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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Friday, May 6, 2011

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

Friday, May 6, 2011.

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. D. Landry, Member for Centre-Péninsule—Saint-Sauveur, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of concerned citizens of Rivière-du-Portage, Brantville, and the surrounding area in opposition to the possible amalgamation of their local districts with the town of Tracadie-Sheila. (Petition 41)

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 42)

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 81 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS prevention is an important component of health and wellness;

WHEREAS early diagnosis of potential conditions can save on future health care costs, both to government and the consumer;

WHEREAS early diagnosis of potential conditions also facilitates better educational opportunities for children with vision problems;

WHEREAS the Optometrists Association of New Brunswick has requested that government implement a mandatory vision testing program for all preschool age children;

WHEREAS such a program would enable the early diagnosis, identification and treatment of potential future vision problems;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to immediately implement a mandatory vision testing program for all preschool age children in New Brunswick.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 82 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS economic experts agree that New Brunswick's population needs to grow to improve the province's fiscal outlook;

WHEREAS from 1999 to 2006, New Brunswick's population was in a steady decline;

WHEREAS the former Liberal government created a Population Growth Secretariat to reverse the trend of out migration;

WHEREAS the Population Growth Secretariat was successful in growing the population by 6,000 people between 2006 and 2010;

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has eliminated the Population Growth Secretariat;

WHEREAS the Opposition strongly believes that population growth is an important factor in improving the province's economic outlook, and by eliminating the secretariat, this Conservative government has indicated that population growth is no longer a priority;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to reinstate the Population Growth Secretariat to demonstrate its commitment to making population growth a priority.

Mr. Bernard LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 83 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS, in the past, seniors whose wages were not sufficient to pay the full cost of nursing home care were required to sell their property and use their assets in order to pay the cost of their long-term care;

WHEREAS the policy requiring them to sell their property and use their assets in order to pay nursing home costs left many seniors in poverty, since they had to support their spouses in nursing homes;

WHEREAS, currently, the value of a senior's home and other property and assets are not included in calculating the long-term care contribution;

WHEREAS seniors had peace of mind, because their property and assets were protected from the financial assessments used to calculate the costs of long-term nursing home care;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to assure seniors that the calculation relating to their long-term care continues to exclude the value of their homes as well as their other property and assets.

Mr. Kenny gave Notice of Motion 84 that on Thursday, May 12, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the decline of the forestry industry has created economic hardship in New Brunswick, particularly in the northern and Miramichi regions;

WHEREAS it is vitally important for each and every region of the province to be economically strong;

WHEREAS this Conservative government has yet to indicate it has any strategy to deal with economic development or job creation in northern New Brunswick or the Miramichi region;

WHEREAS the role of Invest NB in economic development has never been clearly explained to the people of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the people of northern New Brunswick and the Miramichi region are unsure what role, if any, Invest NB plays in their economic outlook;

AND WHEREAS a comprehensive plan to address economic development in northern New Brunswick, The Northern Action Plan, was developed in consultation with many northern businesses, communities and individuals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to respect and implement the recommendations of the Northern Action Plan and immediately unveil its overall strategy for job creation and economic development in the northern and Miramichi regions of New Brunswick.

Hon. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Natural Resources.

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

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

At 12.56 o'clock p.m., Mr. C. Landry declared a recess and left the chair.

1.03 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed.

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

And after some further 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 NATURAL RESOURCES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$80,236,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Corporate Services.....	6,569,000
Forest Management	46,377,000
Fish and Wildlife Management.....	11,179,000
Minerals Management.....	4,017,000
Land Management and Natural Areas.....	4,774,000
Regional Management.....	7,373,000
Less amounts authorized by law.....	53,000
Voted	80,236,000

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding 152,203,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Administration	18,768,000
Policy, Strategic Development and Intergovernmental Relations	2,462,000
Maintenance	62,172,000
Winter Maintenance	63,913,000
Bridge and Highway Construction.....	3,913,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation	37,868,000
Less amounts authorized by law.....	36,893,000
Voted	152,203,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,370,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Musquash Watershed Infrastructure-	
Capital Improvements	1,060,000
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	310,000
Voted	1,370,000

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$313,150,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2012:

Permanent Bridges	81,150,000
Permanent Highways	62,000,000
Rural Road Infrastructure	41,000,000
Canada-New Brunswick National Highway System Program.....	90,800,000
Fundy Isles Ferry Project	18,200,000
Vehicle Management Agency	20,000,000
Voted	313,150,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

	2011 - 2012	Voted
PETTY CASH ADVANCES		
Natural Resources.....		30,000
Transportation		25,000
INVENTORIES		
Natural Resources.....		510,000
Transportation		23,000,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 1.56 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.