



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

First Session, 60th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 37
Wednesday, June 9, 2021

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Prayers
Introduction of Guests
Statements of Condolence and Congratulation
Statements by Members
Oral Questions (30 minutes)
Tabling of Documents
Statements by Ministers
Presentations of Petitions
Answers to Petitions and Written Questions
Presentations of Committee Reports
Introduction of Bills
Notices of Motions
Notice of Opposition Members' Business
Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
Deferred Recorded Divisions
Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR THIRD READING

Bill 55, An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act – Hon. Ms. Shephard
 Bill 56, An Act to Amend the Medical Consent of Minors Act – Hon. Ms. Shephard

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act – Mr. D'Amours
 Bill 35, An Act Respecting Empowering the School System – Hon. Mr. Cardy
 Bill 36, An Act to Amend the Highway Act – Hon. Ms. Green
 Bill 42, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Hon. Mr. Savoie
 Bill 43, An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act
 – Hon. Mr. Savoie

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Bill 64, An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Podiatry – Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AMENDMENTS

Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act – Mr. K. Chiasson
 Bill 61, An Act to Amend the Human Tissue Gift Act – Mr. D'Amours

BILLS AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT

Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Insurance Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 34, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act – Hon. Mr. Holland
 Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Service New Brunswick Act – Hon. Ms. M. Wilson
 Bill 40, An Act to Amend the Opportunities New Brunswick Act – Hon. Ms. Dunn
 Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Combat Sport Act – Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace
 Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 47, Loan Act 2021 – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 48, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Limitation of Actions Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 50, An Act to Amend the Gaming Control Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 51, An Act Respecting Image-capturing Enforcement Systems – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Provincial Offences Procedure Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 53, An Act Respecting the Police Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 54, An Act Respecting the Operation of the Order Relating to COVID-19 under the Emergency Measures Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
 Bill 57, An Act to Amend the Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act – Hon. Ms. Dunn
 Bill 58, Bee Act – Hon. Ms. Johnson
 Bill 59, Appropriations Act 2021-2022 – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 60, Supplementary Appropriations Act 2019-2020 (1) – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 62, An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Keystone General Insurance Company – Mr. Carr

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion 24 by Hon. Mr. Savoie, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, December 15, 2020:

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.

CONCLUDED

Motion 1 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried November 18, 2020.

Motion 2 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried November 18, 2020.

Motion 14 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried November 18, 2020.

Motion 15 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried November 20, 2020.

Motion 17 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried November 20, 2020.

Motion 18 by Hon. Ms. Green. Carried November 24, 2020.

Motion 20 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Carried December 8, 2020.

Motion 21 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Debated and carried December 16, 2020.

Motion 22 by Hon. Mr. Steeves. Debated and carried December 15, 2020.

Motion 27 by Hon. Mr. Higgs. Carried December 18, 2020.

Motion 28 by Hon. Mr. Steeves. Debated March 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26, and carried March 26, 2021.

Motion 58 by Hon. Mr. Cardy. Debated and carried March 25, 2021.

Motion 60 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Debated March 25 and May 11, and carried May 11, 2021.

Motion 61 by Hon. Mr. Savoie. Debated and carried May 18, 2021.

Motion 66 by Hon. Mr. Higgs. Carried May 11, 2021.

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 70 by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Hogan to propose the following resolution on Friday, May 21, 2021:

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, May 18, 2021, and shall remain in effect for the remainder of the First Session of the 60th Legislative Assembly.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING

Bill 63, An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act – Mr. D'Amours

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Elections Act – Mr. Chiasson

Bill 26, An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act – Mr. Gauvin

Bill 29, Local Food Security Act – Mr. Arseneau

Bill 39, An Act to Amend the Auditor General Act – Mr. McKee

Bill 46, Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act – Mr. Gauvin

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 5 by Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. D'Amours to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS the various communities that make up New Brunswick are committed to the preservation and development of their respective cultural identities;

