

Daily sitting 6

Thursday, December 1, 2011

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Government Plan on Official Languages, Official Bilingualism - A Strength, 2011-2013*.

Hon. Mr. Higgs laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick*.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Albert used unparliamentary language when he referred to the Premier as “incompetent”. The Member withdrew the remark.

Hon. Mr. Higgs gave Notice of Motion 15 that on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick entered into the original Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement with the Government of Canada to harmonize the Federal Goods and Service Tax and provincial sales tax on October 18, 1996; and

WHEREAS the provincial *Harmonized Sales Tax Act* came into force on April 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia have subsequently entered into their own agreements with the Government of Canada using an updated agreement template, which has now also been adopted by the provinces of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador; and

WHEREAS the original Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement required amendment in order to function properly and to give New Brunswick the same benefits as other harmonized jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS a copy of this amended agreement has been tabled in this House and subsection 2(3) of the *Harmonized Sales Tax Act* requires the Minister of Finance to introduce for consideration of the

Legislative Assembly a resolution respecting the change or agreement under subsection 2(2);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ratify and confirm the succeeding Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement entered into between the Province of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada.

Mr. Fraser requested the unanimous consent of the House to vary the order of consideration of Opposition Members' Business, and unanimous consent was denied.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, Bills 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 would be called for second reading.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 7, Mr. Melanson moved, seconded by Mr. Collin:

WHEREAS Halifax Shipyard has been awarded a \$25-billion contract to build new combat ships for the Canadian Navy;

WHEREAS Rona Ambrose, the federal Minister of Public Works and Government Services, the department that handles procurement, said the contracts will provide 75 million hours of work and 15 000 jobs annually over the next 30 years;

WHEREAS this contract represents an important economic opportunity not just for Halifax, but for the entire Atlantic region, including New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there could be valuable opportunities for New Brunswick businesses with skilled workers to benefit from the shipbuilding contract in subcontract and supply work;

WHEREAS more New Brunswick workers would like the training to be able to participate in these skilled labour opportunities;

WHEREAS the former Liberal government made considerable investments in NBCC and CCNB to position the colleges to offer the trades training that will be required for many of these jobs, with plans to add 1 500 more seats to the college systems;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately develop a comprehensive strategy to maximize opportunities for New Brunswick businesses and workers.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 7 be amended:

By replacing the final WHEREAS clause with:

“WHEREAS the NBCC and CCNB are able to offer the trades training that will be required for many of these jobs;”

And, in the Resolution clause, by deleting the word “immediately” and adding the words “connected with the recently awarded Halifax Shipyard contract” after the words “maximize opportunities”.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tait 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, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 7 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS Halifax Shipyard has been awarded a \$25-billion contract to build new combat ships for the Canadian Navy;

WHEREAS Rona Ambrose, the federal Minister of Public Works and Government Services, the department that handles procurement, said the contracts will provide 75 million hours of work and 15 000 jobs annually over the next 30 years;

WHEREAS this contract represents an important economic opportunity not just for Halifax, but for the entire Atlantic region, including New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there could be valuable opportunities for New Brunswick businesses with skilled workers to benefit from the shipbuilding contract in subcontract and supply work;

WHEREAS more New Brunswick workers would like the training to be able to participate in these skilled labour opportunities;

WHEREAS the NBCC and CCNB are able to offer the trades training that will be required for many of these jobs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a comprehensive strategy to maximize opportunities connected with the recently awarded Halifax Shipyard contract for New Brunswick businesses and workers.

And the question being put, Motion 7 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Mr. D. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources publicly stated on November 3, 2011, the “need for stronger regulations on the emerging industry” of shale gas exploration;

WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources publicly admitted on October 19, 2011, to a “grey area” in the existing regulations surrounding shale gas exploration;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to announce a moratorium on shale gas exploration and strike a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly with the mandate to review and hold public hearings on all proposed legislation, regulations, and plans for monitoring and oversight of the shale gas industry, and to make final recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Northrup, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 3 be amended by:

In the first WHEREAS clause, by replacing the word “the” following the words “on November 3, 2011,” with the words “that there is a” and replacing the word “exploration” with “development”;

By inserting the following two WHEREAS clauses immediately before the resolution clause:

“WHEREAS the previous Liberal Government, which includes the vast majority of the members of the current Official Opposition, was supportive of developing a shale gas industry in New Brunswick without instituting comprehensive regulation to protect our Province;”

“WHEREAS the current Government is committed to ensuring that any development of natural gas, including shale gas, is done in a responsible and strongly regulated manner that protects our watersheds, the health of our residents and the environment;”

In the Resolution clause, by replacing all the words following “urge the government to” with “commit to providing and enforcing a regulatory regime that will protect our residents’ health, our ground water, and our environment prior to allowing the extraction of shale gas, in the event that it is established that we have a viable industry in our Province”;

And by adding the following resolution clause at the end of the motion:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government not to allow the development of a shale gas industry in our Province if it is not properly regulated to protect our residents’ health, our ground water, and our environment.”

Mr. Fraser rose on a point of order and submitted that the proposed amendment was out of order as it was a direct negative to the motion under consideration. Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken as the proposed

amendment retained certain elements of the original motion and did not result in a direct negative.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2010-2011
Public Safety

November 30, 2011