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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, May 12, 2011

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

Thursday, May 12, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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 45)

Mr. Albert gave Notice of Motion 85 that on Thursday, May 19, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

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, between the Minister of Education, the Office of the Premier, the Department of Finance, and all ministers and executive assistants in relation to Kennebecasis Park School.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 86 that on Thursday, May 19, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS during the last election campaign, Premier Alward said he would not raise taxes that affect ordinary New Brunswickers; and

WHEREAS following the election, the Premier said his word is his contract with New Brunswickers; and

WHEREAS the increasing price of gas creates significant economic hardship for ordinary New Brunswickers, particularly those who live in rural regions; and

WHEREAS the price of gas affects the price of all goods that are transported by land, and all services provided by those businesses which operate motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS the Liberal government lowered the gas tax immediately upon taking office in 2006, thus alleviating the hardship caused by high gas prices; and

WHEREAS the Conservative government raised the gas tax by 2.9 cents per litre in its first budget, creating significant economic hardship for all New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the House urge the government to reverse its gas tax increase for the good of the New Brunswick economy.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Motions 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 46 be withdrawn.

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 the Whole to consider Bill 23; following which, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Social Development.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 84, Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Doucet, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 84 be amended by:

In the third “Whereas” clause, by deleting all the words following “Whereas” and replacing them with “the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick has committed to establish a four-year, \$200 million Northern New Brunswick Job Creation Fund and to establish a \$50 million, four-year Miramichi Regional Job Creation Fund”;

In the fourth “Whereas” clause, by deleting all the words following “Whereas the” and replacing them with “Progressive Conservative government has announced the creation of Invest NB to bolster economic development in New Brunswick”;

By deleting the fifth “Whereas” clause;

In the “BE IT RESOLVED” clause, by deleting the words “respect and” ; by deleting the word “the” following the word “implement”; by deleting the word “immediately”; and by replacing the words “its overall” with “a”.

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 time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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 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 the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick has committed to establish a four-year, \$200 million Northern New Brunswick Job Creation Fund and to establish a \$50 million, four-year Miramichi Regional Job Creation Fund;

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative government has announced the creation of Invest NB to bolster economic development in New Brunswick;

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 implement recommendations of the Northern Action Plan and

unveil a strategy for job creation and economic development in the northern and Miramichi regions of New Brunswick.

And the question being put, Motion 84 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 83, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Kenny, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 83 be amended by:

In the first WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words after "in the past," and replacing them with "seniors' assets were considered when determining their contribution toward the cost of their long term care services";

In the second WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words "them to sell their property and use their assets in order to pay nursing home costs" and replacing them with "assets to be considered in the calculation of the contribution toward the costs of nursing home care".

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested that Mr. Melanson withdraw the term "lying" in reference to

statements made by the Minister of Social Development. The Member withdrew the term.

And the debate continuing, after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for consideration of Opposition Members' Business had expired.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. Urquhart in the chair.

At 6 o'clock p.m., Mr. Urquhart left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Betts in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Betts, the Acting Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that he report the following Bill as agreed to:

Bill 23, An Act Respecting Provincial Court Judges' Pensions.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker 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 House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Betts in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Betts, the Acting 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, 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.

And then, 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 32

May 11, 2011