WHEREAS countries are becoming more and more economically integrated and it is all the more important that cultural communities be able to preserve their identity and a strong sense of belonging;

WHEREAS entrepreneurs in the book chain such as bookstores and publishers in New Brunswick play a fundamental role in the development of the book industry and literacy in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Canadian Free Trade Agreement adopted in 2017 includes Article 809, which constitutes a cultural exception that allows for the adoption and maintenance of programs and policies favouring the distribution and development of artistic expression or content;

WHEREAS all international trade agreements signed by Canada provide exceptions for cultural industries;

WHEREAS entrepreneurs in the book chain are suffering the financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and no additional assistance is currently provided to them by the provincial government;

WHEREAS stakeholders in the cultural industry have been calling for the implementation of a book purchasing policy since the adoption of the New Brunswick Book Policy in 2009;

WHEREAS a book purchasing policy would make it possible to consolidate the local book chain and foster the development of reading of works produced in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop and implement a book purchasing policy requiring institutional purchasers, including government departments and agencies, school districts, schools and agencies under their jurisdiction, and public libraries, to acquire books from New Brunswick independent bookstores and publishing houses.

Motion 6 by Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. Gauvin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS the direct contribution of cultural industries to New Brunswick's GDP was \$550,379,000 in 2017;

WHEREAS the number of jobs related to culture in New Brunswick was 7,750 in 2017;

WHEREAS the typical artist had a median income of \$24,200 in 2016, an amount that is 38% less than the median income of the New Brunswick labour force, which is \$38,800;

WHEREAS there is no legislation on the status of the professional artist in New Brunswick and no body to assess and define the legal status of artists, resulting in a lack of recognition of status and the existence of glaring socio-economic inequalities for those in the profession;

WHEREAS most artists do not have access to employment insurance, health insurance, measures covering business risks and fluctuating income, workplace safety insurance or retirement on comparable terms as other professionals;

WHEREAS current programs covering benefits, employment insurance and pension plans are employee-based and do not take into account the realities of the artistic profession such as invisible work, which includes research and creation;

WHEREAS improving the socio-economic conditions of artists requires a link between the governments of New Brunswick and Canada, particularly with respect to: social benefits such as the pension plan; tax measures that take into account annual fluctuations in income, such as income averaging, exemptions on royalties and creation grants; measures related to remuneration and underemployment, such as a guaranteed annual income or employment insurance better adapted to self-employed workers and taking into account invisible work and the periodicity of earnings; measures providing for sick, parental or compassionate leave;

WHEREAS the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist was established in July 2014 and is expected to report shortly;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge government to commit to the adoption of a Status of the Artist Act that is not merely declaratory but that contains concrete measures to substantially improve the socio-economic status of professional artists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish, following the tabling of the report of the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist, a Standing Committee on the Status of the Artist under the Office of the Premier to be responsible for the implementation of all of the report's recommendations, including those calling for a link between the provincial and federal governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put in place, following the tabling of the report of the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist, a timeline for the implementation of the recommended government measures to cover all of the economic and social risks associated with the artistic profession, including those that call for a link between the provincial and federal governments.

Motion 7 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Landry to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court offers an alternative for offenders with mental health issues;

WHEREAS this program is widely praised by mental health advocates for its focus on community treatment as opposed to incarceration or other penalties;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court program was developed based on best practices in other jurisdictions and informed by research;

WHEREAS the Gallant Government reinstated the Mental Health Court through the Provincial Court system in Saint John with plans to expand Mental Health Court services throughout the province;

WHEREAS there is a need to expand the Mental Health Court program to other regions of the province so that more offenders with mental health issues can avail themselves of this invaluable service for addressing their mental health needs;

WHEREAS other provinces including our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia have recognized the benefits of having a Mental Health Court and have made a commitment to expanding availability;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expand the Mental Health Court program throughout the province and announce a specific time frame for doing so.

