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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, May 5, 2011

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

Thursday, May 5, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Collins, Member for Moncton East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reinstate the funding allocated to the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women. (Petition 36)

Ms. Shephard, Member for Saint John Lancaster, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to fund a universal catastrophic drug program to assist New Brunswickers with the high cost of medication. (Petition 37)

Mr. Fraser, Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of concerned citizens of Napan and surrounding areas urging the government keep Napan Elementary School open and properly equipped. (Petition 38)

Mr. Arseneault, Member for Dalhousie-Restigouche East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reverse the decision to eliminate the Film Tax Credit. (Petition 39)

Mr. Collins, Member for Moncton East, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to the decision to limit accessibility to the Moncton Sexual Health Center. (Petition 40)

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 76 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

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 documents, however recorded, stored or archived, including any correspondence between any government employees, including but not limited to Ministers, MLAs and departmental staff relating to the privatization of services and/or goods in connection with hospital and medical services in New Brunswick since October 12, 2010.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 77 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

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, however recorded, stored or archived, including but not limited to any correspondence in any form,

between the Department of Health, the Premier's Office, the federal government, the Prime Minister's Office, any provincial government department, agency or Crown Corporation, any stakeholder group, any employee and/or board member of Canadian Blood Services, and any government employee, including but not limited to Ministers, MLAs and departmental staff, in relation to the potential relocation of the Canadian Blood Services from Saint John, since October 12, 2010.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 78 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

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, however recorded, stored or archived, including but not limited to any correspondence in any form, between the Department of Health, any other government department, agency or Crown Corporation, any stakeholder group, and any government employee, including but not limited to Ministers, MLAs and departmental staff, in relation to the implementation of a catastrophic drug program for the province of New Brunswick, including but not limited to costing, studies, recommendations, suggestions and timelines, since October 12, 2010.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 79 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

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, however recorded, stored or archived, in relation to all contracts awarded by the Department of Supply and Services, whether sole-sourced or tendered, since October 12, 2010.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 80 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

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, however recorded, stored or archived, including but not limited to correspondence, between the provincial government and any and all municipalities in the province of New Brunswick in relation to unpaid invoices for RCMP services, since January 1, 2011.

Hon. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following Opposition Members' Business, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Public Safety.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 44, Mr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Boudreau, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 44 be amended by:

In the first "Whereas" clause, by deleting all the words following "during the last election" and replacing them with "the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick committed to ensuring that a made-in-New Brunswick plan would help New Brunswickers afford the drugs they need by fairly subsidizing costs based on their ability to pay";

By deleting the fifth and sixth "Whereas" clauses;

By deleting all words after “process to honour” in the “BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED” clause and replacing them with “the campaign commitment of implementing a catastrophic drug plan during the government’s mandate”.

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, Mr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Boudreau, moved a sub-amendment as follows:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 44 be amended as follows:

By adding, preceding the resolution clause:

“WHEREAS the Poverty Reduction Strategy stated a commitment to implementing a prescription drug program for uninsured New Brunswickers by April 2012; and

WHEREAS the Premier made a campaign commitment to implement a catastrophic drug plan by fall of 2011;”

And in the resolution clause, by deleting all the words after the word “Premier” and inserting the words “to implement both a prescription drug program and a catastrophic drug program by April 2012”.

At 4.21 o’clock p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

4.35 o’clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members:

I have had the opportunity to review the proposed sub-amendment.

I find that the sub-amendment is not in order as it does not properly amend the amendment which is currently before the House.

Rather it seeks to add new clauses to the original motion as well as to amend the resolution clause of the original motion.

Accordingly the sub-amendment is out of order.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, the amendment was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 37

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

NAYS - 12

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

WHEREAS during the last election, the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick committed to ensuring that a made-in-New Brunswick plan would help New Brunswickers afford the drugs they need by fairly subsidizing costs based on their ability to pay;

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;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier to immediately involve all stakeholders in the process to honour the campaign commitment of implementing a catastrophic drug plan during the government's mandate.

And the question being put, Motion 44 as amended was carried.

Debate resumed on the proposed amendment to Motion 5, moved by Mr. McLean, seconded by Hon. Mr. Williams, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 5 be amended by:

In the fourth WHEREAS clause, by replacing the words “high-profile Progressive Conservative Party members to high-paying positions with” with “highly qualified New Brunswickers to”.

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 new Progressive Conservative government campaigned on a promise to be open and transparent;

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party’s campaign platform vowed “responsible management of our public finances”;

WHEREAS the Premier publicly stated that his party’s campaign platform was his contract with the people of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has appointed several highly qualified New Brunswickers to provincial boards, corporations, agencies, and commissions since October 12, 2010;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to fully disclose the recruitment and hiring process used to appoint members of provincial boards, corporations, agencies, and commissions since October 12, 2010.

And the question being put, Motion 5 as amended was carried.

Debate resumed on the proposed amendment to Motion 38, moved by Hon. Ms. Blais, seconded by Hon. P. Robichaud, as follows:

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 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 province’s consumer advocate for insurance has indicated that home insurance continued to show some signs for concern over the past few years;

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, Motion 38 as amended was carried.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. C. Landry in the chair.

At 5.55 o'clock p.m., Mr. C. Landry left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Urquhart in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry took the chair.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Urquhart, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, had passed several items and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2011 - 2012

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$40,319,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Management Services.....	4,847,000
Agriculture	27,186,000
Aquaculture	4,274,000
Fisheries	3,065,000
Strategic Assistance.....	1,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law.....	53,000
Voted	40,319,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$400,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocation for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Marshland Maintenance.....	400,000
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LOANS AND ADVANCES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,600,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

New Brunswick Agriculture Insurance Commission.....	1,600,000
Loan Programs	15,000,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

2011 - 2012

Voted

WORKING CAPITAL ADVANCES

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....	1,100,000
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PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....	24,000
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INVENTORIES

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.....	2,000,000
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The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then 9.55 o'clock p.m. the House adjourned.