

Daily sitting 59

Friday, April 25, 2014

*9 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested that Hon. Mr. Jody Carr withdraw the phrase “you cannot trust this fellow” in reference to the Leader of the Official Opposition, which he did.

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Following Oral Questions, Mr. Fraser rose on a point of order and submitted that the Premier used unparliamentary language in reference to a former Member, and that Hon. Mr. Leonard used unparliamentary language in reference to two current Members, alleging conduct of a criminal nature. Mr. Speaker ruled the first point not well taken, as the rules do not apply to former Members, and advised the House that he would review the Hansard and report back if necessary on the second point.

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Lifford,

Bill 77, *An Act to Amend the Financial and Consumer Services Commission Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Stultz,

Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Internal Services Agency Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Olscamp,

Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Agricultural Development Act.*

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Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 56 that on Thursday, May 1, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the Official Opposition has been calling upon the government to produce an education plan;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Education has repeatedly failed to produce one;

AND WHEREAS it has become obvious that there is no education plan to provide;

AND WHEREAS it is virtually unheard of that a province would not have an education plan to guide the direction of education;

AND WHEREAS an education plan is mandated by virtue of the *Education Act*;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Premier and the Minister of Education to bring forward an education plan that will establish priorities, set goals, provide for the measurement of outcomes and chart a consistent course for the future of quality education in our province.

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Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 57 that on Thursday, May 1, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS while in Opposition, the Premier and the Conservative Caucus condemned the changes made by the previous government to the entry point for early French immersion;

AND WHEREAS prior to the provincial election of 2010, the Minister of Education also wrote several letters to local newspapers decrying the changes to the entry point for early French immersion;

AND WHEREAS in the 2010 PC Platform, Premier Alward committed to review the decisions to change the entry point for early French immersion and to implement new solutions, if required, in time for the 2012 school year;

AND WHEREAS in October 2011, the Alward government appointed a Task Force to review the entry point of early French immersion;

AND WHEREAS the Report of the French Second Language Task Force was released in February 2012;

AND WHEREAS the Report recommended changing the entry point for early French immersion to Grade 1;

AND WHEREAS the Alward government has not acted on the report recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the government has failed to produce any data or information in support of its decision not to change the entry point of early French immersion to Grade 1;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recommend that the government move to restore an early entry point to early French immersion.

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Mr. Macdonald gave Notice of Motion 58 that on Thursday, May 8, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Urquhart:

WHEREAS fire, police, ambulance services, and other traditional first responders provide essential emergency services to our province, and their members often do so at great personal risk;

WHEREAS members of the Canadian Armed Forces often respond to crisis, both in Canada and overseas, and put themselves selflessly in harm's way;

WHEREAS many agencies of government, including Public Safety, Natural Resources, Social Development, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Emergency Measures Organization provide help to our province in times of crisis;

WHEREAS search and rescue, amateur radio operators, lifeguards, and the Life Saving Society, Canadian Ski Patrol, St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, and other groups provide essential services in times of crisis;

WHEREAS soup kitchens, food banks, sexual assault crisis centres, helplines, transition houses, emergency shelters, and many other volunteer organizations provide important front-line services to those in desperate need;

WHEREAS hospitals, clinics, doctors, nurses, and many other health care professionals provide emergency medical care;

WHEREAS many faith-based groups often provide crucial support to individuals in times of personal crisis; and

WHEREAS these members, family, and friends of our first-responder and other emergency services deserve a day to celebrate their successes and to be acknowledged for their service to our community;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Saturday immediately preceding Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day be officially designated Emergency Services Day in New Brunswick.

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On motion of Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

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Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, Bills 77, 78 and 79 would be called for second reading.

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Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 74, 75 and 76 be called for second reading; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 30, 31, 32, 33, 70, 62 and 71; following which, at 11.40 a.m., the House would consider Motion 55.

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The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act.*

Bill 65, *Mortgage Brokers Act.*

Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Community Planning Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 74, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 74 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 74, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Parks Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 75 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Parks Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 76 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Services Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

At 11.04 o'clock a.m., Mr. Tait declared a recess and left the chair.

11.10 o'clock a.m.

The Committee resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Tait, the Acting Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that he report the following Bill as agreed to:

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.

And that the Committee had directed that he report progress on the following Bills:

Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.

Bill 70, *An Act to Amend the Gas Distribution Act, 1999*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. 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.

