

Daily sitting 15

Thursday, November 16, 2017

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order and submitted that the Honourable the Premier used unparliamentary language when he referred to Mr. MacDonald as an “attack dog”. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.,

Bill 25, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act.*

Bill 26, *An Act Respecting the Land Titles Act and the Registry Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Gallant,

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act.*

By Mr. Coon,

Bill 28, *Green Energy Security Act.*

Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, December 7, 2017, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS New Brunswick had 11,000 documented cases of dementia in 2011;

WHEREAS that number is expected to rise to 23,000 by 2031;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the largest number of seniors in relation to New Brunswick's total population;

WHEREAS the Aging Strategy released in January of 2017 stated that there was a need for a dementia strategy in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to release the Dementia Strategy to ensure access to quality care and support so that New Brunswickers with dementia can have the best quality of life possible.

Mr. MacDonald gave Notice of Motion 21 that on Thursday, December 7, 2017, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS the Local Service Districts of Douglas and Estey's Bridge have been struggling with the development and proposed development of rock quarries within their respective areas;

WHEREAS the development of gravel pits and quarries has been a long-standing issue of contention with residents within all municipalities of New Brunswick, including cities;

WHEREAS the issues of quarry proximity to residential areas and the current excavation protocols for the quarry planning approval are deemed insufficient by many communities in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS many regional service commissions, at present, do not have the regulations to evaluate gravel pits and rock quarries differently in terms of impact and optimal distance from residential areas, given the site-specific characteristics of proposed resource extraction sizes;

WHEREAS the environmental footprints of a gravel pit and rock quarry differ greatly, given that gravel pits require only mechanical intervention for extraction of resources and quarries require the use of both machinery and blasting;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urge the Department of Environment and Local Government to revisit its regulations and legislation pertaining to rock quarries with the intent to recognize the different environmental footprint that exists between gravel pit and rock quarry developments, and develop an assessment tool that better addresses the various factors that are impacted, namely: waterways, run-off, noise, air quality, sight distance from provincial roads, and continued quality-of-life for existing area residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urge the government to review its allowable quarry proximity to existing residential area regulation with the intent of increasing the catchment area with which the Department of Environment and Local Government, regional service commissions and quarry developers are required to consult and that the minimum proximity to quarry regulation and/or legislation has its minimum distances expanded.

Mr. MacDonald gave Notice of Motion 22 that on Thursday, December 7, 2017, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS successive governments have stressed the importance of New Brunswickers to have access to quality child care in all regions of our province;

WHEREAS access to child care allows both single parent and two parent families to pursue the career goals to which they aspire;

WHEREAS the economic realities of our modern society often require that both parents must work to sustain the household;

WHEREAS the population size of daycares is on the rise, requiring that the daycares often physically be located closer to larger often more urban centers to maximize their customer potential;

WHEREAS access to daycare services is equally important in urban and rural New Brunswick, but rural communities often lack the required population base to make a daycare financially viable;

WHEREAS the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development already has a transportation system that covers the entire province on a daily basis, both morning and returning in the afternoon, however, they are not allowed to travel outside of their respective school catchment areas;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to grant an exemption, in elementary school catchment areas where no daycare infrastructure exists, of up to 10 kilometers per day round trip to allow bussing of students; both for morning pickup and after school drop-off to daycare facilities outside the established school boundaries of the respective elementary school.

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Friday, November 17, 2017, Bills 25, 26 and 27 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, deferred third reading of certain bills to a later date and announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Departments of Transportation and Infrastructure; Education and Early Childhood Development; and Health; following which the House would recess until 2.30 p.m.; at which time Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard LeBlanc in the chair.

At 11.24 a.m., Mr. Bernard LeBlanc declared a recess and left the chair.

11.30 a.m.

The Committee resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, 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.

At 11.40 a.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 6, moved by Hon. Mr. Landry, seconded by Hon. Mr. Kenny, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 6 be amended as follows:

That the first resolution clause be amended by deleting the words “current government to put” and replacing them with “Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Department of Justice and Public Safety to explore best practices with respect to school bus safety including exploring the feasibility of putting”;

That the final resolution clause be deleted.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 6 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS school bus cameras are widely used throughout Canada, and more particularly, in our neighbouring provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS careless drivers put students' safety at risk by failing to stop for school buses;

WHEREAS video footage would help law enforcement apprehend drivers who do not stop for school buses by recording license plate numbers and providing evidence of the infraction;

WHEREAS the safety of our children, when being transported to and from school by bus drivers who do tremendous work and provide excellent service, is of utmost importance to all New Brunswick parents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Department of Justice and Public Safety to explore best practices with respect to school bus safety including exploring the feasibility of putting a school bus camera program in place, where cameras are placed on the outside of buses for the purposes of capturing license plate images and evidence to report to law enforcement officials.