Motion 8 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Ms. Thériault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS there is an alarming lack of affordable housing in many areas of the province and the situation is getting worse;

WHEREAS increased demand for rental units has resulted in significant increases to monthly rents for many people who cannot afford it;

WHEREAS there is insufficient subsidized housing to meet the demand;

WHEREAS chronic homelessness is a serious social problem that must be addressed;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the previous Liberal government signed a 10-year \$300-million cost-shared agreement with the federal government to tackle the issue of affordable housing;

WHEREAS this agreement provided for a pathway to protect, renew, and expand social and community housing;

WHEREAS municipalities like the City of Moncton have indicated that they are prepared to partner with the community and the province to make significant investments in social housing and support community housing initiatives like the Rising Tide project;

WHEREAS there have been two years of inaction by the Higgs government in addressing this serious issue that is a threat to the safety and security of many New Brunswickers who desperately need affordable housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to provide its share of the funding under the federal-provincial housing agreement and make affordable housing a priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to partner with municipalities and community housing organizations to provide funding support for community housing initiatives.

Motion 9 by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS, as a result of the Climate Change Fund, the province is receiving significant tax revenues of over \$128 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which includes \$83 million going into general revenues;

WHEREAS, unlike the federal government, the province of New Brunswick has decided not to rebate the monies received through the federal carbon pricing plan to consumers;

WHEREAS, although certain tax revenues are being used to offset increases in excise taxes on gasoline and natural gas, there are additional tax revenues that could be used for funding climate change measures such as energy efficiency initiatives;

WHEREAS energy efficiency programs help businesses and consumers reduce energy consumption costs, support local business suppliers, and create jobs;

WHEREAS energy efficiency programs contribute to fighting the impacts of climate change:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to direct that all additional carbon pricing revenues beyond those used to offset fuel prices be used to create a comprehensive energy efficiency and retrofit program for businesses and residential property owners and any excess be directed to other climate change initiatives.

Motion 10 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. McKee to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS we are fortunate that many New Brunswick businesses are able to stay open despite the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which are seeing their revenues reduced significantly and are struggling to survive;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has provided very little support for businesses, compared to other provinces;

WHEREAS generous business support programs provided by the federal government such as the wage subsidy program have helped many businesses survive that might otherwise have had to close or downsize significantly;

WHEREAS many New Brunswick businesses are worried about how they will survive when the federal subsidies are no longer available;

WHEREAS, unlike the federal business support programs and those of other provinces, the meagre business support programs provided by the Government of New Brunswick are non-forgivable loans that merely add to the debt of a business and put it at further risk;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has not even provided financial support to help businesses pay for the cost of personal protective equipment for their employees or to offset the costs they have incurred to modify their business premises to accommodate health and safety requirements imposed under the Emergency Order;

WHEREAS small and medium-sized businesses and the jobs they provide are crucial to our economy and are deserving of needed support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the Government of New Brunswick to bring forward a more comprehensive program of financial support to help New Brunswick businesses survive the pandemic.

Motion 11 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. Mallet to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS there are many areas within New Brunswick that do not have adequate access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS access to high-speed Internet is crucial for many businesses and the lack of high-speed Internet creates an economic disadvantage for them in communities where it is not available;

WHEREAS access to high-speed Internet is also vital for individuals and communities;

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government invested \$10 million in high-speed Internet and was committed to ensuring all areas of the province would have access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, many students in our regular school program have had to access learning programs remotely, and there is a risk that, in the event of a further outbreak requiring the closure of schools, they and probably more students may have to do so again;

WHEREAS parents of students living in areas without access to high-speed Internet have expressed concern about the educational disadvantage faced by their children;

WHEREAS many post-secondary institutions have moved to an online platform to deliver their education and training programs and postsecondary students require access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers are now asked to work from home and thus need access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS many health services, including doctors' visits, are increasingly being delivered virtually as a result of the health and safety restrictions associated with the pandemic;

WHEREAS individuals, businesses, and communities in mostly rural areas of the province deserve access to high-speed Internet;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to make access to high-speed Internet for all areas of the province a top priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest in the necessary infrastructure to ensure access to high-speed Internet.

