

Daily sitting 11

Friday, December 9, 2011

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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 48)

Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, 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 49)

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

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Fraser rose on a point of order and submitted that certain Ministers were exceeding the one minute time limit on answers during Oral Questions. Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud spoke on the point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled that both sides have exceeded the time limits on occasion, which is within the discretion of the Chair to permit.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Leonard,

Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Gas Distribution Act, 1999.*

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act.*

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, December 15, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bernard LeBlanc:

WHEREAS during the last election campaign, the current Premier and the Health Minister promised New Brunswickers the implementation of a catastrophic drug program within the first year of their mandate;

WHEREAS lack of a catastrophic drug program continues to cause extreme economic hardship for many New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers have approached the provincial government for assistance with drug costs and have been refused or ignored;

WHEREAS New Brunswick remains one of only two Canadian provinces and territories without such coverage;

WHEREAS this government continues to refuse to be up-front about the actual implementation date for such a program;

WHEREAS the current government promised to consult key stakeholders in the development of a catastrophic drug program and has yet to do so;

WHEREAS this government's target date for implementation continues to change, going from "within the first year" to "before 2014" to "early in the mandate";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier to immediately engage stakeholders in the development of a catastrophic drug program and inform New Brunswickers of the specific target date for implementation of this program.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 21 that on Thursday, December 15, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

WHEREAS the serious illness of a child often puts parents and/or guardians under extreme emotional stress and economic hardship;

WHEREAS the current rules surrounding Employment Insurance do not allow for parents to receive benefits while tending to a seriously ill child;

WHEREAS the current rules surrounding Employment Insurance allow for workers to receive benefits while tending to a seriously ill parent;

WHEREAS the parents and/or guardians of seriously ill children do not have any job security when they take time off to tend to their children;

WHEREAS parents and/or guardians can lose their jobs while tending to a seriously ill child;

WHEREAS this represents an inequity in the workforce;

WHEREAS there are currently two Private Members' Bills before the House of Commons to address this issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Government of New Brunswick to urge the federal government to support the passing of Bill C-323 and Bill C-542, to allow the parents of seriously ill children to take sick leave and maintain job security when taking time off to tend to a seriously ill child.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 22 that on Thursday, December 15, 2011, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

WHEREAS there is no children's hospital in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the serious illness of a child may therefore require parents and/or guardians to seek treatment out of province;

WHEREAS out of province travel, accommodations and other expenses often have to be paid out of pocket by parents and/or guardians;

WHEREAS there currently does not exist any policy, plan or fund to assist the parents and/or guardians of children with serious illness with these expenses;

WHEREAS this often creates financial hardship for the families of seriously ill children;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Government of New Brunswick to implement and disburse a fund to provide financial assistance for out-of-province expense costs for the parents and/or guardians of seriously ill children who have to travel out of province for treatment.

Hon. Mr. Higgs, Minister of Finance, delivered to Mr. Deputy Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Deputy Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, N.B.
December 9, 2011.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Supplementary Estimates 2010-2011 Volume II* of the sums required for the services of the province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 2011, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Graydon Nicholas.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, Bills 18 and 19 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 8, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17 be called for second reading; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 2.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Building Code Act*.
Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act*.
Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.
Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*.
Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 8 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown 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 11, *An Act to Amend the Medical Services Payment Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 11 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Medical Services Payment 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 13, *An Act Respecting the Recovery of Debts Owed to the Crown*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 13 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 13, *An Act Respecting the Recovery of Debts Owed to the Crown*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 15, *An Act to Repeal the Habeas Corpus Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 15 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 15, *An Act to Repeal the Habeas Corpus 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 16, *An Act to Amend the Management of Seized and Forfeited Property Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 16 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Management of Seized and Forfeited Property 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 17, *An Act Respecting Regional Health Authorities*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 17 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 17, *An Act Respecting Regional Health Authorities*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

And after some time, Mr. Betts took the chair.

And after some further time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker, and Mr. Betts, the Acting Chair, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

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

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Deputy 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.

And then, 12.25 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.