brunswick for the incremental costs over

the original contracted amounts related to the Point Lepreau Generating Station refurbishment project that have occurred as a result of the delay in project completion by AECL”.

By deleting the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth whereas clauses.

By adding the following whereas clauses following the first whereas clause:

“WHEREAS both the Government of New Brunswick and the Official Opposition agree that it is unreasonable for New Brunswick ratepayers to pay for the incremental costs that have been and continue to be incurred as a result of AECL’s ongoing inability to complete the refurbishment project in a timely manner;

WHEREAS both the Government of New Brunswick and the Official Opposition agree that New Brunswickers deserve full compensation from AECL and/or the Federal Government for the incremental costs associated with the three-year delay of refurbishment project completion;

WHEREAS successive Governments of New Brunswick have continued to engage the Federal Government in discussions related to compensation for the incremental costs, but have not yet secured a final agreement;”.

In the resolution clause, by replacing all the words following “the Legislature urge the government to” with “continue discussions with the Federal Government throughout the election period in the attempt to secure an agreement for full compensation for the Point Lepreau refurbishment project incremental costs, and for a commitment for ongoing support for the Canadian Nuclear Industry”.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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 the federal government has not offered compensation to the Province of New Brunswick for the incremental costs over the original contracted amounts related to the Point Lepreau Generating Station refurbishment project that have occurred as a result of the delay in project completion by AECL;

WHEREAS both the Government of New Brunswick and the Official Opposition agree that it is unreasonable for New Brunswick ratepayers to pay for the incremental costs that have

been and continue to be incurred as a result of AECL's ongoing inability to complete the refurbishment project in a timely manner;

WHEREAS both the Government of New Brunswick and the Official Opposition agree that New Brunswickers deserve full compensation from AECL and/or the Federal Government for the incremental costs associated with the three-year delay of refurbishment project completion;

WHEREAS successive Governments of New Brunswick have continued to engage the Federal Government in discussions related to compensation for the incremental costs, but have not yet secured a final agreement;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to continue discussions with the Federal Government throughout the election period in the attempt to secure an agreement for full compensation for the Point Lepreau refurbishment project incremental costs, and for a commitment for ongoing support for the Canadian Nuclear Industry.

And the question being put, Motion 37 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 38, Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Doucet, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Ms. Blais, seconded by Hon. P. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 38 be amended by:

In the first whereas clause, replacing all the words following “consumer advocate for insurance” with “has indicated that home insurance continued to show some signs for concern over the past few years”;

By deleting the second whereas clause.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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.