

Daily sitting 14

Thursday, December 15, 2011

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Riordon, Member for Nepisiguit, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to adequately subsidize the services of home support workers. (Petition 52)

Mr. Bonenfant, Member for Madawaska-les-Lacs, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to restore supply management to the province's chicken industry by ensuring a predicable and stable supply of New Brunswick grown chickens to Nadeau Poultry. (Petition 53)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2010-2011 (2)*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bill 20 was ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a second time:

Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2010-2011 (2)*.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2010-2011 (2)*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 26 that on Thursday, December 22, 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, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, regarding flights made by the government airplane on December 10 and 11, 2011, including but not limited to flight logs, passenger lists and Hobbs meter.

Debate resumed on Motion 5, moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Albert, as follows:

WHEREAS the Alward government is proposing a two-tiered minimum wage for the province of New Brunswick, wherein servers and wait staff would earn a lower minimum wage than other workers;

WHEREAS a two-tiered minimum wage is a direct attack on the most vulnerable wage earners;

WHEREAS tipping is designed to reward excellent service, not supplement wages;

WHEREAS the scheduled increase to the minimum wage that was supposed to have taken place in September as mandated by the Poverty Reduction Plan has not yet been implemented;

WHEREAS the Poverty Reduction Plan did not suggest a two-tiered minimum wage;

WHEREAS the Alward government's public consultation on a two-tiered minimum wage consists of an online survey which contains questions which have been criticized as being designed to tip the balance of the results in favour of a two-tiered minimum wage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to respect the spirit and intent of the Poverty Reduction Plan, reject a two-tiered minimum wage and immediately implement the recommendation of the Poverty Reduction Plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 5 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 11

Mr. Arseneault
Mr. Boudreau
Mr. Fraser
Mr. Haché

Mr. Albert
Mr. Kenny
Mr. Collins
Mr. Bernard LeBlanc

Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
Mr. Melanson
Mr. D. Landry

NAYS - 39

Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Coulombe	Ms. Lynch
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Stultz	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
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Killen	Mr. Betts
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Soucy	Mr. C. Landry
Hon. Ms. Blais	Mr. Lifford	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Mr. Riordon	Mr. Davis

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 20, Mr. Fraser moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 20 be amended:

In the first WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words “within the first year of their mandate”;

In the sixth WHEREAS clause, by deleting the words “and has yet to do so”;

By deleting the third, fifth, and seventh WHEREAS clauses;

By adding the following three clauses immediately before the resolution clause:

“WHEREAS the previous Liberal government ignored the need of our residents;”

“WHEREAS this government inherited a billion dollar deficit and it is of paramount importance to solve the current financial crisis facing the Province;”

“WHEREAS, despite the current financial challenges, this government has started a three step approach to implement a catastrophic drug program;”

In the Resolution clause, by replacing the words “immediately engage” with “continue engaging” and replacing all the words following “and” with “continue implementing the full program as soon as it can be done in a responsible manner within the current government's mandate”.

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 adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 20 as amended as follows:

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

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

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

WHEREAS the current government promised to consult key stakeholders in the development of a catastrophic drug program;

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government ignored the need of our residents;

WHEREAS this government inherited a billion dollar deficit and it is of paramount importance to solve the current financial crisis facing the Province;

WHEREAS, despite the current financial challenges, this government has started a three step approach to implement a catastrophic drug program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier to continue engaging stakeholders in the development of a catastrophic drug program and continue implementing the full program as soon as it can be done in a responsible manner within the current government's mandate.

And the question being put, Motion 20 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 36

Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Stultz	Ms. Lynch
Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud	Hon. Mr. Northrup	Mr. Malloch
Hon. Ms. Dubé	Hon. Mr. Olscamp	Mr. Parrott
Hon. Mr. Jody Carr	Hon. Mr. Trevors	Mr. Macdonald

Hon. Mr. Holder	Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Tait
Hon. Ms. Blaney	Ms. Shephard	Mr. S. Robichaud
Mr. Steeves	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Bonenfant
Mr. Harrison	Mr. McLean	Mr. Stewart
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Killen	Mr. Betts
Hon. Ms. Blais	Mr. Soucy	Mr. C. Landry
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Mr. Lifford	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Ms. Coulombe	Mr. Riordon	Mr. Davis

NAYS - 11

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Albert	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Kenny	Mr. Melanson
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Collins	Mr. D. Landry
Mr. Haché	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 6, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government undertook an unprecedented public engagement in 2009 with the business sector, the non-profit sector, and citizens living in poverty, which resulted in a bipartisan poverty reduction plan;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, participated fully in the engagement process and the announcement of the poverty reduction plan;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, stated that he was “proud” to have participated in the process and committed his party to implementing the recommendations of the poverty reduction task force;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, stated in an opinion column published in various provincial newspapers in November 2009 that we have to do more;

WHEREAS, since forming the government, the Alward Conservatives have ignored or postponed several important deadlines for the implementation of poverty reduction initiatives;

WHEREAS there is considerable disparity between what Premier Alward said while he was in the opposition and what he has done since forming the government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to honour the commitments made by the Premier when, as Leader of the Opposition, he expressed his support for the poverty reduction plan.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

Mr. Riordon rose and apologized to Mr. Speaker and members of the opposition in relation to the question of privilege raised by Mr. Arseneault during the previous sitting day.

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:

Fine-tuning Parliamentary Machinery: A Review of the Mandates and Operations of New Brunswick's Legislative Officers, December 2011.

December 14, 2011