

Daily sitting 25

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. K. Chiasson used unparliamentary language when he used the term “truth” in reference to a response by Hon. Mr. Allain. Mr. K. Chiasson withdrew the remark.

Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to respect the Wolastoq Grand Council resolution to halt funding of Small Modular Nuclear Reactor development. (Petition 9)

Mr. Austin, Member for Fredericton-Grand Lake, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to take action on Chipman flood mitigation. (Petition 10)

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 67 that on Thursday, May 20, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS a single recipient on transitional assistance receives \$564 a month;

WHEREAS the Common Front for Social Justice found that the minimum monthly cost of living in Moncton ranges from \$1,262 to \$1,302 a month for a single person;

WHEREAS a single recipient on the extended benefit program receives \$697 a month;

WHEREAS the Common Front for Social Justice found that the minimum monthly cost of living for a single mobility impaired person in Moncton ranges from \$1,368 to \$1,408;

WHEREAS a family of four on transitional assistance receives \$995;

WHEREAS the Human Development Council found that a monthly income of \$5,932 is needed for a family of four in Fredericton to meet their needs, compared to \$5,744 in Saint John, \$5,556 in Moncton, and \$5,431 in Bathurst;

WHEREAS, subject to specific exemptions, the government currently does not allow individuals on social assistance to share accommodations;

WHEREAS the government's wage exemption regulation discourages social assistance recipients from accepting work for more than a few hours per month;

WHEREAS the government currently forces seniors on social assistance to collect their Canada Pension Plans at age 60, resulting in a reduced pension;

WHEREAS work income, disability pension, and survivor benefits are clawed back from social assistance recipients;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend the *Family Income Security Act* Regulation 95-61 to increase the allowable income through work they can keep from \$150 per month to \$500;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to end the Household Income Policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately increase social assistance rates to reduce the number of people living in poverty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to pursue a basic income guarantee pilot for New Brunswickers living with disabilities with the participation of the federal government.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Bill 61; Motion 49.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 35, 36, 37, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58 be called for second reading.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Service New Brunswick Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 35, *An Act Respecting Empowering the School System*, be now read a second time.

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

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

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.

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:

Report on the Operational Review of the
Prescription Monitoring Act, June 2020
Response to Petitions 5, 7

May 10, 2021
May 10, 2021