

Daily sitting 38 Thursday, March 15, 2018

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Landry laid upon the table of the House documents entitled *Report of the 2016 New Brunswick Judicial Remuneration Commission, February 2, 2018*; and *Government's Response to the Report of the 2016 New Brunswick Judicial Remuneration Commission, Department of Justice and Public Safety, March 15, 2018*.

Hon. Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to maintain hospital services at the Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Joseph de Saint-Quentin. (Petition 16)

Mr. Roussel, from the Standing Committee on Private Bills, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

March 15, 2018

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Private Bills begs leave to submit this, their First Report of the session.

Your Committee met on February 27, 2018, in the Legislative Council Chamber and had under consideration the following Bill:

Bill 41, *An Act to Incorporate the Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors*;

and reports that it has made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

I move, seconded by the Member for Restigouche-Chaleur, that the report be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd.): Wilfred Roussel, M.L.A.
Chair

Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion of concurrence in the report of the Committee, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Doucet moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 40)

THAT the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber from November 9, 2017, to February 27, 2018, inclusive, to consider the Bills referred to the Committee be included in the *Journal of Debates* for the Fourth Session of the Fifty-eighth Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick.

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

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 45; following which, with leave, the House would consider Motion 36; following which, at 1 p.m., with leave, Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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

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 directed that he report the following Bill as agreed to:

Bill 45, *Loan Act 2018*.

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.

At 12 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the chair to resume again at 1 o'clock p.m.

1 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Melanson moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Horsman: (Motion 36)

WHEREAS the government provides public funds to support New Brunswick's independently operated universities;

WHEREAS representatives of these publicly funded universities have agreed to appear before a committee of the House to answer questions related to how these funds are administered and related issues;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the House appoint a Select Committee on Public Universities to be charged with the responsibility of inviting representatives of New Brunswick's publicly funded universities to appear before the Committee to discuss and provide insight into university administration, programming, performance measurement, accountability and transparency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said Committee be composed of Mr. Chiasson, Mr. Boudreau, Ms. LeBlanc, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, Mr. Roussel, Mr. Coon and two Members from the Official Opposition whose names shall be submitted by the Leader of the Official Opposition to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly prior to the commencement of the first Committee meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the two names of Members from the Official Opposition are not submitted to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by the commencement of the first Committee meeting, the Committee shall remain duly appointed and solely composed of the six Members named in this resolution.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Steeves, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 36 be amended as follows:

By deleting the second and third resolution clauses and substituting the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said Committee be composed of Mr. Chiasson, Mr. Boudreau, Ms. LeBlanc, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, Mr. Roussel, Mr. Holder, Mr. Steeves and Mr. Coon.”

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

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 36 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the government provides public funds to support New Brunswick's independently operated universities;

WHEREAS representatives of these publicly funded universities have agreed to appear before a committee of the House to answer questions related to how these funds are administered and related issues;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the House appoint a Select Committee on Public Universities to be charged with the responsibility of inviting representatives of New Brunswick's publicly funded universities to appear before the Committee to discuss and provide insight into university administration, programming, performance measurement, accountability and transparency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said Committee be composed of Mr. Chiasson, Mr. Boudreau, Ms. LeBlanc, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, Mr. Roussel, Mr. Holder, Mr. Steeves and Mr. Coon.

And the question being put, Motion 36 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to consider Opposition Members' Business forthwith.

At 1.32 p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

1.36 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to modify the order of Opposition Members' Business.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 22, Mr. MacDonald moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 22 was resolved in the negative.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 40 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 31, Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by Mr. Urquhart:

WHEREAS first responders work hard to keep the citizens of New Brunswick and our roads safe;

WHEREAS amendments made to the *Motor Vehicle Act* in January 2013 made it a requirement for New Brunswickers to slow down upon approaching emergency vehicles and safely pull over to ensure the safety of the emergency workers on the road;

WHEREAS the Canadian Automobile Association reports more than 100 tow truck drivers lose their life every year in North America while they are roadside assisting emergency vehicles;

WHEREAS Constable Francis Deschênes, a 35-year-old RCMP officer from Nova Scotia, was killed near Memramcook on September 12, 2017, while he was assisting a motorist with a flat tire, tragically highlighting the need for more public education on the “slow down move over” law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to add tow trucks to the list of emergency vehicles included in the “slow down move over” law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to fund a public safety education campaign, including billboards, to ensure New Brunswickers know and do their part to keep our first responders safe on our roads.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 31 was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 23, Mr. MacDonald moved, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS firefighters provide a valuable service to the population of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick has acknowledged that heart conditions and certain cancers can be linked to the act of firefighting, by becoming the seventh province in Canada to enact presumptive legislation for professional firefighters in 2009;

WHEREAS we now have some 500 female firefighters in Canada;

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba was the first province to enact presumptive legislation for professional firefighters and has now elected to grow its presumptive cancer coverage to include breast cancer;

WHEREAS the inclusion of breast cancer in presumptive legislation for professional firefighters has been supported by the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly follow Manitoba's lead and include breast cancer in the existing presumptive legislation coverages for professional firefighters in our province.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 23 was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 4.41 p.m., the House adjourned.