

Daily sitting 30

Thursday, March 16, 2017

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. Doucet rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Macdonald accused the Premier of “not being factual” which was unparliamentary. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

Mr. Wetmore, Member for Gagetown-Petitcodiac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 17)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Fraser,
Bill 53, An Act to Amend the Public Works Act.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 49, 51, 52 and 31 be called for second reading; following which at 2.20 p.m. Motion 7, with leave, would be taken into consideration; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 49 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Family Services 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 51, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 51 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 12 o'clock p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker left the chair to resume again at 1 o'clock p.m.

1 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the chair.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Ambulance Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 52 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Ambulance Services Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, be now read a second time.

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

At 2.20 p.m., Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to take into consideration Motion 7.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 7, Mr. Coon moved, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

WHEREAS all Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected representatives of the people of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS it is important that the role and responsibilities of MLAs be well understood by the public;

WHEREAS it would be helpful for Members of the Legislative Assembly to have guidelines to aid them in the conduct of their duties;

WHEREAS the effectiveness of MLAs, and their accountability to the people of New Brunswick, may be improved if the Legislative Assembly establishes a formal statement of the key roles and responsibilities of MLAs;

WHEREAS the Legislative Administration Committee recommended the adoption of a Statement on the Roles and Responsibilities of an MLA and a Code of Conduct for MLAs in its report to the Legislative Assembly tabled April 3, 2003;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers take into consideration the adoption of a Statement on the Roles and Responsibilities of an MLA and a Code of Conduct for MLAs.

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

At 2.24 p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Albert resumed the chair.

Debate resumed on Motion 20, moved by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Crossman, as follows:

WHEREAS Policy 409 concerning Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning is intended to give a clear direction to decision-making for closing schools;

WHEREAS this same policy has instead created confusion among members of the school community and has been perceived to be improperly implemented by various District Education Councils;

WHEREAS this policy has created division and torn communities apart, as opposed to uniting them;

WHEREAS such a government policy should be designed to bring New Brunswickers together using an independent, facilitated process; and

WHEREAS it has become apparent over the last number of years that parents, students, teachers, and community members are dissatisfied with the Policy 409 process;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to halt all current school sustainability assessments and conduct a review of Policy 409; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the review of Policy 409 includes a robust, public, and facilitated province-wide consultation process.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 20 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 17

Mr. Holder	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Keirstead
Mr. Jody Carr	Mr. Savoie	Mr. Steeves
Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Flemming	Mr. Jeff Carr
Mr. Northrup	Mr. Fairgrieve	Mr. Oliver
Mr. Fitch	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Urquhart
Ms. Shephard	Mr. Crossman	

NAYS - 25

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Mr. Wetmore moved, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS many recent failures in the provincial electricity grid have led to a spike in homeowners buying and installing generators;

WHEREAS encouraging the use of economical options for homeowners to plug their generators into their home network would be desirable to promote safety and security;

WHEREAS plug-in options exist but their availability is being stymied by regulatory authorities;

WHEREAS new home construction could be greatly enhanced by encouraging universal generator connectors to be included as part of the household electrical wiring;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to emulate the many jurisdictions in Canada that have approved the use of universal plug-ins for generators in residential electric systems by adopting their approval processes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to promote the use of universal generator plug-ins, especially for new home construction.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Landry, seconded by Mr. Bourque, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 21 be amended as follows:

By deleting the first whereas clause and substituting the following:

“WHEREAS many New Brunswick homeowners are buying and installing generators as a safeguard against prolonged power outages;”

By deleting the third whereas clause and substituting the following:

“WHEREAS certified plug-in options exist in New Brunswick, but not all plug-in options are certified and therefore may pose a public safety risk;”

By adding the word “certified” after “encouraging” in the fourth whereas clause;

By deleting the two resolution clauses and substituting the following:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to promote the use of certified universal generator plug-ins, especially for new home construction.”

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

At 4 o'clock p.m., Madam Deputy Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

4.07 p.m.

Madam Deputy Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 21 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS many New Brunswick homeowners are buying and installing generators as a safeguard against prolonged power outages;

WHEREAS encouraging the use of economical options for homeowners to plug their generators into their home network would be desirable to promote safety and security;

WHEREAS certified plug-in options exist in New Brunswick, but not all plug-in options are certified and therefore may pose a public safety risk;

WHEREAS new home construction could be greatly enhanced by encouraging certified universal generator connectors to be included as part of the household electrical wiring;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to promote the use of certified universal generator plug-ins, especially for new home construction.

And the question being put, Motion 21 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Early Childhood Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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