

Daily sitting 7

Thursday, December 11, 2014

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Wilson, Member for Moncton Southwest, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to the proposed development of a 750-site campground in Shediac. (Petition 4)

Mr. Wetmore, Member for Gagetown-Petitcodiac, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Coles Island urging the District Education Council to not close the Coles Island School. (Petition 5)

Hon. Mr. Melanson laid upon the table of the House a letter addressed to Mr. Marc Devlin, President of Brun-Way Highways Operations Inc., from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure; and the response thereto.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Gallant,  
Bill 6, *Opportunities New Brunswick Act*.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Ms. Dubé: (Motion 8)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 29(1), the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, December 12, 2014, shall be 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Fraser gave notice that on Friday, December 12, 2014, Bills 4, 5 and 6 would be called for second reading.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS the Province faces significant financial challenges;

WHEREAS the Liberal government made a promise to create 5,000 jobs by the end of the first year of its mandate;

WHEREAS the natural resources sector is a major economic generator;

WHEREAS the natural gas industry has been well established in a safe and responsible way in New Brunswick for a number of years;

WHEREAS the safe, responsible development of natural gas and a stable domestic supply thereof are key opportunities for the province;

WHEREAS the government's intention to introduce a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing puts New Brunswick and its economy at risk;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly supports the safe, responsible development of natural gas and urges the government not to introduce barriers to its development.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Ms. Harris, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

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

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 1 be amended:

In the second "whereas" clause, after the word "create" insert "conditions that a consultant suggested could yield", and

In the final "whereas" clause, delete "New Brunswick and its economy at risk" and replace with "the health and safety of New Brunswick people at the forefront", and

In the resolution clause, after the word "gas" delete "and urges the government not to introduce barriers to its development" and replace with " , after conditions of health, safety, environmental concern and social licence have been met".

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 adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 1 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Province faces significant financial challenges;

WHEREAS the Liberal government made a promise to create conditions that a consultant suggested could yield 5,000 jobs by the end of the first year of its mandate;

WHEREAS the natural resources sector is a major economic generator;

WHEREAS the natural gas industry has been well established in a safe and responsible way in New Brunswick for a number of years;

WHEREAS the safe, responsible development of natural gas and a stable domestic supply thereof are key opportunities for the province;

WHEREAS the government's intention to introduce a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing puts the health and safety of New Brunswick people at the forefront;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly supports the safe, responsible development of natural gas, after conditions of health, safety, environmental concern and social licence have been met.

And the question being put, Motion 1 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Mr. Wetmore moved, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS it was revealed on or before September 3, 2014, that criminal charges had been laid against the Member for Carleton-Victoria, who was then the Liberal candidate in that riding in the September 22, 2014, general election;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party and its candidates made comments that referred to the laying of the criminal charges as "suspicious" and "very troubling" and that questioned the timing of the release of the news;

WHEREAS those comments also called into question whether the Member for Carleton and the Member for Rothesay, who were then candidates in those ridings in the September 22, 2014, general election, in their then capacities as Premier and Attorney General, respectively, were involved inappropriately in the process to determine whether criminal charges should be laid against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria were dropped on or about September 12, 2014;

WHEREAS the Premier, who was then running for the office he now holds, then called for an independent review of the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party also set out a series of questions with respect to the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS those questions remain unanswered;

WHEREAS those unanswered questions bring into question the integrity of the administration of justice in the Province of New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS it is in the public interest to have those unanswered questions answered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to appoint a commission under the *Inquiries Act* to investigate whether there was any political or other interference whatsoever in the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Harris resumed the chair.

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

And after some time, Mr. 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.