Motion 12 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic, there have been significant job losses including layoffs at WestJet, Mount Allison University, Air Canada, the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, and Caribou Mine;

WHEREAS many small businesses all over the province have also suffered as a result of the pandemic which caused reduced business revenues;

WHEREAS other provinces are announcing programs to spur economic recovery with strategic infrastructure investments;

WHEREAS the Higgs government has made very few infrastructure investments under the Canada-New Brunswick Infrastructure Agreement signed by the previous Liberal government;

WHEREAS, unlike other premiers, Premier Higgs has indicated that he is not interested in the new federal-provincial infrastructure program that provides an even more generous cost-sharing structure for provinces;

WHEREAS there are many worthwhile and beneficial infrastructure projects that would create jobs and spur economic growth at a time when we should be focused on economic recovery;

WHEREAS there are many critical municipal infrastructure needs that could be addressed through the proposed federal-provincial infrastructure program;

WHEREAS, not only will strategic infrastructure investments create jobs and spur economic growth, these investments will help address serious issues like the challenge of climate change, and avoid future costs;

WHEREAS, if New Brunswick does not make strategic infrastructure investments, economists predict that economic recovery will be slow and other provinces will recover at a much faster rate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to recognize the importance of economic recovery and take advantage of the federal-provincial infrastructure program by making strategic infrastructure investments throughout the province a top priority.

Motion 13 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS the pandemic has created considerable challenges for the daycare sector;

WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic, licenced daycares must implement health and safety measures that add additional expenses, including extra staffing;

WHEREAS, as a result of this additional cost burden, many daycare operators are struggling to keep their businesses open;

WHEREAS having access to daycare services is critical for many parents, including health care workers;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government has not stepped up to assist licenced daycares;

WHEREAS, without additional support, there is a risk that many licenced daycares may have to close;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put a support program in place to support licenced daycares which includes financial support to New Brunswick daycare operators.

Motion 16 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. Landry to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 26, 2020:

WHEREAS New Brunswick adopted the *Official Languages Act* in 1969, before Canada had even adopted an official languages act;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada;

WHEREAS the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada both have standing committees on official languages;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick *Official Languages Act* contains a requirement that it be reviewed every 10 years;

WHEREAS the *Official Languages Act* is exceptional in that it prevails over all New Brunswick acts and regulations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a standing committee on official languages;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this committee enable its members, among other things, to play an active role in the review and the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and *An Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick*, in the 10-year review of the *Official Languages Act*, and in the review of reports from the Commissioner of Official Languages;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT no party have a majority of members on this committee to ensure that no current or future government can make unilateral decisions regarding official languages.

Motion 19 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 17, 2020:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is creating a great deal of uncertainty for anyone who is forced to move out of their apartment, especially in orange zones;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia instituted a rent cap of 2% for existing tenants, retroactive to September 1, 2020, that will remain in place until February 2021 or the state of emergency is lifted, whichever comes first;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has banned renovictions until February 2021 or when the state of emergency is lifted, whichever comes first;

WHEREAS renters in New Brunswick are facing similar problems to those in Nova Scotia due to a low vacancy rate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put a cap on rental increases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ban lease terminations due to renovations, also known as renovictions, until February 2021, or when the state of emergency in New Brunswick is lifted, whichever comes first.

Motion 23 by Mr. Melanson, seconded by Mr. Arseneault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 17, 2020:

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.

