

Daily sitting 46

Thursday, May 4, 2017

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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 37)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to prohibit snowmobiles on hiking trails at Mount Carleton and to delay the snowmobile hub project. (Petition 38)

Mr. Bourque, Member for Kent South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to increase social assistance rates. (Petition 39)

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

May 4, 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 twelfth report.

Your Committee met on May 3, 2017, and had under consideration:

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*;
Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*;
Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*;
Bill 66, *An Act Respecting the Political Process Financing Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

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.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Fairgrieve,

Bill 71, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act.*

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ames: (Motion 35)

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations be amended by substituting Mr. Chiasson for Mr. Bernard LeBlanc;

THAT the membership for the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be amended by substituting Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc for Mr. LePage;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be amended by substituting Ms. LeBlanc for Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be amended by substituting Mr. Albert for Ms. LeBlanc.

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

On motion of Hon. Mr. Doucet, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, May 5, 2017, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 24, 2017, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice shall state a time at which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time so stated and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time, and

THAT in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, either of the Deputy Speakers shall act in his stead for the purpose of this order.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that the House recess until 2 o'clock p.m., at which time, with unanimous consent, Bills 31, 60, 66, 17 and 10 would be called for third reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act.*

Bill 67, *An Act Respecting Family Day.*

Bill 68, *Loan Act 2017.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Unanimous consent was denied to call Bills 31, 60, 66, 17 and 10 for third reading. Mr. Speaker advised that he would revisit the matter at 2 o'clock p.m.

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

2 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bills 31, 60, 66, 17 and 10 be called for third reading forthwith.

The following Bills were read a third time:

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

Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*

Bill 66, *An Act Respecting the Political Process Financing Act.*

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.*

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

At 2.05 p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 34, Mr. Fitch moved, seconded by Mr. Higgs:

WHEREAS Becca Schofield is a 17 year old from Riverview, New Brunswick, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer;

WHEREAS Becca's bucket list was persuading people to perform random acts of kindness and post it on her facebook page named *Becca's battle with Butterscotch* or tweet it under the hashtag *#beccatoldmeto*;

WHEREAS the phenomenon of doing random acts of kindness has caught on worldwide with hundreds of people posting about their good deeds in honour of Becca;

WHEREAS Becca has been recognized by many community organizations and political leaders in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, the House of Commons, The Senate of Canada, and the Prime Minister signed a certificate naming Becca as an "Honorary Emerging Leader";

WHEREAS Becca's High School, Riverview High, and citizens of New Brunswick have requested a Becca Schofield Day;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick recognize the third Saturday in September annually as "Becca Schofield Day".

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 27, moved by Hon. Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Chiasson, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 27 be amended as follows:

In the first resolution clause, by deleting all the words after "current government to" and replacing them with "further explore best practices in relation to school bus safety including the use of technological aids"; and

By deleting the second resolution clause.

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, the amendment was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 27 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS school bus cameras are widely used throughout Canada, and more particularly, in our neighbouring provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS careless drivers put students' safety at risk by failing to stop for school buses on a daily basis;

WHEREAS video footage would help law enforcement apprehend drivers who do not stop for school buses by recording license plate numbers and providing evidence of the infraction;

WHEREAS the safety of our children, when being transported to and from school by bus drivers, who do tremendous work and provide excellent service, is of utmost importance to all New Brunswick parents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to further explore best practices in relation to school bus safety including the use of technological aids.

And the question being put, Motion 27 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 29, Mr. MacDonald moved, seconded by Mr. Northrup:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick agriculture/agri-food industry contributes \$1.4 billion to the Gross Domestic Product of our province on an annual basis;

WHEREAS every dollar generated by New Brunswick agricultural producers generates three additional dollars in our provincial economy;

WHEREAS Canadian agricultural producers are being forced to deal with four new non-production cost increases by 2018, namely CPP and Unemployment Insurance employer contributions, minimum wage, carbon tax, and corporate tax;

WHEREAS New Brunswick agricultural producers are incurring increased costs relating to WorkSafe NB rate increases;

WHEREAS the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* as it is currently written will require agricultural producers selling products outside of their home province to have an interprovincial license;

WHEREAS interprovincial licensing will require agricultural producers to pay increasingly more in fees associated with Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspections and cost recovery initiatives;

WHEREAS the aforementioned non-production costs combine to form a competitive disadvantage in relation to other farm product producing jurisdictions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to lobby against the cost recovery initiative by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and against the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* as it is currently written.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 29 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 32, Ms. Dubé moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Horsman, seconded by Hon. Mr. Arseneault, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 32 be amended as follows:

Deleting all the words in the resolution clause after "New Brunswick" and replacing them with "through the Department of Social Development to continue supports to all persons with

disabilities to maintain the use of service dogs trained to perform specific tasks related to their disability and to continue to provide for veterinary and grooming fees associated with service dogs”.

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

And after some 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 32 as amended as follows:

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 through the Department of Social Development to continue supports to all persons with disabilities to maintain the use of service dogs trained to perform specific tasks related to their disability and to continue to provide for veterinary and grooming fees associated with service dogs.

And the question being put, Motion 32 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 27 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 6, Mr. Coon moved, seconded by Mr. Keirstead:

WHEREAS the government tables each year its Main Estimates and its public accounts of government expenses and revenues;

WHEREAS revenues foregone through tax expenditures including tax credits and tax exemptions are not currently included in the expenses of the government's Main Estimates;

WHEREAS international organizations including the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development promote public sector accounting standards that require governments to report tax expenditures;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions within Canada, including British Columbia and the Government of Canada, report tax expenditures annually;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of government to be accountable to the people it represents;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to include in its Main Estimates the total revenue foregone as a result of tax expenditures each fiscal year, beginning with 2017-2018.

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 6 was resolved in the negative.

And then, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.