

**JOURNALS**  
OF THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
OF THE  
**PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

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**FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTIETH  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2020-2022**

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**THE HONOURABLE BRENDA MURPHY,  
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR**

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Fredericton, N.B.  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS the third session of the fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of this Province was dissolved on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020;

AND WHEREAS I have thought fit to call the first session of the sixtieth Legislative Assembly of this Province into session, I hereby issue a Proclamation that the same be called to meet on the seventh day of October, 2020 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Province at Fredericton this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty, and in the sixty-ninth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

**BY COMMAND OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR**

Hugh J. Flemming, Q.C.  
Attorney General.

Brenda L. Murphy.  
Lieutenant-Governor.

This being the day appointed for the opening of the First Session of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick for the dispatch of business pursuant to the proclamation hereinbefore annexed, and the oath having been already administered to the Members of the Legislative Assembly as named in the roll, delivered to the Clerk of the House by the Chief Electoral Officer, the said Members took their seats in the House.

The Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly then addressed himself to the House as follows:

*Members of the Legislative Assembly:*

*I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that she doth not think fit to declare the causes for which she has summoned this Legislative Assembly until a Speaker thereof shall have been duly chosen.*

*It is therefore Her Honour's will that you, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, do proceed forthwith to choose a fit and proper person to be your Speaker, and that you present the person so chosen to Her Honour in this Assembly Chamber this afternoon for Her Honour's approbation.*

The list of Members eligible for the first ballot was as follows:

OLIVER, William (Bill)  
WETMORE, Ross

Mr. Wetmore having requested that his name be withdrawn from the first ballot, the Acting Clerk advised that it was his duty to preside over the election of Speaker in accordance with the Standing Rules and according to these Rules, Members could not withdraw as candidates for the election except after the first ballot.

The Acting Clerk further advised that based on precedents for this request, if it was the will of the Assembly to dispense with this requirement then he would abide by the wishes of the Assembly.

Having ascertained that there was agreement by unanimous consent to dispense with the requirement of Standing Rule 11(8)(I), the Acting Clerk invited the eligible Members who wished to withdraw from the election to rise in their place and indicate their intention to withdraw.

Whereupon, Mr. Wetmore rose in his place and announced his intention to withdraw as a candidate for the election of Speaker.

The House then proceeded to the election of a Speaker pursuant to the provisions of Standing Rule 11.

The Acting Clerk then announced:

*Honourable Members, the Standing Rules stipulate that if only one Member stands for election to the office of Speaker, the Clerk of the House announces the candidate's name and, without any vote, declares that Member to be elected Speaker.*

*Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that only one candidate stands for election to the office pursuant to Standing Rule 11(8)(m). Therefore, it is my duty to announce that William (Bill) Oliver, the honourable Member for the electoral district of Kings Centre, is declared elected as Speaker.*

The Premier, the Honourable Mr. Blaine Higgs, and the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Roger Melanson, escorted Mr. William (Bill) Oliver to the dais where, standing on the upper step, he addressed the House as follows:

*Members of the Legislative Assembly,*

*It is my pleasure today to express my grateful and humble acknowledgment to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me as your Speaker.*

*Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience in parliamentary procedure, I should have hesitated before accepting a position involving so much responsibility, were it not for the fact that I shall be able at all times to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance, and kindness of every Member of the Assembly.*

*Again, thanking you, I now submit myself to the House.*

*I realize that, according to tradition, I am to accept this chair reluctantly, but in truth, I accept this honour with great humility and respect. I thank you for putting your trust in me to assist in carrying out the important business of this 60<sup>th</sup> legislature, and I hope that we will accomplish much for the citizens of our great province over the next four years.*

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*I want to take this opportunity to remember a trailblazer in New Brunswick politics. I checked on the records and history, and since 1786, only 47 women have ever sat in these seats, and Senator Brenda Robertson was the first. She was the first woman elected to this Assembly in 1967, and she was the first female minister when she was appointed, in 1970, as the Minister of Youth.*

