



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

Motion 12 eu égard à la Déportation des Acadiens de l'île Saint-Jean
Proposée par l'hon. Robert Ghiz, premier ministre de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Appuyée par le député Sonny Gallant, Évangéline-Miscouche
Adoptée unanimement le vendredi 2 mai 2008 / Hansard : pages 1164-1181

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Sheridan: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that Motion 12 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 12.

The hon. Premier moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the following motion:

WHEREAS French and Acadian settlers came here in 1720, to Isle-Saint-Jean, and established the first permanent European settlement on the Island, living side-by-side with the Mi'kmaq;

AND WHEREAS 250 years ago, in 1758, the British order of Deportation of Island Acadians sentenced entire communities to exile and deprived them of their peaceful way of life;

AND WHEREAS two-thirds of the settlers were forcibly expelled, 1,700 of whom perished, while others fled, sparing only a couple of hundred individuals by mid-1759;

AND WHEREAS the Deportation inflicted suffering and hardships that shaped the indomitable spirit of the Acadian people, spirit that is alive and well today;

AND WHEREAS the Acadian and Francophone community is an integral part of the social fabric of our province and actively contributes to all aspects of Island society;

AND WHEREAS the Acadian and Francophone community has built a dynamic network of institutions, like the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin and the Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É., that ensure both its growth and its vitality;

AND WHEREAS institutions such as

schools and community centres, French public libraries, the Acadian Museum, among others, ensure that the Acadian culture and French language are not only preserved, but continue to flourish;

AND WHEREAS all Islanders would benefit from gaining better understanding of the Deportation and of the significance of the province's rich Acadian heritage;

AND WHEREAS governments have paved the way over the last 30 years for the present members of the Legislative Assembly to support linguistic duality in Prince Edward Island now, and for future generations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly encourage all Islanders to participate in the various activities which will take place throughout the year to commemorate the Deportation and celebrate the vitality of the Acadian and Francophone community, notably the unveiling of a monument this summer at Port-la-Joye-Fort-Amherst National Historic Site, the location of the original French settlement;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island actively pursue its commitment to the development and enhancement of the Acadian and Francophone community.

Speaker: Hon. members, we'll move to the hon. Premier to open debate.

Premier Ghiz: *Merci beaucoup Madame la présidente.*

Premièrement, j'aimerais dire bonjour à tous les gens qui sont ici aujourd'hui avec nous. On a Georges Arsenault, président du Comité historique Soeur Antoinette DesRoches. On a Francis Blanchard, qui était un des gens que je connaissais quand j'étais un petit gars sur Brighton Road et puis qui est aussi membre du Comité historique Soeur Antoinette DesRoches et

président du Club Richelieu Port-La-Joye. On a Marcellin Garneau, vice-président de la Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin; Edgar Arsenault, un autre de mes amis, directeur par intérim du Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean et puis on a aussi des gens qui travaillent avec nous et notre ministre, dans notre département Donald DesRoches, Dominique Chouinard et Ricky Hitchcock qui sont ici avec nous aujourd'hui.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

First of all, I would like to say hello to everyone here with us today. We have Georges Arsenault, Chair of the Soeur Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee. We have Francis Blanchard whom I met when I was a young boy on Brighton Road and who is also a member of the Soeur Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee and Chair of the Club Richelieu Port-La-Joye. We have Marcellin Garneau, Vice-President of the Société-Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin; one of my friends, Edgar Arsenault who is acting Director of the Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean and we also have people working with us and our Minister in our Department, Donald DesRoches, Dominique Chouinard and Ricky Hitchcock who are with us here today.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to move this motion recognizing the 250th anniversary of the deportation of Island Acadians.

Our Legislative Assembly first brought attention to this tragic event three years ago by recognizing the first wave of deportation which began in 1755 with the expulsion of Acadians from Nova Scotia.

Today, we turn our attention to Island Acadians who were targeted for deportation beginning in 1758 when the French military surrendered Louisbourg to British troops.

It is difficult to imagine the conditions that