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No. 31

Thursday, February 18, 1999.

8.30 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Petitions

Mr. Sherwood laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by concerned citizens of New Brunswick urging the government to take corrective steps to resolve the matter of the pending dismissal of Donald McAlpine, Ph.D., Zoology Curator at the New Brunswick Museum. (Petition 7)

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Sherwood, from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

February 18, 1999.

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

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this its First Report for the Fourth Session of the Fifty-third Legislative Assembly.

This report outlines the Committee's work during the year 1998.

The Committee met on January 6, 1998, in a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations. The purpose of the meeting was to receive and review the *1997 Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick*. Auditor General, Daryl Wilson, briefed the Committees on the contents of the Report and answered questions posed by Committee members.

The Committee met on February 5 and 25, 1998, to consider an agenda and set dates for future hearings.

On May 6, 1998, the Committee met in a working session, to review the Annual Report of the Auditor General and prepare for committee hearings. The Auditor General highlighted several issues of importance for the Committee to consider, including year 2000 readiness, performance indicators and timeliness of financial information. The Auditor General outlined strategic plan highlights for his Office, including its goal to broaden the support it provides to the Legislative Assembly.

Election of Vice-Chair

On May 13, 1998, Mr. Harry Doyle resigned as Vice-Chair of the Committee. On May 21, on motion of Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Smith, Mr. Johnson was elected Vice-Chair.

Committee Hearings

The Committee held thirteen days of public hearings in the Legislative Council Chamber during the months of May and June, 1998, to consider departmental reports and to review the Public Accounts of the Province of New Brunswick for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997. The following officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions for the year under review:

May 13, 1998

Office of the Auditor General

Daryl C. Wilson, FCA, Auditor General
Kenneth Robinson, Deputy Auditor General
Philip Vessey, Audit Director
Brent White, Audit Director
Paul E. Jewett, Audit Director

Office of the Comptroller

Edward L. Mehan, Comptroller
Stephen Thompson, Director of Audit and Consulting Services
Mike Ferguson, Director of Accounting Services

May, 14 1998

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Lucille Riedle, Chairperson
Noëlla Richard, Liaison Officer
Labour and Employment Board
Eugene McGinley, Chairman
Nicole Bois, Chief Executive Officer

Youth Council of New Brunswick

Beverley J. Barnes, Executive Director
Martine Blanchard, Chairperson
Anthony Knight, Past Vice-Chair

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Randy Dickinson, Executive Director

May 15, 1998

Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Richard Burgess, Acting Deputy Minister
Joanne Walker, Manager, Budget and Accounting Services
Gary Jochelman, Director of Planning & interim Acting Executive Director - Tourism
Paul R. LeBlanc, Director of Corporate Services

May 19, 1998

Department of Health and Community Services

Jean-Guy Finn, Deputy Minister
Laura Freeman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Administration and Finance
John Dicaire, Assistant Deputy Minister,

Public Health and Medical Services

Gérard M. Doucet, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Services
James Carter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutional Services
Ken Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mental Health Services
Ron Durelle, Director of Financial Services

May 20, 1998

Department of Education

Raymond Daigle, Deputy Minister
Carol Loughrey, Deputy Minister
Jolène LeBlanc, Assistant Deputy Minister, Administration and Finance
T. Byron James, Assistant Deputy Minister, Educational

Services (Anglophone)

Ronald Levasseur, Assistant Deputy Minister, Educational Services (Francophone)
Étienne LeBoeuf, Director, Finance and Services

May 21, 1998

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

Bill Smith, Acting Chair
Barbara Murray, Acting Chief Operating Officer

Department of Human Resources Development - N.B.

Karen Mann, Deputy Minister
Don Ferguson, Assistant Deputy Minister
Norma Dubé, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Jack Brown, Director of Financial Services
Robert Robichaud, Manager of Accounting Services
Madeleine Trenouth, Executive Director, Corporate Services
Gary Baird, Director of Information Resource Services

Department of the Environment

Donald G. Dennison, Deputy Minister
Simon Caron, Director, Human Resources and Administration
Dr. Nabil D. Elhadi, Director, Assessment and Approvals
Dean Munde, Senior Policy Advisor, Secretary to the Advisory Committee on the Environmental Trust Fund

