

Daily sitting 11

Thursday, November 21, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Wilson, Member for Petitcodiac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislative Assembly to amend the *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* to provide more effective protection for animals in the province. (Petition 3)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Gallant,

Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act*.Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act*.Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 13 that on Thursday, November 28, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D. Landry:

WHEREAS, in 2008, the then Department of Transportation—DOT—implemented a new Asset Management Business Framework to better manage the long-term investment requirements of the province's aging highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Asset Management Business Framework—AMBF—was implemented to make the most efficient use of highway capital repair dollars and take the politics out of paving; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General observed that, in the first three years after adopting the Asset Management Business Framework with optimal funding in place, the department noted positive results; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General has noted that the asset management methodology is sound; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General has concluded that, although the department has the appropriate tools in place to identify and prioritize required highway maintenance projects, current funding levels do not allow for completion of an appropriate level of highway maintenance on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General has expressed concern that this will result in deferring required maintenance to future periods at a greater overall cost to the province; and

WHEREAS it is reported in the Auditor General's report that 40% of capital maintenance projects chosen for completion are not recommended through the asset management capital planning process, and it was suggested that some of these are chosen for political reasons;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to return to the principles of asset management that have been implemented since 2008 to restore optimum long-term value to New Brunswick highway capital repairs.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 10, Mr. Melanson moved, seconded by Mr. Albert:

WHEREAS the Alward government indicated that participation in the Shared Risk pension plan would be voluntary;

WHEREAS the Premier initially told public servants and pensioners that the Shared Risk plan would not apply to vested benefits;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not engaged stakeholders in meaningful consultations;

WHEREAS the Alward government intends to impose the Shared Risk pension plan on public servants and retirees;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to halt plans to introduce legislation that would impose the Shared Risk pension model and immediately announce a new and inclusive process of engagement for public pension reform whereby government would sit down with bargaining, non-bargaining groups and other pension representatives to review all relevant financial information and discuss all possible options for pension reform.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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. C. Landry took the chair.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 10 was resolved in the negative.

Debate resumed on Motion 4, moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Melanson, as follows:

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative party promised during the 2010 campaign that it would maintain the number of teachers in the province;

WHEREAS on June 4, 2013, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, avoided questions in relation to further cuts within his department;

WHEREAS on June 4, 2013, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development admitted to media that his department cut 40 teaching positions and that his government was unable to keep its campaign promise;

WHEREAS on August 23, 2013, a news story was published in regards to potential cuts to music and physical education specialists;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to immediately release a complete list of any and all cuts made to teaching positions as well as other staff positions within all schools in the province's school districts.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 4 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 5, Mr. Arseneault moved, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS 12 public consultations were held between September 16 and October 9, leading to a renewal of *Overcoming Poverty Together - The New Brunswick Poverty Reduction Plan*;

WHEREAS the province's Poverty Reduction Plan had the following objective: "By 2015, New Brunswick will have reduced income poverty by 25% and deep income poverty by 50% and will have made significant progress in achieving sustained economic and social inclusion.";

WHEREAS the province's Poverty Reduction Plan had established specific priority actions, both immediate and over a five year period;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to table in the House within 30 days a detailed progress report on the province's Poverty Reduction Plan that demonstrates goals met and identifies remaining work and a timeline for achieving unmet goals.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Ms. Shephard, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 5 be amended:

By deleting the resolution clause and substituting the following:

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick accepts as the most recent progress report, which was tabled in the House on June 14, 2013, and which identified the action items that have been completed to-date and identifies the work remaining."

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and then announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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