

Daily sitting 24

Thursday, April 11, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneault,

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Smoke-free Places Act*.

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Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, April 18, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

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, including but not limited to correspondence, regarding PCI Chemicals Canada (Olin) and its property in Dalhousie.

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Hon. Mr. Williams gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Flemming:

WHEREAS the former Liberal government granted seventy million dollars of financial assistance to the Atcon group of companies in 2008 and 2009;

WHEREAS immediately prior to approving fifty million dollars in assistance in March of 2009, Business New Brunswick had flagged that Atcon was showing signs of insolvency;

WHEREAS immediately prior to the former Liberal government approving fifty million dollars in assistance in March of 2009, Business New Brunswick had recommended that further assistance not be given to Atcon and assessed the risk as “high”;

WHEREAS immediately prior to the former Liberal government approving fifty million dollars in assistance in March of 2009, New Brunswick Industrial Development Board, a body composed of senior civil servants, concurred with the recommendation against providing further financial assistance to the Atcon group of companies;

WHEREAS despite the clear signs that Atcon was in serious financial difficulty and against the recommendations of government officials,

the then Minister of Business New Brunswick offered fifty million dollars in further assistance on March 27, 2009;

WHEREAS Atcon is now insolvent and out of business;

WHEREAS the vast majority of the funds advanced by the Government of New Brunswick have not been recovered and represent a loss to the taxpayers of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has recommended that this House consider requesting the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the financial assistance given by the Province of New Brunswick to Robert Tozer and his Atcon group of companies;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Assembly request the Auditor General of New Brunswick to conduct an audit of all the financial assistance given by the Province of New Brunswick to Robert Tozer and the Atcon group of companies, including recommendations on how to improve the performance of the Department of Economic Development, formerly known as Business New Brunswick.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly recommend that all the evidence and information in the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's inquiry into allegations by Mr. Claude Williams, MLA for Kent South, of violations of the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* with respect to the above matter, be preserved and made available to the Auditor General of New Brunswick to assist her in the audit and recommendations.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Regional Health Authorities Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 35 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

## YEAS - 10

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

## NAYS - 25

Hon. Ms. Dubé	Hon. Mr. Flemming	Ms. Lynch
Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Soucy	Mr. Malloch
Hon. Ms. Stultz	Hon. Mr. Lifford	Mr. S. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. Olscamp	Mr. Harrison	Mr. Bonenfant
Hon. Mr. Trevors	Ms. Wilson	Mr. C. Landry
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Riordon	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Mr. Killen	Mr. Urquhart
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Ms. Coulombe	
Hon. Ms. Blais	Mr. MacDonald	

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 28, Mr. D. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the federal government has replaced the employment insurance boards of referees with the Social Security Tribunal;

WHEREAS employment insurance claimants who wish to appeal employment insurance rulings must appeal to this tribunal;

WHEREAS there were 300 employment insurance boards of referees members across the country, 15 of whom were in New Brunswick and were local residents with knowledge of local labour and business;

WHEREAS there are only 74 Social Security Tribunal members, who are not necessarily located in New Brunswick and only half of whom will deal with employment insurance appeals;

WHEREAS these changes will significantly disadvantage workers and limit their opportunities for access to appeal;

WHEREAS additional paperwork and red tape required by the Social Security Tribunal will make it more burdensome for workers to make an appeal;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to ask the federal government to reinstate the employment insurance boards of referees.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 28 be amended:

By replacing the word “will” with “may” in the fifth and sixth WHEREAS clauses.

In the resolution clause, by deleting “the provincial government to ask”.

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.

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

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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:

Response to Petition 5

April 9, 2013