

Daily sitting 18

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to keep the abortion related provisions of regulations 84-20 in place and continue the two doctor rule. (Petition 18)

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The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,

Bill 13, *An Act to Return to the Crown Certain Rights Relating to Wood Supply and Forest Management.*

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Mr. Macdonald gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, February 26, 2015, 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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Pursuant to Standing Rule 44(4), Ms. Dubé, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, February 19, 2015, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 14, 17 and 2.

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Hon. Mr. Fraser, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 7 and 4; following which Bills 9 and 6 would be called for second reading; following which the House would consider Motion 7.

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

At 12 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bernard LeBlanc declared a recess and left the chair.

*12.10 p.m.*

The Committee resumed.

At 12.30 p.m., Mr. Bernard LeBlanc left the chair to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

*2 o'clock p.m.*

The Committee resumed.

At 3.20 p.m., Mr. Bernard LeBlanc declared a recess and left the chair.

3.33 p.m.

The Committee resumed.

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

That the Committee had directed that he report progress on the following Bill:

*Bill 7, An Act to Dissolve the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick.*

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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Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. Fraser, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

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Hon. Mr. Fraser, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House consider Motion 7.

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Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order and submitted that, in order to protect the minority and allow the Opposition a full opportunity to debate Motion 7, the Speaker should not permit the government to resume debate on Motion 7 at this late time in the day, given that the motion may be subject to a time allocation motion on Friday, which would limit debate on Motion 7 to three days, including today. Hon. Mr. Fraser also spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken, as it is the government's prerogative to call items for debate and the Speaker is not in a position to determine the amount of debate that the House may allocate to Motion 7 in the coming days, nor whether that amount is sufficient.

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Debate resumed on the sub-amendment to Motion 7, moved by Mr. Macdonald, seconded by Mr. Fitch, as follows:

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SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 7 be amended as follows:

By adding after the proposed Standing Rule 102(2) as it is set out in the amendment, the following:

“AND THAT the Standing Rules are amended by adding after the heading “PART V SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND QUORUM” the following:

28.01(1) The Speaker of the House shall, by October 30, after consultation with the House Leaders, table in the House a calendar for the following year setting out the sitting and non-sitting weeks between the last Tuesday in November and the Friday before Christmas Day, and between the second Tuesday in March and the last Friday in June.

28.01(2) If there is no Speaker on October 30, the Speaker shall, within two weeks of being elected, table in the House the calendar described in subrule (1).

28.01(3) If the House is not sitting when the Speaker has prepared the calendar in accordance with subrule (1) or (2), the Speaker shall provide the calendar to the House Leaders forthwith upon its preparation and shall table the calendar in the House at its next sitting.

28.01(4) The Speaker shall prepare the calendar described in subrule (1) such that, during the periods mentioned in subrule (1), at no time shall the number of consecutive non-sitting weeks exceed two.

28.01(5) The House shall follow the calendar described in subrule (1), and the House may decide to schedule its sittings notwithstanding the calendar only where there is agreement amongst the government, the Official Opposition, and the other recognized parties to do so.”

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.