Motion 26 by Mr. Melanson, seconded by Mr. Arseneault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 24, 2020:

WHEREAS 49 MLAs represent the interests of their constituents throughout the province in the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS every Member of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to participate fully in the business of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, under the guidance of Public Health and Public Safety, the province has enacted an Emergency Order that imposes certain restrictions on gatherings which may vary from one region of the province to another based on outbreaks of the virus;

WHEREAS parliamentary bodies have had to adapt to the new reality of COVID-19 and modify the rules for participation by elected members in the affairs of Parliaments and/or Legislative Assemblies;

WHEREAS the technology is available to permit all elected members to participate in the affairs of the Legislative Assembly remotely through virtual participation;

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada and other Legislative Assemblies have adopted the use of technologies that provide for virtual participation;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly has not adapted the use of technology for virtual participation for routine proceedings;

WHEREAS, given the ongoing threat of COVID-19, some Members of the Legislative Assembly may be reluctant to attend the Legislative Assembly out of concern for themselves and others;

WHEREAS a Member of the Legislative Assembly who might not be in favour of virtual technology should not be able to subvert the will of the Legislative Administration Committee whose members are supportive of using the technology for virtual sittings of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Economic Policy met and agreed to use virtual technology that would permit elected members to participate remotely;

WHEREAS the technology is available, has been tested, and can be put in operation right away;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Speaker to ensure that technology is immediately adopted in the Legislative Assembly that allows for virtual participation in the affairs of the Legislative Assembly.

Motion 29 by Mr. Melanson, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant negative impact on New Brunswick businesses and the economy;

WHEREAS a new report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business indicates that one in four small and medium-sized businesses in New Brunswick is at risk of closing;

WHEREAS the report further indicates that the findings in New Brunswick were among the worst in the country;

WHEREAS, in response to concerns about the state of businesses, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce CEO Krista Ross, expressing the need for business support and concern about austerity, wrote in an op-ed on January 28, 2021, that the first order of business must be *“supporting the businesses that are here now, that have been hanging on by an increasingly fraying thread this past year”*;

WHEREAS economist Richard Saillant wrote in an article January 15, 2021, entitled *“Higgs deficit obsession threatens New Brunswick’s recovery”*: *“New Brunswick, meanwhile is doing much less to support its people, businesses and communities”* and *“Yet there is little to suggest that Higgs has a credible plan to ensure a successful recovery”*;

WHEREAS economist Herb Emery, in an article featured in *Huddle* on May 10, 2020, warned that *“For New Brunswick, a province that was struggling before the pandemic, the outbreak is exacerbating existing economic issues”*;

WHEREAS a recent opinion piece in *L’Acadie Nouvelle* on June 3, 2020, recognized that New Brunswick will need to rely more on its resources in the years to come and there must be a focus on economic growth;

WHEREAS economists like Donald Savoie have indicated publicly that we need to invest in growth areas like the food industry to transform our economy;

WHEREAS, in a *L’Acadie Nouvelle* article dated January 15, 2021, economist Pierre-Marcel Desjardins, comparing the significant investments being made by other provinces, echoed the concerns of OECD economist Laurence Boone about the dangers of fiscal rigour at this time and the need for stimulus investments;

WHEREAS an increasing number of business leaders and economists are echoing a concern about the lack of business support and investment in New Brunswick, the lack of a plan for economic growth, and a preoccupation by the Premier with cuts and budget tightening;

WHEREAS the Premier has gutted ONB, which played a key role in job creation;

WHEREAS the Higgs government ranks dead last in provincial support for the private sector;

WHEREAS, unlike other provinces, New Brunswick is not taking advantage of significant cost-shared infrastructure and program funding being offered by the federal government;

WHEREAS the provincial government has not brought forward an economic recovery plan with a focus on business support and economic growth;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to introduce, as soon as possible, an economic recovery plan that builds on the innovative products, services, and business practices born of necessity and of New Brunswick ingenuity to boost our economic growth potential;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to focus the plan on bold ideas focused on exports and domestic opportunities, tourism and hospitality, addressing our labour shortage through training and population growth, housing, supply chain management, food security, green economy, advanced manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, information technology, cybersecurity, and research and development, supported by strategic investments in partnership with government and the private sector;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to make New Brunswick's economic recovery plan inclusive of women, newcomers, and Indigenous communities.

