



ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ÎLE-DU-PRINCE-ÉDOUARD
TROISIÈME SESSION DE LA SOIXANTE-DEUXIÈME ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
PRÉSIDENTE : L'HON. GREG DEIGHAN

Motion 11 eu égard à la Déportation des Acadiens de l'Acadie (péninsule de la Nouvelle-Écosse)
Proposée par l'hon. Patrick Binns, premier ministre de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Appuyée par le député Wilfred Arsenault, Évangéline-Miscouche
Adoptée unanimement le jeudi 15 décembre 2005 / Hansard : pages 1120-1130

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that Motion No. 11 be new read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 11.

The Honourable Premier moves, seconded by the Honourable Member for Evangéline-Miscouche, the following Motion:

WHEREAS during the 17th century settlers came from different parts of France to a region of the New World they called l'Acadie, now known as the Canadian Maritimes and the eastern portion of Maine;

AND WHEREAS for more than a century, the Acadians were able to maintain their self-contained lifestyle, enjoying large families and peaceful communities, strengthened by a devotion to their faith;

AND WHEREAS the development of an Acadian colony soon met with political interference, with subsequent territorial wars being waged over several decades by France and England;

AND WHEREAS under the orders and plan of the Lieutenant General, Governor Lawrence of Nova Scotia, following the decree of the King of England, the British Council at Halifax unanimously decided to deport the Acadians;

AND WHEREAS the Deportation order began with a proclamation issued at 3 pm on September 5, 1755 at the Catholic Church in Grand Pré;

AND WHEREAS sadness and misery characterized this infamous Deportation,

known as The Great Upheaval, which continued unabated over a period of eight years from 1755 to 1763;

AND WHEREAS approximately 11,000 Acadians were deported from the Maritimes;

AND WHEREAS although some were sent to France and England, most Acadians wound up scattered through the American colonies;

AND WHEREAS following the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Acadians were given permission to return to the Maritime provinces, provided they pledged allegiance to the British Crown and remained in small isolated groups;

AND WHEREAS Acadians today comprise nearly one-third of the Island's population, forming a vibrant and dynamic presence on the economic, political, artistic and cultural scenes;

AND WHEREAS in 2002, the Acadians of Prince Edward Island welcomed the proclamation of the provincial government's French Language Services Act that guarantees, among other things, judicial services in French;

AND WHEREAS preservation of the Acadian language and culture has been one of the most effective tools to ensure the future of the Acadian people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of this Assembly, and indeed all Islanders, join together this year in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Great Upheaval;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government of Prince Edward Island remain committed to promoting and preserving the rich historical and cultural heritage of the Acadians.

Speaker: The hon. Premier to move the motion.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Merci, Monsieur le président.

I'm very honoured this afternoon to respond to this important resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians, and today we pause to commemorate one of the most tragic events in Canadian history, certainly in Maritime history, *la déportation des Acadiens qui a commencé en 1755 est un de ces chapitres de l'histoire du Canada et des Maritimes qui est impossible d'oublier ou de justifier.* The deportation of Acadians that began in 1755 is one of those chapters of the history of this country and of the Maritimes that is impossible to forget or justify.

It's very ironic that last year we were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Acadie and the French presence in the New World, and this year we highlight the tragic deportation of thousands of Canada's original settlers.

For many years, and with the support and friendship of the Mi'kmaq, early French settlers that came to the Maritimes and to Prince Edward Island lived in relative peace through, though in difficult conditions, as they learned to acclimatize to the harsh environment and to the land.

I think had it not been for the Mi'kmaq people that we recognized in this Chamber earlier this session the French settlers would not have had proper food and clothing and shelter and access to transportation systems and the very things they needed to survive in those early years. But the deportation itself was really a needless decision by an insensitive government on another continent, an act that literally destroyed families and