May 22, 1998

Department of Justice

Paul M. LeBreton, Deputy Minister
Suzanne Bonnell-Burley, Assistant Deputy Minister
Neil Foreman, Executive Director, Administrative Services
Raymond McLaughlin, Director of Financial Services
Carolyn Lovely, Executive Director, Court Services
Department of Supply and Services
G. Stephenson Wheatley, Deputy Minister
Ashley Cummings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Buildings
Rick Burnett, Director of Finance
Lori MacMullen, Executive Director, Corporate Information Management Services
Greg Cook, Executive Director, Facilities Management

May 26, 1998

Department of Advanced Education and Labour

W. David Ferguson, Deputy Minister
Michael McIntosh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Labour and Employment
Bill Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education and Advocacy Programs
Bernard Paulin, Assistant Deputy Minister, New Brunswick

Community College

Patrick Doherty, Executive Director of Departmental Services
Georges Breau, Director of Financial Services

Department of Transportation

Don McCrea, Deputy Minister
David Johnstone, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Engineer
Dale Wilson, Executive Director of Administration
Walter W. Steeves, Executive Director of Policy and Motor Vehicle

May 27, 1998

Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing

Paul O'Connell, Deputy Minister
Dan Rae, Director of Financial Services

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Robert Gamble, Deputy Minister
Alfred Losier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
David MacMinn, Assistant Deputy Minister,

Processing and Aquaculture

Maurice Bernier, Executive Director, Finance and Administration

May 28, 1998

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Jack Syroid, Deputy Minister
Claire LePage, Assistant Deputy Minister, Marketing and Rural Development
Edward T. Pratt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Production
Dr. Michael Maloney, Executive Director, Planning and Development
Roger Hunter, Director of Corporate Services

Department of Natural Resources and Energy

George Bouchard, Deputy Minister
Pam Breau, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Kieth Burgess, Director of Finance & Administrative Services
Bob Watson, Executive Director, Federal/Provincial Relations
Darwin Curtis, Director, Mines and Energy Branch

May 29, 1998

Department of Finance

John Mallory, Deputy Minister & Secretary of the Board of Management
Rick Phillips, Director, Financial and Administrative Services

June 5, 1998

Office of the Premier

Julian Walker, Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

Claire Morris, Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet

Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

Claire Morris, Acting Deputy Minister
Kevin Malone, Assistant Deputy Minister, Federal-Provincial Affairs
Francois Rioux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Cooperation

June 16, 1998

New Brunswick Police Commission

Clément Bolduc, Executive Director

Department of the Solicitor General

Ronald Murray, Former Deputy Solicitor General
W. David Ferguson, Deputy Solicitor General
Brian Alexander, Assistant Deputy Minister, Law Enforcement Division
Mike Boudreau, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections
Brian Mackin, Director of Operations, Community & Correctional Services
Brian Wilkins, Director of Financial Services

Legislative Assembly

Loredana Catalli Sonier, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Peter Wolters, Director of Finance and Human Resources

Special Reports

At the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts held on April 1, 1997, the following two motions were adopted by the Committee:

1. *That the Auditor General undertake to review the financial terms of the Evergreen and Wackenhut leases and compare the total cost under the private sector arrangements as compared to traditional government methods.*
2. *That the Auditor General inquire whether economic development activities in the Minto area which are funded by N.B. Power are in accordance with the legislative authority granted to N.B. Power under the Electric Power Act.*

The Auditor General advised that his Office would carry out the assignments and report back to the Committee with its findings.

Accordingly, on November 17, 1998, the Auditor General submitted two reports prepared as a result of the assignments from the Committee. A copy of the covering letter from Daryl C. Wilson, Auditor General, is attached hereto as Appendix "A". A copy of the Report on the *Evergreen and Wackenhut Leases* is attached hereto as Appendix "B". A copy of the Report on *NB Power Funding of Minto Economic Development Activities* is attached hereto as Appendix "C".

On November 19, 1998, the Committee met with the Auditor General to review the reports. The Auditor General outlined the work undertaken by his office to complete the projects and presented the highlights and findings of both reports.

The Committee subsequently received a letter from the Auditor General, dated November 27, 1998, correcting certain information and explanations given during his appearance on November 19. A copy of this letter is attached hereto as Appendix "D".

Election of Chairman

The Committee met on December 15, 1998. On Motion of Mr. Flynn, Mr. Sherwood was elected Chairman.

1998 Report of the Auditor General

On December 15, 1998, the Committee met in a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, to receive and review the *1998 Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick*. The Auditor General briefed members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and outlined the contents and highlights of the Annual Report. The Auditor General also provided a summary document highlighting the main issues and findings of the Report.

Your Committee wishes to thank the Auditor General for the ongoing assistance and support provided by his Office.

