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Daily sitting 13

Thursday, December 8, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LePage, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Second Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 8, 2016

To The Honourable  
The Legislative Assembly of  
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their second report.

Your Committee met on December 6 and 7, 2016, and had under consideration:

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*;  
Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Smoke-free Places Act*;  
Bill 19, *An Act Respecting Nurse Practitioners*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Gas Distribution Act, 1999*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Gilles LePage, M.L.A.  
Chair

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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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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Rogers,  
Bill 28, *An Act Respecting The Residential Tenancies Act and  
the Ombudsman Act*.

By Mr. Coon,  
Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Crown Lands and Forests Act*.

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Hon. Ms. Rogers gave Notice of Motion 16 that on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, she would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the capital budgetary policy of the government.

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Friday, December 9, 2016, Bill 28 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 24, 25 and 17 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Boudreau: (Motion 17)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 29(1), the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly on Fridays shall be as follows:

Friday 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall remain in effect during the remainder of the Third Session of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 24, *Integrity Commissioner Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *Integrity Commissioner Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Child and Youth Advocate Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 25 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Child and Youth Advocate Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the noon recess to 2.30 p.m.

At 12 o'clock p.m., Madame Deputy Speaker left the chair to resume again at 2.30 p.m.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Albert, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 9, Mr. Keirstead moved, seconded by Mr. Jody Carr:

WHEREAS the Select Committee on Climate Change worked diligently to consult with New Brunswickers, stakeholder groups, and experts, on developing a plan to address climate change; and

WHEREAS the Committee made a recommendation to “Develop a made-in-New Brunswick carbon pricing mechanism, as opposed to having one imposed on New Brunswickers by the federal government”; and

WHEREAS the Committee recommended this mechanism be conditional upon:

- a. Directing all revenue from carbon pricing to a dedicated climate change fund, not general revenue;
- b. Undertaking a detailed analysis of the social, financial, economic, and environmental impacts of the various carbon pricing mechanisms and revenue investment options;
- c. Protecting low-income New Brunswickers;
- d. Including all economic sectors;
- e. Considering the approach taken by neighboring jurisdictions;
- f. Developing the mechanism with the engagement of all concerned interests; and
- g. Ensuring the carbon-pricing mechanism is outlined in legislation and receives public consultation through a committee of the Legislative Assembly.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to meet all of the conditions recommended by the Committee before imposing a new carbon tax or carbon pricing mechanism on the already over-burdened taxpayers of New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 9 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

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

NAYS - 24

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

Debate resumed on Motion 4, moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Fairgrieve, as follows:

WHEREAS the Auditor General is responsible for leading and directing independent audits and advising on how well the provincial government is managing its responsibilities and resources;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts financial audits of government services and programs to support the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements submitted to government and the public;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts performance audits of government services and programs, providing a systematic and objective assessment of how well government is managing its activities, responsibilities and resources;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts special examination of our Crown Corporations, providing assurance that their assets are safeguarded, their resources are managed economically and efficiently and their operations are carried out effectively;

WHEREAS government spent considerable time and effort on a Strategic Program Review, but refused more resources to the Auditor General, even though it is this office that performs financial, performance and special reviews of government services, and provides recommendations to government to improve these practices;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to start supporting the Auditor General's office, and allowing additional performance audits and special investigations to be conducted, so that we can reach the goal of a balanced budget and better taxpayer protection.

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, Motion 4 was resolved in the negative.

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

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

Annual Report 2015-2016	
Department of Natural Resources	December 7, 2016
Annual Report 2015-2016	
Department of Health	December 7, 2016