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At 11.42 o'clock a.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

11.48 o'clock a.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 55, Mr. Wetmore moved, seconded by Mr. Stewart:

WHEREAS a better future for New Brunswick depends on improved economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS a more prosperous New Brunswick will improve the standard of living of the province's residents; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Medical Association's consultation with Canadians about the social determinants of health has delivered a clear message: poverty is the main issue that must be addressed to improve the health of Canadians and eliminate health inequities; and

WHEREAS improvements to an individual's standard of living are shown to have a direct correlation with significantly improved health outcomes; and

WHEREAS improvements to the standard of living are shown to have a direct correlation with significantly improved literacy and numeracy outcomes; and

WHEREAS our future prosperity depends on providing quality opportunities to our young people and young families that will keep them in New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS the development of natural resources has been shown to create meaningful economic growth and employment in other Canadian provinces; and

WHEREAS the creation of jobs in the oil and gas sector in our province will enable many New Brunswickers to end their commute to western Canada, improving their and their family's quality of life; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick is facing serious fiscal challenges that could threaten the services provided to our residents; and

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick can leverage the province's natural resources to improve our economic prosperity and for the betterment of our society; and

WHEREAS the recent volatility in natural gas pricing has shown the importance for New Brunswick to develop a domestic supply of natural gas for the benefit of our residents and our industries; and

WHEREAS Public Health England has concluded that the risks to public health from exposure to emissions from shale gas extraction are low if operations are properly run and regulated; and

WHEREAS the rules and regulations New Brunswick has adopted for the oil and gas sector to ensure the protection of our water and environment are described by Deloitte, after studying several North American jurisdictions, as “more stringent and more demanding than all other markets examined”; and

WHEREAS researchers from institutions such as the University of Michigan, the US Geological Survey, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, Syracuse University, University of California at Berkeley, Penn State, and the Royal Academy of Engineering along with regulators from the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas have all stated their opinion that properly regulated shale gas development using the hydraulic fracturing process is safe to groundwater and the environment; and

WHEREAS the environmental benefits of gas development using hydraulic fracturing have been confirmed by the International Panel on Climate Change in their recent Mitigation of Climate Change report which stated “the rapid deployment of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies, which has increased and diversified the gas supply and allowed for a more extensive switching of power and heat production from coal to gas; this is an important reason for the reduction of GHG emissions in the United States”;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick declare its support for the Government of New Brunswick in proceeding with the immediate responsible expanded development of a natural gas industry, that includes the use of hydraulic fracturing, in our province.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

At 12.13 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

*12.19 o'clock p.m.*

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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Mr. Fraser rose on a question of privilege concerning certain comments made by Hon. Mr. Leonard earlier in the day during Oral Questions. The Member submitted that the comments alleged the misuse of funds and criminal activity by members of the opposition, which constitutes an attack on their integrity and on the Legislative Assembly itself. In accordance with Standing Rule 9(2), Mr. Fraser gave notice of his intention to move the following motion, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the Member for Fredericton-Lincoln by his actions on April 25, 2014, showed a gross contempt for the dignity of the House and the rights and privileges of its members;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges.

Mr. Speaker advised the House that, in accordance with the Standing Rules, he would consider the matter in two hours' time, which, based on the time of day, would occur at the next sitting of the House on May 6, 2014.

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Debate resumed on Motion 55.

And after some time, Mr. Doucet, seconded by Mr. Boudreau, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 55 be amended:

By adding the following words in the resolution clause after the words "declare its support for the":

"need for industry to obtain a social license from the communities affected before";

By deleting the words "Government of New Brunswick in";

And by deleting the word "immediate".

Mr. 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 defeated.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 55 and it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 32

Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. McLean
Hon. Mr. Alward	Hon. Mr. Soucy	Ms. Lynch
Hon. Ms. Dubé	Hon. Mr. Lifford	Mr. Malloch
Hon. Mr. Jody Carr	Hon. Mr. Northrup	Mr. Macdonald
Hon. Mr. Holder	Mr. Steeves	Mr. S. Robichaud
Hon. Ms. Stultz	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Tait
Hon. Mr. Olscamp	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Savoie
Hon. Mr. Trevors	Mr. Riordon	Mr. Stewart
Hon. Mr. Williams	Mr. Killen	Mr. Jack Carr
Hon. Mr. Leonard	Ms. Coulombe	Mr. Parrott
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Mr. MacDonald	

NAYS - 10

Mr. Fraser	Mr. Collins	Mr. Haché
Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Albert	Mr. D. Landry
Mr. Doucet	Mr. Kenny	
Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	

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And then, 2.10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.