



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK Second Session, 57th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER - Sitting No. 3
Friday, November 25, 2011

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Prayers
Condolences and Messages of Sympathy (*Prior Notice to Speaker*)
Introduction of Guests
Messages of Congratulation and Recognition (10 minutes)
Presentations of Petitions
Answers to Petitions and Written Questions
Presentations of Committee Reports
Tabling of Documents
Statements by Ministers
Statements by Members (10 minutes)
Oral Questions (30 minutes)
Introduction of Bills
Notices of Motions
Notice of Opposition Members' Business
Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Debate adjourned by Mr. Boudreau.

Debate to resume on Friday, November 25, 2011.

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills to be ordered for Second Reading

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Securities Act - Hon. Ms. Blais, Q.C.

Bill 3, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Building Code Act - Hon. Mr. Trevors

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act - Hon. Mr. Fitch

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act - Hon. Mr. Fitch

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 1 by Hon. Mr. Northrup, seconded by Hon. Ms. Blaney to propose the following resolution on Wednesday, November 30, 2011:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's natural resources represent a collective good to be developed responsibly for the benefit of our Province; and

WHEREAS Natural Gas represents an opportunity to employ New Brunswickers and to raise revenue to assist in reducing the province's debt and help fund social programs, including health care, senior care, and education; and

WHEREAS the Members of this Legislature wish to encourage the development of industry that provides meaningful opportunities to keep our people in the Province and provide work to bring New Brunswickers home from the oil and gas sector in western Canada; and

WHEREAS exploration for Natural Gas reserves has the beneficial effect of increasing knowledge about all of the Province's underground resources; and

WHEREAS prior governments have granted permissions to explore for Natural gas and other natural resources in New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS the Members of this Legislature believe that the Government must ensure that a strong comprehensive regulatory framework must be in place to provide for the protection of our groundwater and the environment; and

WHEREAS this Government will only allow extraction if it is conducted in a manner that protects the health of our residents, the quality of our drinking water and protects the environment; and

WHEREAS energy derived from natural gas is more environmentally sound than energy derived from coal or oil and results in decreased greenhouse gas emission; and

WHEREAS Oil and Natural Gas wells, using various extraction technologies, including hydraulic fracturing, have been in production in New Brunswick since 1859;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly supports the policy of continued responsible exploration of New Brunswick's Natural Gas reserves in conjunction with the development of a framework of world class regulations to ensure the protection of the residents of New Brunswick, our groundwater, and the environment.

CONCLUDED

Motion 4 by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud. Carried November 24, 2011.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 2 by Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Kenny to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

WHEREAS the Alward government proposed changes to the Prescription Drug Program that doubled the co-pay amount payable by seniors from \$250 to \$500;

WHEREAS seniors feel this increase breaks the Premier's campaign promise to "provide a better deal for seniors";

WHEREAS this sudden increase creates considerable financial hardship for low-income seniors;

WHEREAS the extra cost may prevent seniors from getting the medications they need;

WHEREAS the loss of medications could be harmful to the fragile health of seniors;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association, the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, and others have suggested ways to find additional savings within the Prescription Drug Program, which would avoid the need for drastic fee increases;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to reverse the sudden fee increase, keep the Premier's campaign promise to "provide a better deal for seniors", and explore alternate savings through the Prescription Drug Program.

Motion 3 by Mr. D. Landry, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources publicly stated on November 3, 2011, the "need for stronger regulations on the emerging industry" of shale gas exploration;

WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources publicly admitted on October 19, 2011, to a "grey area" in the existing regulations surrounding shale gas exploration;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to announce a moratorium on shale gas exploration and strike a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly with the mandate to review and hold public hearings on all proposed legislation, regulations, and plans for monitoring and oversight of the shale gas industry, and to make final recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

Motion 5 by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Albert to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

WHEREAS the Alward government is proposing a two-tiered minimum wage for the province of New Brunswick, wherein servers and wait staff would earn a lower minimum wage than other workers;

WHEREAS a two-tiered minimum wage is a direct attack on the most vulnerable wage earners;

WHEREAS tipping is designed to reward excellent service, not supplement wages;

WHEREAS the scheduled increase to the minimum wage that was supposed to have taken place in September as mandated by the Poverty Reduction Plan has not yet been implemented;

WHEREAS the Poverty Reduction Plan did not suggest a two-tiered minimum wage;

WHEREAS the Alward government's public consultation on a two-tiered minimum wage consists of an online survey which contains questions which have been criticized as being designed to tip the balance of the results in favour of a two-tiered minimum wage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to respect the spirit and intent of the Poverty Reduction Plan, reject a two-tiered minimum wage and immediately implement the recommendation of the Poverty Reduction Plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.

