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Daily sitting 14

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

At the request of Mr. Arseneault, it was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, be withdrawn.

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Mr. Speaker, at the request of Mr. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

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With leave of the House, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder: (Motion 30)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 30, statements of condolence and statements of congratulation shall form part of the ordinary daily routine of business in the House and shall be called by the Speaker following Introduction of Guests;

THAT the time allocated for “Statements of Condolence and Congratulation” shall be limited to a maximum of twelve minutes and each statement shall be limited to a maximum of sixty seconds;

THAT statements of condolence shall take precedence over statements of congratulation and Members shall be recognized as follows: the Government first, followed by the Official Opposition and then other recognized parties in order of the size of their membership, until each recognized party has had an opportunity to make three statements;

THAT this Special Order shall remain in effect during the remainder of the Second Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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

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It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

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Ms. Thériault welcomed to the House Mr. Hédard Albert, former Liberal MLA for Caraquet (2003-2018).

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Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to ban plastic shopping bags in the province. (Petition 4)

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

March 20, 2019

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

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

Your Committee met on January 23 and had under consideration:

Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act*;  
Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 8, *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Gary Crossman, 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. Mr. Holland,  
Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Pricing Act*.  
By Hon. Mr. Urquhart,  
Bill 12, *An Act Respecting the Surcharge Payable under the Victims Services Act*.

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Mr. Lowe gave Notice of Motion 31 that on Thursday, March 28, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS heavy industry benefits from a number of tax exemptions in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS public institutions such as hospitals have much higher assessments than many significant industrial properties;

WHEREAS the City of Saint John commissioned reports entitled “Municipal Property Tax Issues in The City of Saint John” and “City of Saint John Fair Taxation Report” that raise concerns with these exemptions;

WHEREAS Bill 10 was introduced in the fourth session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature and Bill 9 in the current session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature to address these issues;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House direct the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to undertake a study, including hearing from experts and stakeholders, and report back to the House with recommendations on whether to reduce or eliminate any property assessment or property taxation exemptions or benefits that apply to heavy industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House direct the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to report back to the House with its recommendations within 120 calendar days of the adoption of this motion;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee may, during a period when the Legislative Assembly is adjourned or prorogued, 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.

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Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, March 28, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Landry:

WHEREAS the government cancelled a number of ongoing projects in the 2019-2020 capital budget;

WHEREAS the wind-up costs and loss of federal contributions for some of these projects may have considerable financial implications for the province;

WHEREAS additional cost implications associated with the cancellation of projects that are underway include potential breach of contract costs, remediation and lost opportunities to realize additional savings to government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT pursuant to subsection 12(1) of the *Auditor General Act*, this Assembly request that the Auditor General audit and report on the financial implications of all projects cancelled in the 2019-2020 capital budget.

With leave of the House, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder: (Motion 33)

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

Thursday 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall remain in effect during the remainder of the Second Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Savoie requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder: (Motion 34)

THAT in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1) and by Special Orders of the House adopted November 21, 2018, and March 20, 2019, the House may sit on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall come into effect on Thursday, March 28, 2019, and shall remain in effect during the remainder of the Second Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 34 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

And then, 12.15 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 2019

*Statute Repeal Act*, Justice and Office  
of the Attorney General

March 19, 2019