

Daily sitting 45

Friday, May 31, 2013

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Riordon rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Boudreau was in breach of Standing Rule 49(b)(i) as his questions referred to a matter that is the subject of a proceeding that is pending in a court. Mr. Boudreau spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 60 that on Thursday, June 6, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS there are a number of investigations ongoing concerning various cabinet ministers;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education has admitted to a breach of privacy, which is the subject of an investigation by the Privacy Commissioner;

WHEREAS there has been an allegation of breach of confidentiality by the Attorney-General's office, which is being investigated by a private investigator;

WHEREAS there has been an allegation of obstruction of justice by the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, which is being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;

WHEREAS these allegations seriously undermine the credibility of the government;

WHEREAS Democracy Watch is a recognized national non-profit organization that advocates government accountability and ethical behavior;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to engage Democracy Watch to conduct an independent investigation of the Alward government and make recommendations as to how it can be more accountable to the public.

Mr. Riordon rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Boudreau was in breach of Standing Rule 49(b)(i) as Notice of Motion 60 referred to a matter that is the subject of a proceeding that is pending in a court. Mr. Boudreau spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 61 that on Thursday, June 6, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the students of Moncton High School have developed a Youth Bill of Rights;

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers have been affected by the tragic story of Rehtaeh Parsons, a Nova Scotia teen who sadly took her own life earlier this year after months of bullying by her peers;

WHEREAS the students of Moncton High School drafted their Youth Bill of Rights with Rehtaeh's story in mind;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to consider the Youth Bill of Rights as a framework for developing a comprehensive educational policy to address the issue of bullying.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Thursday, June 6, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Albert:

WHEREAS the Alward government is spending millions of dollars on external consultants to advise the government on how departments and Crown agencies can cut costs and become more efficient;

WHEREAS the majority of these consultants are not very familiar with the internal workings of the departments and Crown agencies, or the nature of the programs they administer;

WHEREAS as a result of this unfamiliarity, many of the recommendations made on cost cutting or efficiencies may not be realistic or achievable without significant consequences;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick public service has many valued employees with vast knowledge of how government can best deliver programs and services while achieving savings and efficiencies;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not sought the input of the public service, including front-line staff, on how government departments and Crown agencies can realize cost savings and efficiencies, prior to engaging these external consultants;

WHEREAS the Alward government has ignored the commitments contained in its own 2010 election platform to reduce the 'shadow bureaucracy' of hired consultants that perform similar services to regular public servants but at a higher cost and with less accountability, and to bring in new policies to govern the hiring of consultants that assure transparency and openness;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to engage the public servants in the government departments and Crown agencies and solicit their advice on the best ways to save money and find efficiencies as opposed to hiring expensive external consultants.

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, June 6, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party of NB campaigned on a promise to balance the budget and create jobs within their mandate;

WHEREAS the economy of New Brunswick has declined in the last two and a half years;

WHEREAS this government's first two budgets focused mostly on expenditures and the reduction of services;

WHEREAS the province of NB is experiencing unemployment rate increases over the last two and a half years, reaching 10.9%;

WHEREAS the net debt has increased by over \$1.5 billion since the Alward government has been elected;

WHEREAS the deficit under the Alward government has added over \$1.1 billion to the net provincial debt;

WHEREAS the forecast deficit does not show a balanced budget for the next three years;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to admit that it needs to have a clear plan, driven by a balanced approach, through economic growth and responsible fiscal management in addressing the province's financial situation.

Hon. Mr. Williams, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Women's Issues Branch.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. C. Landry in the chair.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker and Mr. C. Landry, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 12.25 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:

Pursuant to the *Fees Act*, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is introducing a new fee for the TOD Fingerboard Sign for Regulation 2001-26, the Fees in Relation to Highway Advertisements Regulation under the Financial Administration Act.

May 29, 2013