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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Dale Graham

Thursday, May 26, 2011

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

Thursday, May 26, 2011.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Melanson, Member for Dieppe Centre-Lewisville, 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 55)

Mr. Steeves, Member for Albert, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Hillsborough and surrounding areas urging the government to provide 24/7 ambulance service. (Petition 56)

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 to keep Napan Elementary School open and properly equipped. (Petition 57)

Following Oral Questions, Hon. P. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Boudreau had questioned the integrity of the Premier. Mr. Boudreau withdrew the remarks in question.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 88 that on Thursday, June 2, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the opening of the causeway gates in the Petitcodiac River by the previous Liberal government was an important step in correcting an environmental disaster;

WHEREAS the Petitcodiac Riverkeepers, L'Alliance du Bassin Versant and other organizations are currently monitoring the river and planning the next steps in the restoration process;

WHEREAS certain members of the Conservative caucus have expressed their desire to see the restoration project halted;

WHEREAS the Conservative government has cut funding through the Environmental Trust Fund to the Petitcodiac Riverkeepers, L'Alliance du Bassin Versant and other groups involved in the monitoring and restoration of the river;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government of New Brunswick to reinstate funding to the Petitcodiac Riverkeepers and other environmental organizations working on this important project.

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 Health.

Hon. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Friday, May 27, 2011, Bills 25, 30, 33, 34 and 35 would be called for second reading.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 86, Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. C. Landry, Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 86 was defeated.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 82, Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 82 be amended:

by deleting the second and fifth WHEREAS clauses;

in the third WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words "former Liberal";

in the fourth WHEREAS clause, by adding the words "New Brunswick, with the support of " before the words "the Population Growth Secretariat" and a comma after these words;

in the sixth WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words "the Opposition" and replacing it with "this House", and by deleting all the words following "outlook";

by adding the following clause before the resolution clause:

"WHEREAS the current Progressive Conservative government incorporated the Population Growth Secretariat as a division within the Department of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour to create efficiencies and synergies in such areas as employment, post-secondary education, and labour;";

in the resolution clause, by replacing the words “reinstate the Population Growth Secretariat to demonstrate its” with “continue its ongoing”.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply 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.

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

And after some further time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker, and Mr. C. Landry, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Deputy 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. Deputy 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.