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Daily sitting 8

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the Premier used unparliamentary language when he used the term “grow up” in reference to Mr. Melanson. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken, but asked Members to raise the level of debate.

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Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that electronic devices were used during question period. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken as unanimous consent had been granted for the use of electronic devices, as long as the devices were not disruptive or interfering with the conventions of the House. Mr. Speaker, however, cautioned Members on how such devices were used during question period.

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Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the Premier broke Cabinet solidarity and confidentiality when he commented on Mr. Melanson’s participation in certain Covid Cabinet Committee meetings. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken as Cabinet solidarity and confidentiality were not within the jurisdiction of the Speaker to rule upon.

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The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Ms. Bockus,

Bill 25, *An Act to Remove Certain Restrictive Covenants on Title to Certain Lands in The City of Saint John vested in Plazacorp Property Holdings Inc.*

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

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Hon. Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 22 that on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the capital budgetary policy of the government.

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Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 23 that on Thursday, December 17, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS the Legislative Administration Committee (LAC) is responsible for the administration, operation, management, maintenance, and control of the Legislative Building, the Legislative Library, and other lands, buildings, and facilities connected with the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the committee, chaired by the Speaker, is also responsible generally for all matters relating to the Legislative Assembly and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the meetings of the Legislative Administration Committee are held in camera without access by media and the public;

WHEREAS there is need for greater openness and transparency with respect to the affairs of the Legislative Assembly and the deliberations of its elected members;

WHEREAS, although there are discussions on certain matters before LAC that require confidentiality, including human resource issues, much of the business of LAC could be discussed in an open forum;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Speaker to work with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to bring forward a plan for greater openness and transparency by the Legislative Administration Committee.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, December 10, 2020, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 3 and 4.

Hon. Mr. Savoie requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 24)

THAT in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1) and by Special Order of the House adopted November 18, 2020, the House may sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall come into effect on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, and shall remain in effect until Thursday, December 31, 2020.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 24 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 be called for second reading; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne for 1.5 hours; following which the House would adjourn.

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The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 9, *Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Reporting Act*.

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*.

Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Queen's Counsel and Precedence Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 19 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 20 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

“Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.”

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

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved the adjournment of the debate.

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 22 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

“Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.”

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 23 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. Bockus, seconded by Mr. Cullins:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.  
November 17, 2020.

To Her Honour,  
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,  
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of adjournment had arrived.

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And then, 4 p.m., the House adjourned.