

Daily sitting 12

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. Harris rose on a point of order and submitted that certain Members were not consistently wearing their masks. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and reminded Members to wear their masks.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that a Minister made an unfavourable comparison between Mr. K. Chiasson and Donald Trump. Mr. Speaker reminded Members to raise the level of debate and refrain from making certain comparisons that may cause disorder.

Mr. Turner, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Third Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 16, 2020

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their third report.

Your Committee met on December 15 and had under consideration:

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act*;
Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*;
Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Greg Turner, M.L.A.
Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneau,
Bill 29, *Local Food Security Act*.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, December 17, 2020, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 4, Bill 28 and Motion 16.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 25 be called for second reading; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Estimates 2018-2019, Volume I, the Supplementary Estimates 2020-2021, Volume I, and the Capital Estimates of the Departments of Transportation and Infrastructure, Health and Education and Early Childhood Development; following which the House would consider Motion 21.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The following Private Bill was read a second time:

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.*

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bill 25 for third reading forthwith.

The following Private Bill was read a third time:

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 that the said Bill does pass.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Ms. S. Wilson in the chair.

At 12 p.m. the Committee recessed. At 1.04 p.m. the Committee resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Ms. S. Wilson, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, had passed several items, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following are the items reported:

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2018-2019, VOLUME I

RESOLVED, that there be granted to Her Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2019:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Commissions Paid to Collectors of Pari-Mutuel Taxes ...	98,988.47
Provision for Losses	3,752,170.07
OTHER AGENCIES	
New Brunswick Police Commission	50,037.71
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	1,841,021.06
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	
Security and Emergencies Division.....	73,629,699.01
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Child Welfare and Disability Support Services.....	20,833,693.91
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Winter Maintenance.....	11,009,331.07

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Local Service Districts.....	180,616.52

LOANS AND ADVANCES

DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Student Loan Advances	1,865,242.56

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2020-2021, VOLUME I

RESOLVED, that there be granted to Her Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2021:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services.....	8,500,000
Early Childhood Development	10,500,000
School Districts.....	27,000,000
Voted.....	46,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Corporate Services and Community Funding.....	40,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	6,000,000
Part III Health Services.....	104,000,000
Voted.....	110,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY	
Attorney General.....	200,000
Community Safety Division	6,800,000
Justice Services	500,000
Law Enforcement and Inspections Division.....	9,500,000
Security and Emergencies Division.....	25,000,000
Voted.....	42,000,000
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Elections New Brunswick.....	9,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Employment Development	34,750,000

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Child Welfare and Youth Services	1,900,000
Seniors and Long Term Care	14,400,000
Voted.....	16,300,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Tourism.....	3,500,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Buildings Group.....	2,500,000
Maintenance.....	900,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation.....	7,350,000
Winter Maintenance.....	2,000,000
Voted.....	12,750,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment.....	6,000,000

LOANS AND ADVANCES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
New Brunswick Small Business Working Capital	
Loan Program.....	14,000,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Introduction of Bills.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
 Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2018-2019 (1)*.
 Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2020-2021 (1)*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bills 30 and 31 were ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bills were read a second time:

Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2018-2019 (1)*.
 Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2020-2021 (1)*.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2018-2019 (1)*.

Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2020-2021 (1)*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 89, notwithstanding Standing Rule 104, the Legislative Administration Committee be appointed for the duration of the 60th Legislative Assembly and that the membership of the said Committee be as follows:

Hon. Mr. Oliver, Ms. S. Wilson, Ms. Anderson-Mason, Hon. Mr. Savoie, Hon. Ms. Green, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Melanson, Mr. Arseneault, Mr. Coon, Mr. Arseneau, Mr. Austin, and Ms. Conroy; and

THAT, pursuant to section 37 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Legislative Assembly delegate to the Legislative Administration Committee its authority under the Act with respect to amounts, indemnities, allowances and salaries and with respect to the amendment of Schedule A.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

Hon. Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that the comments of Mr. Arseneau were beyond the scope of the motion. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 21 be amended by adding after the first resolution clause the following:

“THAT the Legislative Administration Committee meet in public, except when discussing a personal matter relating to one or more employees of the Assembly or to one or more Assembly offices; a legal matter involving existing or anticipated legal proceedings; or a matter relating to the preparation of annual estimates of expenditures of the Legislative Assembly;”

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

Hon. Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it introduced elements beyond the scope of the motion. Ms. Mitton and Mr. Arseneault spoke on the point of order.

At 2.45 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.06 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members,

I have reviewed the amendment moved by the Member for Kent North and the arguments made for and against.

I certainly understand the Member's passion concerning the deliberations of the Committee. However, the purpose of Motion 21 is to appoint the Legislative Administration Committee, to specify its membership, and to delegate it certain powers.

How the Committee operates or conducts its proceedings is beyond the scope of this motion and not relevant to the purpose of the motion. There is currently a motion on the Order Paper which may offer a more appropriate opportunity to have this debate.

As well, the wording of the second paragraph of the motion mirrors the wording of section 37 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Section 37 does not place restrictions on how the Committee's powers are utilized or how the committee conducts its proceedings. As such, I do not feel comfortable placing restrictions on the delegation of powers beyond those of the said Act as the proposed amendment appears to do. Accordingly, I find the amendment to be out of order.

I would encourage the Member to raise this matter in the Committee, participate in the debate on the motion I referred to earlier, or perhaps move his own motion concerning the deliberations of the Legislative Administration Committee.

Debate resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 21 was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 3.10 p.m., the House adjourned.