

Daily sitting 8

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Boudreau, Member for Shediac—Cap-Pelé, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of students of the Donat-Robichaud school in opposition to shale gas. (Petition 40)

Mr. Riordon, Member for Nepisiguit, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the funding allocated to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. (Petition 41)

Mr. Fraser, Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging that acute care beds at the Miramichi Regional Hospital remain as such, and that the hospital maintain its level 3 trauma designation. (Petition 42)

Mr. Savoie, Member for Saint John-Fundy, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to the practice of hydro fracturing in the riding of Saint John-Fundy. (Petition 43)

Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging that the entire shale fracturing process, including present exploration for natural gas, be halted immediately. (Petition 44)

Hon. Mr. Fitch laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Action Plan for a New Local Governance System in New Brunswick, December 2011*.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to permit Hon. Mr. Fitch to make a lengthy Minister's Statement.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Blais, Q.C.,

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act*.

By Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud,

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*.

By Mr. Fraser,

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 16 that on Thursday, December 15, 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, including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, between the Department of Health, the Premier's Office, Horizon Health Network, Vitalité Health Network and any other government department or agency regarding any and all directions from the Department of Health and/or Premier's Office to the health networks on cuts to meet the budget reductions mandated by the Alward government, including any feedback from the health networks.

Mr. Albert gave Notice of Motion 17 that on Thursday, December 15, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D. Landry:

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, by electronic means or otherwise, regarding all seafood processing licences issued by the Department of Fisheries since September 1, 2010.

Mr. Doucet gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Thursday, December 15, 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, including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, regarding any tenders issued or contracts awarded for any maintenance, snow removal and/or improvement of the Coal Creek Road in Queens County since September 27, 2010.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, Bill 9 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 7, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, be

called for second reading; following which the House would take into consideration Motion 1.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 7 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 2 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Building Code Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 3 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Building Code Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 4 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 5 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 6 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Hon. Mr. Northrup moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Blaney:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's natural resources represent a collective good to be developed responsibly for the benefit of our Province; and

WHEREAS Natural Gas represents an opportunity to employ New Brunswickers and to raise revenue to assist in reducing the province's debt and help fund social programs, including health care, senior care, and education; and

WHEREAS the Members of this Legislature wish to encourage the development of industry that provides meaningful opportunities to keep our people in the Province and provide work to bring New Brunswickers home from the oil and gas sector in western Canada; and

WHEREAS exploration for Natural Gas reserves has the beneficial effect of increasing knowledge about all of the Province's underground resources; and

WHEREAS prior governments have granted permissions to explore for Natural gas and other natural resources in New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS the Members of this Legislature believe that the Government must ensure that a strong comprehensive regulatory framework must be in place to provide for the protection of our groundwater and the environment; and

WHEREAS this Government will only allow extraction if it is conducted in a manner that protects the health of our residents, the quality of our drinking water and protects the environment; and

WHEREAS energy derived from natural gas is more environmentally sound than energy derived from coal or oil and results in decreased greenhouse gas emission; and

WHEREAS Oil and Natural Gas wells, using various extraction technologies, including hydraulic fracturing, have been in production in New Brunswick since 1859;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly supports the policy of continued responsible exploration of New Brunswick's Natural Gas reserves in conjunction with the development of a framework of world class regulations to ensure the protection of the residents of New Brunswick, our groundwater, and the environment.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

And after some time, Mr. D. Landry, seconded by Mr. Boudreau, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 1 be amended by:

In the second Whereas clause, removing the word "represents" and replacing it with "may represent";

In the fourth Whereas clause, removing the word “has” and replacing it with “may have”;

In the seventh Whereas clause, removing the word “will” and replacing it with “must”;

In the ninth Whereas clause, adding the words “on a limited scale” after the word “fracturing”;

Adding a tenth Whereas clause to read:

“WHEREAS concerns have been expressed by members of the public that the process of hydraulic fracturing on a larger scale associated with the exploration of shale gas may pose significant environmental risks if sufficient regulation, oversight and monitoring are not in place;”

And by removing all the words following the word “Assembly” in the Resolution clause and replacing them with “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”.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was defeated on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 11

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Boudreau | Mr. Albert | Mr. Bertrand Leblanc |
| Mr. Fraser | Mr. Kenny | Mr. Melanson |
| Mr. Haché | Mr. Collins | Mr. D. Landry |
| Mr. Doucet | Mr. Bernard Leblanc | |

NAYS - 36

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|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Hon. Mr. Fitch | Hon. Mr. Northrup | Ms. Lynch |
| Hon. Mr. Alward | Hon. Mr. Olscamp | Mr. Malloch |
| Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud | Hon. Mr. Trevors | Mr. Parrott |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Hon. Mr. Jody Carr | Mr. MacDonald | Mr. Macdonald |
| Hon. Mr. Holder | Ms. Shephard | Mr. Tait |
| Hon. Ms. Blaney | Ms. Wilson | Mr. S. Robichaud |
| Mr. Steeves | Mr. Wetmore | Mr. Savoie |
| Hon. Mr. Williams | Mr. McLean | Mr. Bonenfant |
| Hon. Ms. Blais | Mr. Killen | Mr. Stewart |
| Hon. Mr. Leonard | Mr. Soucy | Mr. C. Landry |
| Hon. Ms. Coulombe | Mr. Lifford | Mr. Jack Carr |
| Hon. Ms. Stultz | Mr. Riordon | Mr. Davis |

And the question being put, Motion 1 was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 38

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

NAYS - 11

| | | |
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| Mr. Boudreau | Mr. Albert | Mr. Bertrand Leblanc |
| Mr. Fraser | Mr. Kenny | Mr. Melanson |
| Mr. Haché | Mr. Collins | Mr. D. Landry |
| Mr. Doucet | Mr. Bernard Leblanc | |

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