

Daily sitting 43

Friday, April 28, 2017

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and reminded Members to refrain from referring to their fellow Members by name, specifically prohibiting the reference to "Premier Gallant".

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 34)

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

April 28, 2017

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 ninth report.

Your Committee met on April 27, 2017, and had under consideration:

Bill 57, *An Act Respecting Research*;
Bill 58, *An Act Respecting the Education Act and the Personal Health
Information Privacy and Access Act*;
Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

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

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.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Boudreau: (Motion 31)

WHEREAS there is an apparent shift in public attitudes towards the use of cannabis;

WHEREAS over the course of the last decade cannabis use has been the subject of discussion in several forums;

WHEREAS the questions of cannabis access and use is important, sensitive and complex, with issues and implications spanning health, public safety, and social and criminal justice policy domains;

WHEREAS it is important to strike an appropriate balance between legalizing cannabis for recreational use without promoting its use by New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS addressing legalization requires input from all sectors and New Brunswickers in order to shape the best long-term approach for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the provincial government is pleased to partner with the Trudeau government to fulfill their commitment to Canadians to provide a safe legal framework for recreational cannabis use;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the House appoint a Select Committee on Cannabis that will be charged with the responsibility of conducting public consultations, in relation to an interim report of the provincial working group on cannabis to be deposited with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on or before June 15, 2017, and deemed referred to the committee, and reporting to the House with a summary of public consultations on the interim report;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in addition to the powers traditionally conferred upon the said committee by the Standing Rules, the committee shall have the following additional powers:

- to meet during sittings of the House and during the recess after prorogation until the following session;
- to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient;

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- to retain such personnel and expertise as may be required to assist the committee;
 - to hold such public consultations as it deems necessary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, during a period when the Legislative Assembly is adjourned or prorogued, the committee may release a report by depositing a copy with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and, upon the resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present the report to the Legislative Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said committee be composed of Mr. Bourque, Mr. LePage, Mr. Chiasson, Ms. LeBlanc, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Wetmore, Ms. Dubé and Ms. Lynch.

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

Ms. Dubé gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, May 4, 2017, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Wetmore:

WHEREAS service dogs have been increasingly used to support people with physical or mental disabilities such as post-traumatic stress disorder, debilitating chronic illness, autism, blindness, deafness, mobility and speech disabilities;

WHEREAS service dogs can dramatically improve the quality of life for those coping with a physical or mental disability, and thus reducing the need for medication and treatments necessary to maintain the standard of health, comfort and happiness experienced by a patient;

WHEREAS service dogs require outdoor activity and exercise, this encourages the owner to also participate in outdoor activity and exercise, promoting participation in the community and the benefits of regular physical exercise and a routine for the owner;

WHEREAS persons with mental disabilities may experience constant tension and pressure in social situations, service dogs provide a physical barrier that keeps others at a comfortable distance, allowing the owner to fully participate in social and economic activities;

WHEREAS service dogs are trained to recognize an individual's behavior and physical cues and may be able to prevent further

injury or distress to the owner, thus reducing the need for further medical intervention or treatment from occurring;

WHEREAS studies have shown that interactions with animals cause biochemical changes in both the person and the animal, resulting in feelings of calmness and lowered blood pressure;

WHEREAS service dog owners live with a physical or mental disability and therefore are more likely to live on a low income and be unable to fully participate in the workforce;

WHEREAS the health and care of service dogs is necessary for the good health and care of the owners with a disability;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to add veterinary services for service dogs as a benefit under the Social Development Health Services Program, as it is a necessity for the health and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 68, 60, 61 and 17 be called for second reading; following which, at 11.45 a.m., the House would adjourn.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Inshore Fisheries Representation Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 68, *Loan Act 2017*, 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 68 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 68, *Loan Act 2017*, 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 60, *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 11.45 a.m. Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that pursuant to the Orders of the Day, the hour for adjournment had arrived.

And then, 11.55 a.m., the House adjourned.