

Daily sitting 6

Thursday, November 10, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Higgs rose on a point of order and submitted that the Premier should advise the House he is declining to answer the questions posed to him during Oral Questions, as prescribed by Standing Rule 41(3). Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

At the request of the Honourable the Premier, the House observed a moment of silence in recognition of Remembrance Day.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Rogers,
Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*
By Mr. Coon,
Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act.*

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, Bill 9 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that, with leave, it was the intention of government that the House proceed to consideration of Opposition Members' Business.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to proceed to the consideration of Opposition Members' Business forthwith for the prescribed three hours and thirty minutes.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting through the noon recess.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Higgs moved, seconded by Mr. Crossman:

WHEREAS only 20 percent of grade six Anglophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics according to provincial assessment results;

WHEREAS only 49 percent of grade ten Francophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics path A;

WHEREAS only 56 percent of grade four Francophone students are reading at an appropriate level;

WHEREAS grade two Anglophone student reading levels have been declining over the past number of years;

WHEREAS the current government's ten year education plan contained no details, no goals, no measurements and no accountability mechanisms, as well as no suggestions for major overhauls of the education system, and the government has done little to move the education file forward in this province;

WHEREAS educators are expressing concern that changes to the French Immersion program are based on political promises and not research evidence;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development stated that private tutors are an important part of the education system, which leaves out rural New Brunswickers who do not have equal access to private tutors;

WHEREAS teachers feel they are not allowed to speak up about potential improvements to the system because of employment rules and the lack of meaningful consultation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to take responsibility for the crisis in education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to work with educators and parents in developing solutions.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 1 be amended as follows:

That the following be inserted between the 4th and 5th whereas clauses:

WHEREAS the Alward government did not bring forward an education plan during its mandate to address challenges in the education system;

WHEREAS while serving as Finance Minister in the Alward government, the Leader of the Opposition made deep cuts to education including cuts to classroom supports;

WHEREAS the Gallant government embarked on an extensive public consultation to inform the development of a comprehensive and effective education plan;

That the fifth whereas clause be amended as follows:

By deleting all the words after the words “education plan” and replacing them with the following: “provides a framework for working with our partners in the education system to set objectives in key priority areas to ensure positive change and place our children in the best position to succeed”

That the first resolution clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words after the word “to” and replacing them with the following: “move forward with the initiatives outlined in the Education Plan;”

That the second resolution clause be amended as follows:

By inserting the words “continued to” after the words “to”.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. LeBlanc took the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc took the chair.

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

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

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 only 20 percent of grade six Anglophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics according to provincial assessment results;

WHEREAS only 49 percent of grade ten Francophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics path A;

WHEREAS only 56 percent of grade four Francophone students are reading at an appropriate level;

WHEREAS grade two Anglophone student reading levels have been declining over the past number of years;

WHEREAS the Alward government did not bring forward and education plan during its mandate to address challenges in the education system;

WHEREAS while serving as Finance Minister in the Alward government, the Leader of the Opposition made deep cuts to education including cuts to classroom supports;

WHEREAS the Gallant government embarked on an extensive public consultation to inform the development of a comprehensive and effective education plan;

WHEREAS the current government's ten year education plan provides a framework for working with our partners in the education system to set objectives in key priority areas to ensure positive change and place our children in the best position to succeed;

WHEREAS educators are expressing concern that changes to the French Immersion program are based on political promises and not research evidence;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development stated that private tutors are an important part of the education system, which leaves out rural New Brunswickers who do not have equal access to private tutors;

WHEREAS teachers feel they are not allowed to speak up about potential improvements to the system because of employment rules and the lack of meaningful consultation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to move forward with the initiatives outlined in the Education Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to continue to work with educators and parents in developing solutions.

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Mr. Fitch:

WHEREAS the government has increased income tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased business property tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased gas tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased diesel tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased tobacco tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased corporate income tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased property transfer tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased bank tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased Harmonized Sales Tax;

WHEREAS the government eliminated tuition tax credits;

WHEREAS the government wants to implement carbon tax;

WHEREAS the government is considering a sugar tax;

WHEREAS the government has found over \$500 million in revenue sources and has still failed to balance the budget;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to place a moratorium on any further tax increases.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had expired.

And then, 2.49 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2015-2016
New Brunswick Legal Aid
Services Commission

November 9, 2016