

Daily sitting 54

Thursday, May 14, 2015

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Holder, Member for Portland-Simonds, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to revoke its decision to cut Quality Improvement Funding Support to private daycare operators. (Petition 96)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to oppose the construction of the Energy East Pipeline. (Petition 97)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Melanson,

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Small Business Investor Tax Credit Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.,

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Landry,

Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.*

Mr. Albert gave notice that on Friday, May 15, 2015, Bills 34, 35, 36 and 37 would be called for second reading.

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 33 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Firefighters' Compensation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 33 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Firefighters' Compensation Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 11.45 a.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.38 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Debate resumed on Motion 34, moved by Ms. Dubé, seconded by Mr. Steeves, as follows:

WHEREAS the Gallant government proposed changes to the Seniors Prescription Drug Program that will increase premiums;

WHEREAS this sudden increase creates financial hardship for seniors in having access to affordable health care;

WHEREAS the extra costs may prevent seniors from getting the medications they need;

WHEREAS the loss of medications could be harmful to the fragile health of seniors;

WHEREAS this increase is one of the elements of the Gallant government's attack on seniors;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to reverse the premium increase and explore alternate savings through the Seniors Prescription Drug Program.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 34 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 36, Mr. Wetmore moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's cable ferries are vital transportation links that are as significant as other modes of transportation in the province and as important as other transportation infrastructure;

WHEREAS the value added by New Brunswick's cable ferries to the province's transportation system is only one element of their importance;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's cable ferries assist the province's economy and especially its small and medium sized businesses to transport goods and to access a wider market base;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's cable ferries are an important element of our province's history and culture and are significant heritage assets;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's cable ferries are one of the most successful ways to enable visitors and citizens to access New Brunswick's storied river system, which are one of the four main tourism products promoted by the province;

WHEREAS the former Liberal government in 2009 caused extreme distress and concern with its plans to discontinue permanently several New Brunswick cable ferries;

WHEREAS the former Liberal government was forced, due to public criticism and consternation, to reverse and alter its decision;

WHEREAS the current Liberal government has speculated that it is considering another attempt to discontinue permanently cable ferry service on our rivers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recognize the importance of our cable ferry system to New Brunswick's economy, heritage and tourism, and express its desire that the government preserve, protect and promote our cable ferry system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to discontinue any cable ferry service on New Brunswick rivers.

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. Bernard LeBlanc took the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 36 was resolved in the negative.

Debate resumed on Motion 31, moved by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Jody Carr, as follows:

WHEREAS investing in an educated, well-trained and skilled work force is an important component of a diversified economic development strategy;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate was introduced in 2005 as the New Brunswick Tuition Tax Cash Back program, and was expanded by the former Liberal government during its mandate;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program helps recruit, retain and repatriate an educated, well-trained and skilled work force;

WHEREAS the government announced it will eliminate the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program;

WHEREAS the elimination of the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program will make it more difficult for New Brunswickers trying to build careers to make New Brunswick a more prosperous province;

WHEREAS the elimination of the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program is shortsighted and should be reversed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reinstate the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 31 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

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Mr. Holder	Mr. Coon	Mr. Keirstead
Mr. Fitch	Mr. Macdonald	Mr. Steeves
Ms. Dubé	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Jeff Carr
Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Savoie	Mr. Oliver
Mr. Northrup	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Urquhart
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Flemming	
Ms. Shephard	Mr. Wetmore	

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Hon. Mr. Boudreau	Hon. Mr. Landry	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Melanson	Hon. Ms. Rogers	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Gallant	Hon. Mr. Fraser	Mr. Harvey
Mr. Albert	Hon. Ms. Landry	Mr. Guitard
Hon. Mr. Horsman	Hon. Mr. Kenny	Mr. Roussel
Hon. Mr. Arseneault	Hon. Mr. Rousselle	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Doucet	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Ms. Harris
Hon. Mr. Doherty	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. LePage

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.