

Daily sitting 11

Thursday, December 13, 2012

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

December 13, 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 December 13, 2012, in the Legislative Council Chamber and had under consideration the following Bills:

Bill 12, *An Act Respecting the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches*,  
Bill 13, *City of Saint John Government Act*,

which it recommends to the favourable consideration of the House.

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

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Hon. Mr. Olscamp requested the unanimous consent of the House to make a lengthy Minister's Statement, and unanimous consent was denied.

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The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2011-2012 (1)*.

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Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bill 22 was ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a second time:

Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2011-2012 (1)*.

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The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2011-2012 (1)*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 9, Mr. Melanson moved, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the economy of New Brunswick experienced zero growth in the past year;

WHEREAS unemployment in New Brunswick has risen to 11.6 per cent;

WHEREAS the economy of our major trading partner, the United States, is precarious;

WHEREAS this weak economic performance means lower revenues for government, making it more difficult for government to deliver its services and address our fiscal challenge;

WHEREAS this bleak economic outlook is an issue that rises above political differences;

WHEREAS the Opposition offers to work with government on solutions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the government and opposition to work together in convening a job summit representing a cross-section of stakeholders in the economy to review the current economic circumstances and make recommendations to government for remedial action.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Olscamp rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Arseneault was out of order when he referred to the “Alward Government”, as he was using the name of a Member. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the point not well taken, as this practice has been permitted in the House.

Mr. Betts rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Arseneault used unparliamentary language when he alleged the Premier made “false statements”. Mr. Deputy Speaker requested that Members refrain from questioning the honesty of their fellow Members.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 9 was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 14, Mr. Boudreau moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

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