*In 2017, I was fortunate to have the privilege of meeting her. She was charming, and she reflected on stories of her political career with her friend Paul D'Astous. I sat and listened, and I feel honoured to have shared that time with her. I want to offer condolences to her family from the New Brunswick Legislature, which she held in high regard.*

*I would also like to acknowledge the fine work that the member from Restigouche-Chaleur has done, since 2018, during his time as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you. I will honour this position in the same manner that you have over the past two years.*

*You have the respect of all members for the difficult task you accepted, guiding us through the first minority government in 100 years.*

*I have been blessed, over the past 36 years, with the support of my wife, who has always indulged me in whatever path I chose. Getting involved in politics was a decision that we made together. As we all know, to accept the commitment that it involves, it needs to be one that our families accept as well. Chris knows the highs and lows that we experience, and I am grateful for her love and support.*

*To my son Danny, his fiancée Jen, and our grandson Jadon, thank you as well. I know that you will be there to lend your support.*

*Since 2014, the constituents of Kings Centre have chosen to place their trust in me to serve as their MLA, and I continue to honour that trust. I would like to quote the Rotary motto, Service above Self. I never expected, when I served as the executive assistant to Speaker Harrison back in 1999, that someday I would stand in this place as Speaker. It has, indeed, been a journey from executive assistant to MLA to minister and, now, to Speaker. I can only imagine how proud my parents would be if they were here to share today's ceremony.*

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*Finally, I make this promise to you, the Assembly: I will honour the rules of the House and do my utmost to serve with the dignity that the position of Speaker demands. I expect that healthy and vigorous debate will occur on the floor of the House, and I know that we will respect the honourable members for their passion in debate.*

*I will rule with fairness, impartiality, and respect for all, and ask for the same in return. My door will always be open to members, and I invite you to visit as you see necessary.*

*Thank you.*

Thereupon Mr. Oliver took the chair, and the mace was placed upon the Clerk's Table.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was announced and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

The Speaker then addressed Her Honour to the following effect:

*May it Please Your Honour:*

*Your Honour having communicated your pleasure to the House, they proceeded to choose a Speaker. They have elected me to that important and honourable position, and I am now presented for Your Honour's approval.*

The Acting Clerk of the House then said:

*Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that she is fully sensible of your zeal for the public service and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected by the Legislative Assembly, and she doth readily approve of their choice, and allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.*

Mr. Speaker then addressed Her Honour in the following words:

*May It Please Your Honour:*

*Your Honour having been pleased to approve the choice of the Assembly in electing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all their ancient and accustomed*

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*rights and privileges, especially freedom from arrest, freedom of speech in debate, access to Your Honour when they think the public service requires it, and that the most favourable construction be put on all their proceedings and on my own behalf I have to request that any error of mine may not be imputed to the Assembly.*

To which the Acting Clerk of the House replied:

*Mr. Speaker, Her Honour hath the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of this Assembly of Her Majesty's person and government and in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all their proceedings, and she doth most readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.*

*With respect to yourself, Mr. Speaker, though Her Honour is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, Her Honour will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.*

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to deliver the following message:

*Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am pleased to welcome you and wish you well as Honourable Members of this distinguished Assembly.*

*These are historic days in New Brunswick and around the world as we face the COVID-19 pandemic. May your work here be respectful, friendly, and in the best interests of New Brunswickers.*

*I wish to advise that my government is not prepared to commence a legislative session at this time. However, it is my fervent hope that Divine Providence will guide you in all your deliberations.*

The Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly communicated to the House the following message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor:

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*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly,*

*I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that it is her pleasure that this Legislative Assembly attend before Her Honour in this Assembly Chamber at 1 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at which time Her Honour will formally open the First Session of the Sixtieth Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick.*

Her Honour then retired.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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And then, 1.25 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

**Annual Reports**

2019-2020 Horizon Health Network	August 17, 2020
2019-2020 Vitalité Health Network	August 25, 2020
2019 Recycle NB	August 28, 2020
2019-2020 Office of the Public Intervener, A Unit of the Office of the Attorney General	September 1, 2020
2019-2020 New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board	September 10, 2020
2019-2020 Financial and Consumer Services Commission	September 28, 2020
2020 New Brunswick Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation	September 28, 2020