The Committee also thanks the many government officials that appeared during the public sessions and wishes to acknowledge their cooperation in providing follow-up information.

Finally, your Committee thanks the former Chairman, Mr. Dale Graham, for his dedication and fairness in chairing the Committee.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.:) Milton Sherwood, M.L.A.
Chairman.

Ordered that the Report be received and leave be granted and the Committee continued.

Documents Tabled

Hon. Mrs. Kingston laid upon the table of the House a document entitled Review of Standards of Employment in New Brunswick.

Mr. Mockler rose on a Point of Privilege, his point being that documents were not being made available as had been earlier agreed to during consideration of the Main Estimates. Several Members spoke on the matter.

Mr. Speaker advised that as the concerns arose out of deliberations in Committee of Supply, the matter would be more appropriately raised in that forum.

Message from Lieutenant-Governor

Hon. Mr. Blanchard, Minister of Finance, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

February 18, 1998.

Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the Supplementary Estimates 1998-1999 Volume II of the sums required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 1999, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these Estimates to the House.

(Sgd.) Marilyn Trenholme Counsell.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Bills Introduced

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. Blanchard,

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation Act*.

By Hon. Mrs. Kingston,

Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health Safety and Compensation Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Jamieson,

Bill 48, *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*.

Bill 49, *Natural Products Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills be read the second time at the next sitting.

The following Private Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Mr. Duffie,

Bill 50, *An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate SBC Global Trust Corporation*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Notices of Motions

Mr. Robichaud gave Notice of Motion 124 that on Thursday, February 25, 1999 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Sherwood:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of all repairs, renovations and upgrades made to room G-12 and the cost of all these repairs, renovations and upgrades made to room G-12 made over the last five (5) years.

Mr. Robichaud gave Notice of Motion 125 that on Thursday, February 25, 1999 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Sherwood:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of all press conferences that have been held in room G-12 of the Centennial Building over the past five (5) years. Please include the minister and department(s) involved in the conference; the topic of the conference; all communications officers involved; all consultants involved; the total cost of each conference; and all outside parties involved.

Mr. Robichaud gave Notice of Motion 126 that on Thursday, February 25, 1999 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list, by district, of the names of all supply teachers and their level of certification. For example: District 1, John Adams, level four certification; Joanne Billings, local permit, music specialist; James Chase, level five certification.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Byrne announced it was the intention of the government that following Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Health and Community Services.

Hon. Mr. Byrne further announced that it was the intention of government that Private Bills 3, 4, and 13 be read a second time tomorrow.

Second Reading

The following Bills were read the second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House:

Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*.

Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Security Frauds Prevention Act*.

Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.

Private Members' Motions

Debate resumed on Motion 3 as amended, moved by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. Mockler, as follows:

WHEREAS any poverty in New Brunswick has a devastating impact on children and family;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to build upon its commitments to combat child and family poverty in New Brunswick.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

Motion 20 by Mr. Robichaud was, by leave of the House, stood over to Tuesday, February 23, 1999.

Motion 61 by Mr. Mockler was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 87 by Mr. Mesheau was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 98 by Mr. D. Graham was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 100 by Mr. Robichaud was, by leave of the House, stood over to Tuesday, February 23, 1999.

Motion 101 by Mr. Green was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 103 by Mr. Green was, by leave of the House, stood over to February 23, 1999.

Motion 105 by Mr. Green was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 107 by Mr. Lord was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motions 114 and 120 by Mr. Green were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Committee of Supply

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Ms. de Ste. Croix in the chair.

And after some time, the Chairman declared it to be 12.30 o'clock p.m. and left the chair, to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed.

And after some time, the Chairman declared it to be 6 o'clock p.m., and left the chair, to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed.

And after some further time spent in Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and Ms. de Ste. Croix, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had made some progress in the consideration of the matters referred to them, had passed several items, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then 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 are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES 1999 - 2000 ORDINARY ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,374,245,000 to defray the expenses of the Ordinary Account program allocations of the Department of Health and Community Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2000.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voted, Supply in the following amounts to defray the expenses of the following programs:

32 23 Service New Brunswick 16,874,700

32 24 Property Tax Assessment Provision 4,706,600

32 26 Land Information Services 2,759,500

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

35 50 Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment 2,800,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

1999-2000

Voted

WORKING CAPITAL ADVANCES

Health and Community Services 4,900,000

New Brunswick Geographic Information

Corporation - Assessment Services 900,000

PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Health and Community Services 27,000

INVENTORIES

Health and Community Services 5,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 10.01 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.