

Daily sitting 48

Thursday, June 6, 2013

1.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Mr. Haché, Member for Nigadoo-Chaleur, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Clair street, Petit-Rocher-Nord, urging the government to repair the street to provincial standards. (Petition 41)

The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Killen,

Bill 71, *An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association.*

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Doucet gave Notice of Motion 66 that on Thursday, June 13, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS Premier Alward's own press release on August 20, 2010, in speaking about Grand Manan ferry service, stated: "He also committed to retaining the current ferry operating schedule", and

WHEREAS the Alward government has proposed to ignore the Premier's commitment and intends to reduce the number of daily round trip ferry runs to Grand Manan;

WHEREAS this reduction in daily round trips will have a very negative impact on the island's entire economy: lobster export, aquaculture, shipping of a wide range of products from the sea, general trucking, along with reducing access for tourists;

WHEREAS this reduction would have a very negative impact on social contact with the rest of New Brunswick, including a devastating impact on recreation opportunities;

WHEREAS the proposed schedule will have a very negative impact on people travelling on medical appointments, especially those whose treatments leave them suffering extreme discomfort;

WHEREAS the proposed schedule can be demonstrated to project extreme congestion on some daily crossings;

WHEREAS the Grand Manan ferry service is the only ferry operation within the provincial government ferry service in which the Alward government sought savings;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to honour the Premier's commitment and maintain the daily number of round trip ferry crossings at its current operating schedule, while seeking other options for savings without impacting levels of ferry service that are so important to the New Brunswick people who rely on ferries.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Friday, June 7, 2013, Bill 69 would be called for second reading.

Mr. Deputy Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to the point of order raised on Friday last regarding Notice of Motion 60:

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

On Friday last, a point of order was raised by the Member for Nepisiguit with respect to Notice of Motion 60, standing on the Order and Notice Paper in the name of the Member for Shediac-Cap-Pelé. The Member submitted that the proposed motion was out of order because it was presently before the courts. I have reviewed the subject matter of the motion, which calls upon the government to engage an outside body to conduct an independent investigation of the government and make recommendations as to how it can be more accountable. As it has not been shown to me that the main subject matter of the motion deals directly with an issue that is before the courts, I am going to allow this motion to stand. However, I would ask all Members to exercise restraint and avoid reference to matters that are currently before the court, particularly where such reference may create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the participants.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 61, Mr. Collins moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry took the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Urquhart resumed the chair.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 61 was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 60, Mr. Boudreau moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

Mr. Macdonald rose on a point of order and submitted that certain comments by Mr. Arseneault were in breach of Standing Rule 49(b)(i) as they referred to a matter that is the subject of a proceeding before a court. Mr. Deputy Speaker advised the Member to be cautious when referring to the matter in question.

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

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