

Daily sitting 20

Thursday, April 4, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneault,

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Regional Health Authorities Act*.

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Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, April 11, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Boudreau:

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party promised to encourage an open dialogue with health care professionals in New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party promised to listen and act on the ideas of these professionals to improve the province's health care system;

AND WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party promised to ensure every New Brunswicker has access to a family doctor;

AND WHEREAS there are still more than 14,000 New Brunswickers without access to a family doctor, and many more New Brunswickers who do not have same day or next day access to their family doctors;

AND WHEREAS the Alward government has recently announced it is cutting back on physician recruitment and incentive programs;

AND WHEREAS the elimination of these recruitment and incentive programs will severely restrict the government's ability to recruit new physicians and other health care professionals;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to commit to the continuation of all physician recruitment, retention and incentive programs that were in effect prior to the delivery of the 2013-2014 budget, and the enhancement of these programs.

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Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 33 that on Thursday, April 11, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

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, however recorded, stored, or archived, by electronic means or otherwise, from the Department of Health and the Vitalité Health Network regarding the Hôpital Stella-Maris-de-Kent, since April 1, 2012.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent that Opposition Members' Business be limited to consideration of Motion 27; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget (Motion 22).

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 27, Mr. Albert moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Soucy, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 27 be amended:

By adding the following after the Third WHEREAS clause:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers rely on the Employment Insurance program to sustain them for part of the year during the off-season or while their employer is functioning at reduced capacity;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has introduced changes to the Employment Insurance system through the provisions of Bill C-38, *An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 29, 2012 and other measures*;

WHEREAS some of these changes have had a disproportionately negative impact on New Brunswick and New Brunswickers;

By deleting the Fifth WHEREAS clause.

By replacing the word “would” with “may” in the sixth WHEREAS clause.

By adding the following before the resolution clause:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Government of Canada to extend the Federal E.I. Five Week Pilot Project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Government of Canada to recognise the cyclical nature of seasonal employment and industry;

By replacing the resolution clause with:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the federal government to review its employment insurance reforms with the intent of eliminating the aspects that negatively impact the people of New Brunswick and our province.

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

At 3.14 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

3.28 o'clock p.m.

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 27 as amended as follows:

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 many New Brunswickers rely on the Employment Insurance program to sustain them for part of the year during the off-season or while their employer is functioning at reduced capacity;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has introduced changes to the Employment Insurance system through the provisions of Bill C-38, *An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 29, 2012 and other measures*;

WHEREAS some of these changes have had a disproportionately negative impact on New Brunswick and New Brunswickers;

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Government of Canada to extend the Federal E.I. Five Week Pilot Project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Government of Canada to recognise the cyclical nature of seasonal employment and industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the federal government to review its employment insurance reforms with the intent of eliminating the aspects that negatively impact the people of New Brunswick and our province.

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

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

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With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Olscamp moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser: (Motion 34)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 109.1(1), not more than 120 hours shall be allocated for the consideration of estimates and supplementary estimates during the Third Session of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly;

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 109, all estimates contained in the *Main Estimates 2013-2014* and *Capital Estimates 2013-2014*, not including the estimates of the Department of Health and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and those estimates already adopted by the Committee of Supply, shall be subject to the consideration of the Committee of Supply and the Standing Committee on Estimates, until the estimate is voted upon by either Committee and reported back to the House;

THAT the Government and Opposition House Leaders shall, by mutual agreement, determine, from time to time, which estimates may be considered by the Standing Committee on Estimates;

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 89.1, the estimates of the Department of Health contained in the *Main Estimates 2013-2014* shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Health Care, which shall report those estimates back to the House for concurrence

therein without notice, debate or amendment unless circumstances exist as provided for in Standing Rule 78.2;

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 89.1, the estimates of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development contained in the *Main Estimates 2013-2014* shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Education, which shall report those estimates back to the House for concurrence therein without notice, debate or amendment unless circumstances exist as provided for in Standing Rule 78.2;

THAT the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Estimates, Standing Committee on Health Care, and Standing Committee on Education shall be televised and shall take place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber;

THAT not more than 40 hours shall be allocated for the consideration of estimates in the Standing Committee on Estimates and at the expiration of the 40 hours, all estimates remaining for consideration shall be referred back to the Committee of Supply for its consideration;

THAT not more than 40 hours in total shall be allocated for the consideration of estimates in the Standing Committee on Health Care and the Standing Committee on Education and at the expiration of the 40 hours, all estimates remaining for consideration shall be referred back to the Committee of Supply for its consideration;

THAT not more than 40 hours shall be allocated for the consideration of estimates in the Committee of Supply, including the time already spent therein;

THAT the Standing Committee on Estimates, Standing Committee on Health Care, and Standing Committee on Education shall operate and conduct their proceedings in the same manner as the Committee of Supply, which operates largely as an Opposition forum where Members of the Official Opposition question Ministers on their departmental estimates.

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

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The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 22),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Betts took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some time, the Acting Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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