

Daily sitting 7

Thursday, December 6, 2012

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to subsection 16(2) of the *Auditor General Act*, Mr. Speaker laid upon the table of the House the *Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements of the Office of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012*.

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

Mr. Melanson rose on a point of order and submitted that the government Members were unreasonably extending the time allocated to Routine Proceedings, which limited the time remaining for Opposition Members' Business. Mr. Speaker advised the House that this is a matter for consideration by the House Leaders.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Steeves,

Bill 12, *An Act Respecting the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches*.

By Mr. Killen,

Bill 13, *City of Saint John Government Act*.

By Mr. Arseneault,

Bill 14, *Tanning Beds Act*.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 13)

THAT in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1) and by Special Order of the House adopted November 28, 2012, the time for the daily meeting and sitting of the Assembly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday shall include 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall come into effect on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, and shall remain in effect until the adjournment of the House on Thursday, December 20, 2012.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert back to Notices of Motions.

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 14 that on Thursday, December 13, 2012, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Collins:

WHEREAS the Alward government has not questioned the federal government on reductions to federal transfer payments to New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Alward government has refused to take on the federal government for the \$1 billion in cost overruns caused by AECL, a federal crown corporation;

WHEREAS the Alward government has decided not to fight for the interests of New Brunswick by seeking compensation for the millions of dollars in additional costs the province will be burdened with in relation to the new federal omnibus crime bill;

WHEREAS the Alward government did not even seek adequate compensation from the federal government for the future upkeep and maintenance of the Harbour Bridge;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not voiced concern about federal job cuts in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not spoken out against cuts by ACOA to the regional economic development agencies;

WHEREAS the Alward government was silent on cuts to the National Research Council in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not stood up for New Brunswick in relation to the proposed EI eligibility changes which will have a devastating effect on our seasonal industries, our communities and our people;

WHEREAS the Alward government was not successful in convincing the federal government to keep Canadian Blood Services in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Alward government has been unable to persuade the federal government to partner with it on the twinning of Route 11;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not fought against cuts to rail service in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government and opposition to coordinate a strong position on behalf of the people of New Brunswick to stand up and speak out against the federal government on measures that have such negative economic and financial consequences for New Brunswick.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau refurbishment project is three years behind schedule and \$1 billion over budget;

WHEREAS the refurbishment contract was signed by the former Progressive Conservative government of Bernard Lord in 2006, with insufficient protection for such excessive cost overruns by the federal Crown Corporation AECL;

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy has stated in this House that his government will accept nothing less than full compensation from the government of Canada for cost overruns at Point Lepreau;

WHEREAS the Opposition supports the intention of the Minister of Energy to obtain full compensation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to define full compensation and explain to the people of New Brunswick how the Minister of Energy will obtain full compensation from the federal government for the full value of the cost overruns at Point Lepreau.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 2 be amended:

By deleting all the words following “2006” in the second WHEREAS clause.

By adding the following after the second WHEREAS clause:

“WHEREAS the work began in March of 2008 under the Liberal government of Shawn Graham and was scheduled to be completed in October of 2009 with a year left in that government's mandate;

WHEREAS Atomic Energy of Canada Limited learned very costly first-of-a-kind lessons on retubing a CANDU-6 reactor that have and will be used in the refurbishment of other aging reactors to the economic benefit of those other plants;”

In the resolution clause, by replacing all the words following “to define” with “the full cost overruns caused by the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited delays and report to the people of New Brunswick on the strategy NB Power will utilize to obtain maximum compensation for the cost overruns at Point Lepreau from all possible sources”.

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

Mr. Collins rose on a point of order and submitted that the proposed amendment was out of order as it did not relate to the original motion. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the amendment to be in order as it retained the main compensation elements of the original motion.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Doucet, moved the following sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 2 be amended:

By replacing the word “maximum” with the word “full”.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and it was defeated.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 2 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau refurbishment project is three years behind schedule and \$1 billion over budget;

WHEREAS the refurbishment contract was signed by the former Progressive Conservative government of Bernard Lord in 2006;

WHEREAS the work began in March of 2008 under the Liberal government of Shawn Graham and was scheduled to be completed in October of 2009 with a year left in that government's mandate;

WHEREAS Atomic Energy of Canada Limited learned very costly first-of-a-kind lessons on retubing a CANDU-6 reactor that have and will be used in the refurbishment of other aging reactors to the economic benefit of those other plants;

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy has stated in this House that his government will accept nothing less than full compensation from the government of Canada for cost overruns at Point Lepreau;

WHEREAS the Opposition supports the intention of the Minister of Energy to obtain full compensation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to define the full cost overruns caused by the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited delays and report to the people of New Brunswick on the strategy NB Power will utilize to obtain maximum compensation for the cost overruns at Point Lepreau from all possible sources.

And the question being put, Motion 2 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Kenny moved, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS the impending closure of the Xstrata Mine in Bathurst will result in the loss of hundreds of jobs, both directly and indirectly;

WHEREAS the northern economy has suffered numerous blows in recent years with the decline of various industries, and the Xstrata closure will only exacerbate this economic downturn;

WHEREAS the knowledge base, expertise and human resources in the region would provide an excellent training ground for those interested in learning mining skills;

WHEREAS mining companies around the world are looking for thousands of workers skilled in mining trades;

WHEREAS a mining trades program and a mining centre of excellence, and resulting research opportunities, would provide important economic opportunities for northern New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the training facility and centre of excellence would help both northern New Brunswick and mining all across Canada;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to engage the mining industry and the federal government in a partnership to establish a Mining Centre of Excellence and training centre in Bathurst following the mine's shutdown.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 1 be amended:

In the resolution clause, by deleting all the words following “urge the provincial government to” with “continue engaging the mining industry, the Mining Industry Human Resource Council, and the Federal Government in a dialogue concerning the possibility of establishing a Mining Centre of Excellence and college-level training centre in conjunction with the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick - campus de Bathurst following the mine's shutdown”.

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.