Motion 6 by Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Boudreau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government undertook an unprecedented public engagement in 2009 with the business sector, the non-profit sector, and citizens living in poverty, which resulted in a bipartisan poverty reduction plan;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, participated fully in the engagement process and the announcement of the poverty reduction plan;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, stated that he was "proud" to have participated in the process and committed his party to implementing the recommendations of the poverty reduction task force;

WHEREAS the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, stated in an opinion column published in various provincial newspapers in November 2009 that we have to do more;

WHEREAS, since forming the government, the Alward Conservatives have ignored or postponed several important deadlines for the implementation of poverty reduction initiatives;

WHEREAS there is considerable disparity between what Premier Alward said while he was in the opposition and what he has done since forming the government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to honour the commitments made by the Premier when, as Leader of the Opposition, he expressed his support for the poverty reduction plan.

Motion 7 by Mr. Melanson, seconded by Mr. Collins to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

WHEREAS Halifax Shipyard has been awarded a \$25-billion contract to build new combat ships for the Canadian Navy;

WHEREAS Rona Ambrose, the federal Minister of Public Works and Government Services, the department that handles procurement, said the contracts will provide 75 million hours of work and 15 000 jobs annually over the next 30 years;

WHEREAS this contract represents an important economic opportunity not just for Halifax, but for the entire Atlantic region, including New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there could be valuable opportunities for New Brunswick businesses with skilled workers to benefit from the shipbuilding contract in subcontract and supply work;

WHEREAS more New Brunswick workers would like the training to be able to participate in these skilled labour opportunities;

WHEREAS the former Liberal government made considerable investments in NBCC and CCNB to position the colleges to offer the trades training that will be required for many of these jobs, with plans to add 1 500 more seats to the college systems;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately develop a comprehensive strategy to maximize opportunities for New Brunswick businesses and workers.

Motions for Returns

Motion 8 by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Haché to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

THAT an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, between NB Power, the Department of Energy, and any third party in relation to all expenses and costs included in the Deferral account associated with the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau generating station since March 28, 2008, including an itemized list of these costs and expenses.

Motion 9 by Mr. Doucet, seconded by Mr. Albert to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

THAT an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation since October 13, 2010, including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, including, but not limited to, all proposals, contracts, engagement letters and records of meetings between the Department of Transportation and all consultants, corporations, individuals with respect to the conduct of any reviews, assessments or evaluations on the operations of the Department of Transportation.

Motion 10 by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Haché to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

THAT an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation since October 13, 2010, including correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, between the Department of Energy, the Premier's Office, The Executive Council Office, NB Power and any other individuals, or corporations with respect to the engagement of the consulting firm Alexander Proudfoot by NB Power including, but not limited to all correspondence, memos, contracts, directives, and proposals.

Motion 11 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Haché to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2011:

THAT an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, including correspondence, however recorded or stored, by electronic means or otherwise, between the Office of the Premier, Executive Council Office, Communications New Brunswick, Department of Environment, Office of the Auditor-General and the Greater Moncton Sewerage Commission related to the release of the 2011 Auditor-General's report of wastewater commissions.

PETITIONS

- Petition 1: Mr. Fraser, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 2: Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 3: Mr. Fraser, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 4: Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 5: Mr. Fraser, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 6: Mr. Albert, November 24, 2011.
- Petition 7: Mr. Melanson, November 24, 2011.

REPORTS/DOCUMENTS

Tabled in the House

The New Brunswick Energy Blueprint, New Brunswick Department of Energy, October 2011
(Tabled by Hon. Mr. Leonard, November 24, 2011)

Filed in the Clerk's Office

Speech from the Throne, Second Session of the 57th Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
(Filed November 23, 2011)

Annual Report 2010-2011, Vehicle Management Agency (Filed November 24, 2011)

Loredana Catalli Sonier, Q.C.
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly