

Daily sitting 27

Thursday, April 12, 2012

1 o'clock p.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 in support of a catastrophic drug program.
(Petition 78)

Mr. Collins, Member for Moncton East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reverse its decision to increase the seniors drug plan co-pay of \$250.00 annually to \$500.00 annually.
(Petition 79)

Mr. Killen, from the Standing Committee on Private Bills, presented the First Report of the Committee which was read and is as follows:

April 12, 2012.

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Private Bills begs leave to submit this, their First Report of the session.

Your Committee met on April 12, 2012, in the Legislative Council Chamber and had under consideration the following Bill:

Bill 21, *Rothsay Netherwood School Act*;

which it recommends to the favourable consideration of the House.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 22, *An Act to Incorporate the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick*;

and reports that it has made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

I move, seconded by the Member for Grand Falls—Drummond—Saint-André, that the report be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd. :) Carl Killen, M.L.A.
Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker then put the question on the motion of concurrence and it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised the gallery that the taking of photographs is prohibited.

Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted Oral Questions and advised Mr. Fraser to direct his questions through the Chair.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that the Leader of the Opposition used the term “stupid” in reference to Hon. Ms. Dubé. Mr. Boudreau spoke on the point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker advised the House that he would review the Hansard and report back if necessary.

Hon. Mr. Fitch rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Kenny misled the House during Members’ Statements. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the point not well taken as the matter involved a dispute of facts and requested the Member to withdraw the term “misled”, which he did.

Mr. Albert gave Notice of Motion 45 that on Thursday, April 19, 2012, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the federal government's discussion paper titled *The Future of Canada's Commercial Fisheries* fails to adequately support the owner-operator system upon which the future of the commercial fishery depends;

WHEREAS commercial fishermen in New Brunswick are concerned that the federal government may abandon the owner-operator system, handing the management of the sector over to large corporations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to confirm its support for the owner-operator system and urge the federal government to formally support the owner-operator system.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 46 that on Thursday, April 19, 2012, 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, relating to the operation of white-tailed deer farms in New Brunswick, since December 1, 2010.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 41, Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the Premier committed during the 2010 election campaign to guaranteeing that the annual budget for the Department of Health will increase each and every year of a four-year mandate by a minimum of three per cent;

AND WHEREAS the most recent budget limits the increase of the budget for the Department of Health to 1.6 per cent growth;

AND WHEREAS the budget for the Department of Health has increased by an average of approximately 7 per cent annually between 2006 and 2010;

AND WHEREAS this health budget reduction will mean the Department of Health will likely have to make drastic cuts to programs and services of more than \$136 million to meet this budget target;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide detailed information on the specific cuts to programs and services to the health care system that will be required to meet this difficult budget target.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised Mr. Fraser to refer to Members by constituency or title, and not by name.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 41 be amended:

In the second whereas clause, by deleting all the words following “most recent” and replacing them with “capital and ordinary budgets provide for an increase of 3.9%”; and

By replacing the third and fourth whereas clauses with:

“AND WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick is committed to a sustainable, publicly funded health care system;”

“AND WHEREAS strategic decisions need to be made to protect the government-paid, quality, efficient universal health care system that is so important to New Brunswickers;”

In the resolution clause, by replacing all the words following “detailed information on” with “specific funding to programs and services in the health care system through the budgetary estimates process, as is the tradition of this House, that make-up the Department's budget”.

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

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested Mr. Fraser to refrain from referring to Members by name. Mr. Deputy Speaker advised the House that it is not appropriate, even when the Member is quoting from a letter or other document.

Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested that Mr. Fraser withdraw the term “ass”, which he did.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 41 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Premier committed during the 2010 election campaign to guaranteeing that the annual budget for the Department of Health will increase each and every year of a four-year mandate by a minimum of three per cent;

AND WHEREAS the most recent capital and ordinary budgets provide for an increase of 3.9%;

AND WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick is committed to a sustainable, publicly funded health care system;

AND WHEREAS strategic decisions need to be made to protect the government-paid, quality, efficient universal health care system that is so important to New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide detailed information on specific funding to programs and services in the health care system through the budgetary estimates process, as is the tradition of this House, that make-up the Department's budget.

And the question being put, Motion 41 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 42, Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS investments in preventative health care now will result in primary care savings in the future;

WHEREAS obesity is a major roadblock to healthy living in our province, which consistently ranks among the highest in Canada in obesity rates;

WHEREAS an obesity clinic pilot program in Bathurst has helped approximately 800 patients manage their diabetes, high blood pressure and other obesity-related conditions;

WHEREAS the provincial government has cut funding to the clinic;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to reinstate funding to the obesity clinic program as an investment in preventative health care.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Savoie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 42 be amended by:

Replacing the third and fourth whereas clauses with:

“WHEREAS the 2010 platform of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick recognized that “we need to shift our focus toward living better by expanding wellness, health education and prevention programs;””

“WHEREAS, since its election in 2010, the Progressive Conservative Government has increased spending on wellness and healthy living in both of its budgets;”

In the resolution clause, deleting all the words following “government to” and replacing them with “continue funding wellness programs that include strategies to reduce obesity as an investment in preventative health care”.

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

And after some time, Mr. Deputy 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 documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petitions 62, 63, 64 and 65 Annual Report 2008-2009	April 10, 2012
Forest Protection Limited Annual Report 2009-2010	April 11, 2012
Forest Protection Limited Annual Report 2010-2011	April 11, 2012
Regional Development Corporation	April 11, 2012