

Daily sitting 52

Friday, April 11, 2014

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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

Hon. Mr. Trevors laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Government of New Brunswick Workforce Profile 2013*.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 47 that on Thursday, April 17, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the Canada Health Accord has expired;

AND WHEREAS the Harper government plans to transfer money to the provinces on a per capita basis;

AND WHEREAS this formula disadvantages smaller provinces like New Brunswick with a smaller population base and an aging population;

AND WHEREAS this change will result in the loss of millions of dollars desperately needed to fund quality health services in New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS the Premier and the Health Minister have not stood up for the interests of New Brunswick as confirmed by the federal Health Minister who said she did not receive a letter from the Minister protesting the change;

AND WHEREAS the future of our healthcare system is at stake unless secure, long term funding is made available;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier and the Minister of Health to vigorously object to the Harper government's changes to healthcare funding and fight for a secure, long term federal-provincial funding arrangement for healthcare in New Brunswick.

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 48 that on Thursday, April 17, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Collins:

WHEREAS post-secondary education and training is crucial to the future growth and prosperity of our province;

WHEREAS the tuition at our post-secondary institutions has risen an average of over 10% in the past four years;

WHEREAS rising tuition costs represent a barrier to access for those wishing to enroll in post-secondary education;

WHEREAS the Alward government has done very little to improve access to post-secondary education;

WHEREAS the Alward government has done very little to address issues of student debt;

WHEREAS despite committing to a review of access issues, we have yet to see any positive changes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour to immediately bring forward a plan that will address barriers in access to post-secondary education.

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 49 that on Thursday, April 17, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS many factors contribute to economic growth;

WHEREAS a qualified workforce is critical to job creation and economic sustainability;

WHEREAS the business community has identified the lack of access to a qualified workforce as a significant roadblock to growth;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not addressed this issue by developing a fully integrated job creation plan that would include specific initiatives to meet this need;

WHEREAS the official opposition called for a provincial jobs summit in 2012, the Alward government has failed to act, and the province needs to take urgent action to engage the public in preparing for a provincial jobs summit;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to organize and facilitate a provincial jobs summit, which would bring together stakeholders from the business community, the nonprofit sector, and postsecondary institutions in order to understand the needs, identify the gaps, and propose a solution.

Mr. Boudreau gave Notice of Motion 50 that on Thursday, April 17, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

WHEREAS troubling allegations have been made public concerning the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries wherein both ministers are accused of discussing and interfering in the prosecution of the Deputy Premier's brother under a provincial statute;

WHEREAS these allegations are very serious;

WHEREAS the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries is not the subject of a judicial proceeding;

WHEREAS no authority is tasked with investigating or reporting on the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries regarding the prosecution of the Deputy Premier's brother in relation to such allegations;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers deserve to know the full truth as to whether these allegations are true and whether or not the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries acted improperly;

WHEREAS an independent third-party inquiry is one way for New Brunswickers to know whether or not the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries indeed acted improperly;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Premier of New Brunswick to call an independent third-party inquiry into the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the third party that carries out this independent inquiry be tasked with establishing the truth of such allegations and determining whether the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries was improper or not;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the third party tasked with this independent inquiry be empowered to subpoena all documents and compel testimony from all persons it deems, at its discretion, necessary in order to reveal the truth regarding the conduct of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the third party tasked with this independent inquiry prepare a report detailing its investigation, its findings, and its conclusions and release it to the public as soon as possible.

Mr. Haché gave Notice of Motion 51 that on Thursday, April 17, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS, after four years of delay, the New Brunswick government finally announced a plan for the forestry sector on March 12, 2014;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government has not revealed several important details regarding its forestry plan, including details on its consultations, the scientific evidence upon which the decisions were based, the locations of conservation areas, and the forestry businesses with which the government met to discuss increased timber allocations, detailed contracts for Crown timber allocations, and the price charged to forestry businesses for Crown timber;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers deserve to know all the details concerning this government's forestry strategy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call upon the New Brunswick government to release all information about the preparation and release of its forestry plan, including, but not limited to, details on its consultations, the scientific evidence upon which the decisions were based, the locations of conservation areas, and the forestry businesses with which the government met to discuss increased timber allocations, detailed contracts for Crown timber allocations, and the price charged to businesses for Crown timber.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick; following which, at 12.30 p.m., Bill 56 would be called for second reading; following which, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 5, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 39.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Medical Services Payment Act.*

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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, resumed 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, had passed several items, 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.

The following are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2014-2015
ORDINARY ACCOUNT

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY OF
NEW BRUNSWICK

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,699,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2015:

Administration	871,000
Energy Efficiency Programs	7,828,000
Voted	8,699,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 56, *Organ and Tissue Donation Strategy Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 56 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 56, *Organ and Tissue Donation Strategy Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, resumed 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 Bill as agreed to:

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax 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, 2.05 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.