

Daily sitting 19

Thursday, December 5, 2013

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

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

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 14, Mr. Arseneault moved, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS the improper housing of exotic animals can result in serious public safety, animal welfare and environmental issues;

WHEREAS the housing of exotic animals is a highly specialized undertaking;

WHEREAS the problem with the current legislative and regulatory environment may result in the proliferation of unaccredited roadside zoos with attendant animal welfare, public safety and environmental concerns as well as the exploitation of exotic animals for profit;

WHEREAS accredited zoos and aquariums can bring significant economic, education and conservation benefits to their communities;

WHEREAS Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) wants to create a more uniform and adequately resourced policy, legislative, regulatory and enforcement regime governing exotic animals in the Atlantic provinces and in all other provinces and territories;

WHEREAS the Cities of New Brunswick Association passed a motion urging the government of New Brunswick to work with the other Atlantic provinces to create a joint task force to study the issue and report to the Council of the Federation with a recommended way forward;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urges the Alward Government to conduct a complete review of the provisions of the *Fish and Wildlife Act* and other relevant legislation related to exotic animals and bring forward a detailed action plan to the Legislature including any recommended changes to the legislative and regulatory framework, prior to the closing of the current legislative session.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 14 be amended:

By deleting the words “the problem with” in the third WHEREAS clause;

By deleting the words “prior to the closing of the current legislative session” and the comma that precedes those words in the resolution clause and replacing the final period with a semicolon;

By adding the following after the resolution clause:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of this review, the Government consult with Canada’s Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, the Cities of New Brunswick Association, law enforcement and other appropriate stakeholders.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 14 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the improper housing of exotic animals can result in serious public safety, animal welfare and environmental issues;

WHEREAS the housing of exotic animals is a highly specialized undertaking;

WHEREAS the current legislative and regulatory environment may result in the proliferation of unaccredited roadside zoos with attendant animal welfare, public safety and environmental concerns as well as the exploitation of exotic animals for profit;

WHEREAS accredited zoos and aquariums can bring significant economic, education and conservation benefits to their communities;

WHEREAS Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) wants to create a more uniform and adequately resourced policy, legislative, regulatory and enforcement regime governing exotic animals in the Atlantic provinces and in all other provinces and territories;

WHEREAS the Cities of New Brunswick Association passed a motion urging the government of New Brunswick to work with the other Atlantic provinces to create a joint task force to study the issue and report to the Council of the Federation with a recommended way forward;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urges the Alward Government to conduct a complete review of the provisions of the *Fish and Wildlife Act* and other relevant legislation related to exotic animals and bring forward a detailed action plan to the Legislature including any recommended changes to the legislative and regulatory framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of this review, the Government consult with Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, the Cities of New Brunswick Association, law enforcement and other appropriate stakeholders.

And the question being put, Motion 14 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

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Debate resumed on Motion 12, moved by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Doucet, as follows:

WHEREAS the Alward government has failed in its efforts to address the economic challenges facing the province;

WHEREAS the Alward government has failed to stimulate job creation and tackle the problem of unemployment;

WHEREAS thousands of New Brunswickers have been forced to leave the province in search of employment elsewhere;

WHEREAS the Premier has not brought forward a comprehensive economic development strategy for the province;

WHEREAS Statistics Canada figures reveal that nearly all New Brunswick economic indicators are well below the national average;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly condemn this government for its lack of results in growing the economy, tackling unemployment, and creating jobs.

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

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 12 was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 8, Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by Mr. Collins:

WHEREAS all Canadians owe a debt of gratitude to our armed forces for their sacrifices on our behalf; and

WHEREAS armed forces personnel have been injured in the line of duty on behalf of our country; and

WHEREAS federal government policy requires armed forces personnel to be ready to be deployed overseas for the entire ten years of their service to qualify for a pension; and

WHEREAS injuries prevent many of these armed forces personnel from being ready to be deployed overseas thereby disqualifying these brave men and women from a pension; and

WHEREAS successive Ministers of National Defense have recognized that this policy is unfair and have pledged to address the problem; and

WHEREAS the problem has still not been addressed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature of New Brunswick unanimously condemn that current policy and urge the federal government to make provision for armed forces personnel injured in the line of duty to be allowed to remain in the service for their full ten years to qualify for their pensions.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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