And the question being put, Motion 6 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 17, Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS sexual violence remains a present and persistent problem on post-secondary campuses across the province;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions in the country including Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia have already adopted comparable types of legislation;

WHEREAS Statistics Canada's 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety revealed that the rate of incidence for sexual assault was considerably higher for young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 and accounts for 47% of all sexual assaults incidents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to introduce legislation on campus sexual violence that includes the following stipulations: that every post-secondary institution in New Brunswick have a stand-alone sexual violence policy; that these policies be completed by the institution no later than one year after the legislation is adopted; that the policies be developed with input from students, staff, administrators, and community experts; that the policies put in place take into account the realities of visible minorities, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, immigrants, the LGBTQIA community, and other groups that have been proven to be at a higher risk of sexual violence; that the policies be accessible, transparent and easy to understand; that the institution include in their policy, the manners in which their sexual violence policy interacts with other policies at the institution; that all sexual violence policies adopted by post-secondary institutions be reviewed by the institution every two years; and that the post-secondary institutions that already have stand-alone sexual violence policies be required to review their policies immediately upon adoption of the legislation and incorporate any changes to their policies and reporting process(es) as per the stipulations set out above, no later than one year after the legislation is adopted.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Melanson, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 17 be amended as follows:

That the second whereas clause be deleted;

That the following be added as a fourth whereas clause:

WHEREAS in 2017, Fredericton's public universities and colleges teamed up to fund the hiring of a sexual assault advocate to assist students and staff impacted by sexual assault, which is a positive step in support of our student population.

That the resolution clause be deleted and replaced with the following:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly support the efforts of post-secondary institutions to adopt and maintain institution-specific sexual violence policies.

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

And after some time, Ms. LeBlanc took the chair.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 24

Hon. Mr. Fraser	Hon. Mr. Rousselle	Mr. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Doucet	Hon. Ms. Harris	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Gallant	Hon. Ms. Landry	Mr. Roussel
Hon. Ms. Rogers	Hon. Mr. Kenny	Mr. Guitard
Hon. Mr. Horsman	Hon. Mr. Ames	Mr. Boudreau
Hon. Mr. Melanson	Hon. Mr. Harvey	Mr. Albert
Hon. Mr. Landry	Hon. Mr. LePage	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Bourque	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Doherty

NAYS - 20

Ms. Shephard	Mr. Urquhart	Mr. Steeves
Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Coon	Ms. Wilson
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Jeff Carr	Mr. Oliver
Ms. Dubé	Mr. Flemming	Mr. Wetmore
Mr. Holder	Ms. Lynch	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Fairgrieve	Mr. Northrup	Mr. Keirstead
Mr. Fitch	Mr. Crossman	

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 17 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS sexual violence remains a present and persistent problem on post-secondary campuses across the province;

WHEREAS Statistics Canada's 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety revealed that the rate of incidence for sexual assault was considerably higher for young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 and accounts for 47% of all sexual assaults incidents;

WHEREAS in 2017, Fredericton's public universities and colleges teamed up to fund the hiring of a sexual assault advocate to assist students and staff impacted by sexual assault, which is a positive step in support of our student population;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly support the efforts of post-secondary institutions to adopt and maintain institution-specific sexual violence policies.

And the question being put, Motion 17 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 18, Mr. Jeff Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Holder:

WHEREAS covered bridges in New Brunswick were engineered and constructed by the pioneers of our communities with their blood, sweat and tears;

WHEREAS covered bridges in New Brunswick create tourism opportunities and are enjoyed by locals and tourists alike;

WHEREAS the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture is a priority for this current government as an economic driver, as it is for other jurisdictions in North America;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to preserve and protect our New Brunswick covered bridges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture to develop a covered bridge map to be used to take our covered bridges to market;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to designate all remaining covered bridges in New Brunswick as protected landmarks within the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc resumed the chair.

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

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Response to Petition 4

November 15, 2017