

The following is Motion 44, moved by the Government House Leader, seconded by the Minister of Social Development, which was carried by the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick on May 29, 2026.

WHEREAS the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act* was adopted in 2022 and brought into full legal effect in January 2024, putting the interests and overall, well-being of children and youth first, and providing them the following rights:

- Protection from harm,
- Privacy
- Participation in the decisions that affect them
- Leisure, play and culture
- Growing up in a safe and nurturing environment
- Access to education
- Connection with family and others who help them develop and grow;

WHEREAS the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act* was brought forward to expand the ability of the Department of Social Development to help teens at risk make transitions to adulthood;

WHEREAS the Department's Youth Engagement Services (YES) program is the main tool through which social services are provided to youth 16 to 18 who are homeless with the mission to ensure sustained support and guidance for education and training, health and wellbeing, mental health and addiction services, and housing and financial help;

WHEREAS statistics suggest that children who have been in care are more likely to become homeless than to graduate high school;

WHEREAS the YES Program is often the last chance for the Department to help them before they enter adulthood;

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate has raised the alarm through his reports, *YOU SAID "Y.E.S.". THEY SAID "NO".: System Failures in the Youth Engagement Services Program and an Appeal to the Legislature to Protect Children* and *Nobody's Problem: The Brief Life and Preventable Death of Bobby, A Child Who Deserved Better.*, on regional offices of the Department of Social Development throwing roadblocks in front of the kids, denying and delaying help until it is too late, thereby failing the intent of the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act* and going against the Department's commitment to act in the best interest of children and youth, take protective action when they are at risk of harm and support children and youth and their families;

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate has asked that the YES Program's eligibility and screening requirements undergo a third-party review to remove those that do not serve the policy goal of the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*;

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate has asked that elected officials to task a legislative committee to hear testimony from himself, community groups that work with youth and teens at risk, and departmental leadership on the issues raised in his report;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that notwithstanding the Standing Rules and established mandates of committees, the Legislative Assembly authorize and instruct the Standing Committee on Social Policy to identify and invite presenters to appear before the Committee at public hearings in the Legislative Council Chamber within the next 30 days to discuss and hear testimony on the Child and Youth Advocate's reports *YOU SAID "Y.E.S.". THEY SAID "NO":: System Failures in the Youth Engagement Services Program and an Appeal to the Legislature to Protect Children*, and *Nobody's Problem: The Brief Life and Preventable Death of Bobby, A Child Who Deserved Better*.