

Daily sitting 32

Thursday, May 2, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Doucet, Member for Charlotte-The Isles, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Premier to maintain the operation of the Anchorage Provincial Park. (Petition 28)

Mr. Doucet, Member for Charlotte-The Isles, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Premier to retain the current ferry operating schedule for Grand Manan. (Petition 29)

Mr. Arseneault, Member for Dalhousie-Restigouche East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to put in place a provincial patient advocate or ombudsman for all patients in New Brunswick. (Petition 30)

Hon. Mr. Soucy gave Notice of Motion 50 that on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud:

WHEREAS Atlantic premiers are working together to strengthen the regional economy and create jobs, while providing training opportunities for Atlantic Canadians;

WHEREAS the federal government has unilaterally introduced changes to the Employment Insurance program without consultation or shared analysis, which are now being felt by workers, communities and employers - particularly in seasonal industries, which make up a significant portion of the Atlantic economy;

WHEREAS Atlantic premiers will be launching a pan-Atlantic consultation and research initiative to fully understand the impact of recent changes, the initial results of which will be shared with the Council of the Federation at their meeting in July;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all parties in this House urge the federal government to immediately suspend the changes to the Employment Insurance program pending the completion of an evidence-based approach that will ensure our long-standing economic drivers in the resource sectors, employing thousands of people and supporting generations of families, will continue to have the support and assistance to thrive from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 51 that on Thursday, May 9, 2013, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

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, regarding invitations to bid for asphalt and corresponding bids, within District 5 of the Department of Transportation, including any information regarding the investigations by the Office of the Ombudsman and the Auditor General, from January 1, 2012 to May 2, 2013.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 52 that on Thursday, May 9, 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 correspondence, however recorded, stored or archived, received by the Minister of Health regarding the cap to Medicare billings since January 1, 2013.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 32, *Competitive Appointments Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 32 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 32, *Competitive Appointments Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 45, Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by Mr. Bernard LeBlanc:

WHEREAS the Anchorage Provincial Park is a vital component of the tourism industry upon which the Grand Manan economy is dependent;

WHEREAS the Anchorage Provincial Park has served as a key employer on Grand Manan for many years;

WHEREAS the Anchorage Provincial Park is the only provincial campground on the island;

WHEREAS Grand Manan is prominently featured on the front cover of the 2013 New Brunswick Tourism Guide;

WHEREAS the lack of camping facilities on the island will negatively affect the number of visitors to the island this tourist season;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to immediately reinstate the employees at Anchorage Provincial Park and operate the facility this tourist season;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to meet with employees and key stakeholders on Grand Manan to determine alternate methods of generating increased revenue and alternate methods to reduce costs to ensure that this critical facility remains open in the future.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Malloch, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 45 be amended:

In the first whereas clause, by deleting the word “vital”, the words “is dependent” and the word “upon” and by adding the words “is important to” before the words “the Grand Manan”;

By replacing the fifth whereas clause with “WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick recognizes that provincial parks need to remain provincially owned and provincially protected;”

By replacing the first resolution clause with “BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to work with the community to find solutions to create employment opportunities at the Anchorage Provincial Park and operate the facility this tourist season;”

By replacing the word “meet” with “continue meeting” in the last resolution clause.

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

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

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