

Daily sitting 17

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Bernard LeBlanc offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Wendell Meldrum, former Liberal MLA for the County of Westmorland (1965-1974).

---

Mr. Fraser, Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to return to acceptable levels of service and manpower in the Miramichi district of NB Power. (Petition 5)

---

Hon. Mr. Lifford laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Government of New Brunswick Workforce Profile 2012*.

---

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act*.

By Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud,

Bill 28, *An Act Respecting Officers of the Legislative Assembly*.

Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act*.

By Mr. Fraser,

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act*.

Bill 31, *Pension Qualification Act*.

Bill 32, *Competitive Appointments Act*.

By Mr. Arseneault,

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.

---

Mr. Albert gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Thursday, April 4, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS New Brunswick has many seasonal industries;

WHEREAS the climate of our province determines when work can be done in agriculture, forestry, the fisheries, highway construction, and tourism;

WHEREAS workers in these industries have become skilled employees whom their employers value;

WHEREAS the reforms may force these skilled workers to find year-round employment in trades other than their own, making them unavailable for seasonal work, which will be devastating for seasonal industries;

WHEREAS new employment insurance reforms imposed by the federal government have made it even harder for seasonal workers to claim employment insurance in the off-season;

WHEREAS the provincial government commissioned a report that revealed that the employment insurance reforms would cost New Brunswick hundreds of millions of dollars in job losses, GDP, personal income, and government revenue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to condemn the federal government's employment insurance reforms and call on the federal government to cancel its employment insurance reforms.

---

Mr. D. Landry gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, April 4, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the federal government has replaced the employment insurance boards of referees with the Social Security Tribunal;

WHEREAS employment insurance claimants who wish to appeal employment insurance rulings must appeal to this tribunal;

WHEREAS there were 300 employment insurance boards of referees members across the country, 15 of whom were in New Brunswick and were local residents with knowledge of local labour and business;

WHEREAS there are only 74 Social Security Tribunal members, who are not necessarily located in New Brunswick and only half of whom will deal with employment insurance appeals;

WHEREAS these changes will significantly disadvantage workers and limit their opportunities for access to appeal;

WHEREAS additional paperwork and red tape required by the Social Security Tribunal will make it more burdensome for workers to make an appeal;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to ask the federal government to reinstate the employment insurance boards of referees.

---

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 29 that on Thursday, April 4, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

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 but not limited to correspondence, regarding the report from the Office of Health Renewal to the Department of Health.

---

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 30 that on Thursday, April 4, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

THAT an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of the 700 positions being eliminated by Vitalité Health Network and Horizon Health Network.

---

Motions 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 23 were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

---

On motion of Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, April 12, 2013, it shall stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 23, 2013; and

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, May 10, 2013, it shall stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

---

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, Bills 27, 28 and 29 would be called for second reading.

---

And then, 12.05 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.