

Daily sitting 44

Thursday, May 30, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and cautioned members against the use of unparliamentary language.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Stultz,

Bill 67, *An Act Respecting the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Olscamp,

Bill 68, *Marshland Infrastructure Maintenance Act.*

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 58 that on Thursday, June 6, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS affordable housing and homelessness continue to be issues that affect New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's Housing Strategy entitled 'Hope is a Home' has not been revised since its release in 2009;

WHEREAS the expiry of social housing operating agreements will peak in 2017, affecting the viability of thousands of affordable nonprofit housing rental units across the province;

WHEREAS the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy is expected to be renewed as of April 2014, using a 'Housing First' approach as advocated by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness;

WHEREAS the Canada/New Brunswick Affordable Housing Program Agreement is expected to be renewed as of April 2014, allowing for the construction of additional affordable housing units;

WHEREAS the various affordable housing and homelessness advocates have not been consulted as a group since the release of the province's housing strategy in 2009;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to review its housing strategy, in partnership with the various advocates and the Official Opposition, before the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, in order to take full advantage of the various federal-provincial agreements that will be extended as of April 2014.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 59 that on Thursday, June 6, 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 a list of all funding projects approved for the NB Multimedia Initiative, through the Regional Development Corporation and/or the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, since March 31, 2011, including the names of those receiving funding, the amount of funding provided and a description of the projects.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Friday, May 31, 2013, Bills 67 and 68 would be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Public Interest Disclosure 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 43 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 28, moved by Hon. Mr. Soucy, seconded by Hon. Ms. Dubé, as follows:

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”.

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 28 as amended as follows:

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 may significantly disadvantage workers and limit their opportunities for access to appeal;

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

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

And the question being put, Motion 28 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for consideration of Opposition Members' Business had expired.

Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Ms. Shephard, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

On motion of Hon. Ms. Shephard, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Thursday, June 6, 2013, it stand adjourned until Friday, June 7, 2013, at 10 o'clock a.m.

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:

Response to Petition 27

May 29, 2013