

Daily sitting 51

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Haché used unparliamentary language when comparing a Minister to a “student who is lagging behind” and should withdraw his statement. Mr. Haché spoke on the point of order and declined to withdraw his statement. Mr. Speaker advised the House that he would review the Hansard and report back if necessary.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 44(4), Mr. Fraser, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, June 13, 2013, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 58 and 60, Bill 29.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading and consideration of Motion 42, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 59, 49, 69, 51, 52, 27, 50 and 45.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Law Reform Act.*
Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Surveys Act.*
Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act.*
Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Seafood Processing Act.*
Bill 56, *Enforcement of Money Judgments Act.*
Bill 57, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act.*
Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act.*
Bill 65, *An Act Respecting the Enforcement of Money Judgments Act.*
Bill 68, *Marshland Infrastructure Maintenance Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 42, Hon. Mr. Williams moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

At 12.30 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the chair to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 42 was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

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Hon. Mr. Higgs	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Melanson
Hon. Mr. Alward	Mr. Riordon	Mr. Gallant
Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud	Mr. Killen	Mr. Fraser
Hon. Ms. Dubé	Ms. Coulombe	Mr. Boudreau
Hon. Mr. Jody Carr	Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Betts
Hon. Mr. Holder	Mr. McLean	Mr. C. Landry
Hon. Mr. Trevors	Ms. Lynch	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Malloch	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Mr. Davis	Mr. Collins
Hon. Ms. Blais	Mr. Macdonald	Mr. Albert
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. S. Robichaud	Mr. Kenny
Hon. Mr. Soucy	Mr. Tait	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Mr. Lifford	Mr. Savoie	Mr. Urquhart
Hon. Mr. Northrup	Mr. Bonenfant	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
Mr. Steeves	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Haché
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. D. Landry

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. C. Landry in the chair.

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

And after some further time, Mr. C. Landry resumed 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 directed that he report the following Bills as agreed to:

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Beaverbrook Art Gallery Act.*
Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act.*
Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*
Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.*
Bill 59, *An Act Respecting Unpaid Fines.*
Bill 69, *Loan Act 2013.*

And that the Committee had directed that he report the following Bill as amended:

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act.*

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, 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, 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 20

June 11, 2013