
Daily sitting 35

Friday, June 4, 2021

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to Motion 60, certain Members participated in House proceedings by virtual means.

Hon. Mr. Crossman, Member for Hampton, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to provide funding to upgrade certain roads. (Petition 12)

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 75 that on Thursday, June 10, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS District Education Councils are the voices of our communities;

WHEREAS the elected members should be congratulated for selflessly putting their names forward to serve for the betterment of the education system;

WHEREAS DEC members play a key role in education at the district level;

WHEREAS, according to the *Education Act*, the DECs are tasked with crucial responsibilities like developing and monitoring education plans and budget expenditures, setting district and governance policy, establishing objectives and expectations, and monitoring performance, to name just a few;

WHEREAS these dedicated volunteers know their communities, know their schools, and are best able to provide invaluable input and guidance;

WHEREAS, in the past, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has shown contempt for the role of the District Education Councils, has lacked respect for their members, and has threatened to disband them when their members did not agree with him;

WHEREAS, despite the fact that we have just elected the members of the District Education Councils, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development is once again musing about disbanding the District Education Councils;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to maintaining the District Education Councils with their duly elected members.

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 76 that on Thursday, June 10, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS the former President of Alcool NB Liquor and Cannabis NB resigned his position in December 2020 to return to the private sector;

WHEREAS over 5 months have elapsed since he left;

WHEREAS we recently learned that the Chair of the ANBL Board, who is a well-known Conservative political operative, having supported the Premier's leadership bid and served as an official agent, has decided that the new president shall not be hired with the assistance of an independent professional executive search firm;

WHEREAS, for such a significant role in managing a \$500 million a year corporation, it is crucial to ensure that the most qualified candidate is selected, and it is irresponsible to not engage a third party professional search firm with human resource expertise;

WHEREAS the Chair of ANBL has a reputation for exceeding his authority as Board Chair, interfering in the day-to-day operations of the corporation;

WHEREAS there is growing concern that the Board Chair does not want an independent firm engaged because he wants to control the outcome of the hiring process;

WHEREAS there is additional concern that the process proposed by the Board Chair could be subject to political interference;

WHEREAS there is a need to maintain public confidence in the selection process and establish the credibility of the chosen candidate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure the candidate selection process for the President of ANBL and Cannabis NB is independent and impartial, and that a third-party search firm be engaged to conduct the search, interview candidates and submit its hiring recommendations.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 77 that on Thursday, June 10, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS investments in energy efficiency help combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve affordability of energy for families and competitiveness for businesses by lowering energy bills, and create a substantial number of local jobs;

WHEREAS, since 2013, the provincial government has funded the Low-Income Energy Savings program with \$2 million per year;

WHEREAS additional investment in the Low-Income Energy Savings program would reduce the current waitlist, which currently has an estimated wait time of approximately 12 months;

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island is planning to invest an additional \$5.6 million towards its Energy Efficiency Equipment Program to allow every household to reduce its carbon footprint;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia announced an investment of \$6.7 million in energy efficiency incentives for affordable housing projects and \$3.5 million to provide incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses and non-profit organizations;

WHEREAS, through Efficiency One, Nova Scotia is avoiding more than 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, reducing electricity use by 11%, and saving more than \$1 billion on energy costs;

WHEREAS New Brunswick spends \$17.77 on energy efficiency per household in energy poverty, compared to Prince Edward Island, which spends \$214.99, and Nova Scotia, which spends \$120.88;

WHEREAS a major program to retrofit homes and businesses would be an engine of economic growth for our province, increasing our GDP by \$2 to \$3 billion annually and creating between 900 and 1,300 jobs every year, while shrinking our carbon footprint;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish zero-interest loans of up to \$10,000 to furnish the capital for cost-effective energy and renewable heat and power retrofits of homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to transfer energy efficiency and heating upgrade programs to a new non-profit agency modelled on Nova Scotia's Efficiency One.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, deferred third reading of Bills 48, 51 and 53 to Tuesday, June 8, 2021, and announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 62 be called for second reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act.*
Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act.*
Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*
Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act.*
Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Combat Sport Act.*
Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act.*
Bill 47, *Loan Act 2021.*
Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Limitation of Actions Act.*
Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Gaming Control Act.*
Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.*
Bill 54, *An Act Respecting the Operation of the Order Relating to COVID-19 under the Emergency Measures Act.*
Bill 57, *An Act to Amend the Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act.*
Bill 58, *Bee Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Private Bill 62, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Keystone General Insurance Company*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 62 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 62, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Keystone General Insurance Company*, was read a second time.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bill 62 for third reading forthwith.

The following Private Bill was read a third time:

Bill 62, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Keystone General Insurance Company.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

And then, 10.20 a.m., the House adjourned.

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

Response to Petition 9

June 3, 2021