

Daily sitting 56

Thursday, June 20, 2013

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Ms. Dubé, Member for Edmundston—Saint-Basile, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government not to allow timber to be transported by off-road trucks on Crown land in the Rivière-Verte area. (Petition 43)

Hon. Mr. Soucy, Member for Grand Falls—Drummond—Saint-André, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government not to allow timber to be transported by off-road trucks on Crown land in the Rivière-Verte area. (Petition 44)

Mr. Bonenfant, Member for Madawaska-les-Lacs, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government not to allow timber to be transported by off-road trucks on Crown land in the Rivière-Verte area. (Petition 45)

Ms. Coulombe, Member for Restigouche-la-Vallée, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government not to allow timber to be transported by off-road trucks on Crown land in the Rivière-Verte area. (Petition 46)

Mr. Doucet, Member for Charlotte-The Isles, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to provide permanent representation for small business at energy rate hearings and to end the subsidization of other rate classes by small businesses. (Petition 47)

With leave of the House, the Honourable the Premier moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud: (Motion 74)

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick enacted the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* to govern the private interests of the members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of the Executive Council;

WHEREAS subsection 22(1) of that Act provides that a Conflict of Interest Commissioner be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the term of office of Hon. Patrick A.A. Ryan, Q.C. has expired;

WHEREAS a selection committee was established under subsections 22(2) and 22(3) of the Act for the purpose of identifying persons as potential candidates to be appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner;

WHEREAS the selection committee developed a roster of qualified candidates and submitted the list of names of qualified candidates to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council under subsection 22(4) of the Act;

WHEREAS the selection committee has determined that Hon. Alfred R. Landry, Q.C. possesses the proper qualifications and experience to successfully discharge the duties of Conflict of Interest Commissioner;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that Hon. Alfred R. Landry, Q.C. be appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner for a term of seven years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House express its appreciation and gratitude to Hon. Patrick A.A. Ryan, Q.C. for his professional and dedicated service to the Legislature and the people of New Brunswick.

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

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that following Opposition Members' Business and third reading, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 42 and 37.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the sitting hours past 6 p.m.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 8, *Lobbyists' Registration Act*, be now read a second time.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 8 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 8, *Lobbyists' Registration Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 63, Mr. Melanson moved, seconded by Mr. Kenny:

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Party of NB campaigned on a promise to balance the budget and create jobs within their mandate;

WHEREAS the economy of New Brunswick has declined in the last two and a half years;

WHEREAS this government's first two budgets focused mostly on expenditures and the reduction of services;

WHEREAS the province of NB is experiencing unemployment rate increases over the last two and a half years, reaching 10.9%;

WHEREAS the net debt has increased by over \$1.5 billion since the Alward government has been elected;

WHEREAS the deficit under the Alward government has added over \$1.1 billion to the net provincial debt;

WHEREAS the forecast deficit does not show a balanced budget for the next three years;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to admit that it needs to have a clear plan, driven by a balanced approach, through economic growth and responsible fiscal management in addressing the province's financial situation.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 63 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 62, Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Albert:

WHEREAS the Alward government is spending millions of dollars on external consultants to advise the government on how departments and Crown agencies can cut costs and become more efficient;

WHEREAS the majority of these consultants are not very familiar with the internal workings of the departments and Crown agencies, or the nature of the programs they administer;

WHEREAS as a result of this unfamiliarity, many of the recommendations made on cost cutting or efficiencies may not be realistic or achievable without significant consequences;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick public service has many valued employees with vast knowledge of how government can best deliver programs and services while achieving savings and efficiencies;

WHEREAS the Alward government has not sought the input of the public service, including front-line staff, on how government departments and Crown agencies can realize cost savings and efficiencies, prior to engaging these external consultants;

WHEREAS the Alward government has ignored the commitments contained in its own 2010 election platform to reduce the 'shadow bureaucracy' of hired consultants that perform similar services to regular public servants but at a higher cost and with less accountability, and to bring in new policies to govern the hiring of consultants that assure transparency and openness;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the provincial government to engage the public servants in the government departments and Crown agencies and solicit their advice on the best ways to save money and find efficiencies as opposed to hiring expensive external consultants.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested Mr. Arseneault to withdraw the word “hell”, which he did.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for consideration of Opposition Members’ Business had expired.

The following Bill was read a third time:

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

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 39, *Electricity Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 39 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 39, *Electricity Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 61, *An Act Respecting a Public Intervener for the Energy Sector*.

Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Energy and Utilities Board Act*.

Bill 72, *An Act Respecting Official Languages*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. Urquhart in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Urquhart, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that he report the following Bills as agreed to:

Bill 37, *New Brunswick Research and Innovation Council Act*.

Bill 42, *An Act Respecting Expenditure Restraint*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker 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.

And then, 6.32 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 47

June 17, 2013