Motion 30 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

WHEREAS the legislative branch of government is independent from the executive branch of government;

WHEREAS, despite this independence, it is the Executive Council that ultimately nominates Legislative Officers when a vacancy occurs or an office is created;

WHEREAS there is a growing chorus of voices that suggest that in order to avoid conflicts of interest, the appointment process for Legislative Officers should be independent of the Executive Council;

WHEREAS Brent White, an Associate Professor at Mount Allison University and former auditor with the provincial Auditor General, recently released a dissertation calling for changes to the selection process for the next Auditor General to foster public confidence in the appointment process;

WHEREAS, in 2010, Queen's University Business Professor Steven Salterio raised similar concerns;

WHEREAS the Premier has moved to consolidate power in the Executive Council Office, raising even greater concerns about the need for independence in the selection process;

WHEREAS there is a need to maintain public confidence in the selection process for Legislative Officers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to review the selection process for Legislative Officers and bring forward a revised selection process that is independent of the Executive Council.

Motion 47 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Conroy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

WHEREAS there are approximately 26,000 small businesses in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the small business tax rate in New Brunswick is 2.5% and the general rate is 14%;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is one of Canada's most open provinces, with CFIB indicating that 67% of small businesses in the province are fully open and 24% of those have normal sales;

WHEREAS dozens of Chambers of Commerce agree that a reduced tax would be of great benefit to small businesses and would assist them through the difficulties they are facing and would allow them to continue operating;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to eliminate the Corporate Income Tax on small business during the state of emergency.

Motion 48 by Ms. Conroy, seconded by Mr. Austin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

WHEREAS in New Brunswick there is an urgent need to reduce healthcare wait times;

WHEREAS optometrists have indicated a willingness to take an expanded role to ease the backlog and to improve wait times;

WHEREAS these organizations have stated that billing for these services will remain with third party insurance companies and/or direct patient billing;

WHEREAS this will not place an added financial burden on the provincial Medicare system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Health and the Government of New Brunswick to take immediate action to expand the scope of optometry to include treatment of glaucoma and oral medications for eye conditions.

Motion 50 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Mr. Melanson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

WHEREAS, in January 2017, a 10-year aging strategy entitled *We are all in this together: An Aging Strategy for New Brunswick* was released;

WHEREAS the strategy was created under the *Healthy Aging and Long-term Care Act* which provides for the creation of an Aging Secretariat with certain responsibilities including tracking actions under the strategy;

WHEREAS the Auditor General undertook a review of the aging strategy and the progress made in implementing the action items contained in the strategy;

WHEREAS the Auditor General found that the Department of Social Development had failed to set targets for the initiative "Access to care and services" which was designed to improve access to adequate care for seniors;

WHEREAS the Auditor General further found that the department had failed to develop an implementation plan for the aging strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to set specific targets for its "Access to care and services" initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop an implementation plan for the aging strategy with clear objectives, performance indicators for success, relevant program inputs and outputs required to achieve action items, a progress monitoring plan, and a timeline for when and how results will be reported.

Motion 51 by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed through the various phases, many in-person services provided by government to the members of the public were limited;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the need for the public to continue to access many of the government programs and services during the pandemic, many more services were offered online;

WHEREAS, while it is commendable that government will make access to more programs and services available online, there is a concern for many New Brunswickers who are unable to access online services;

WHEREAS the reasons for being unable to access online services include factors such as lack of access to high-speed Internet, lack of technological literacy, and lack of access to computers, tablets, or other devices;

WHEREAS a lack of future access to many in-person services for people seeking government programs and services will disadvantage many New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that in-person access to government programs and services is not significantly reduced as a result of a move to increase availability of online services when eased health restrictions permit these services to be offered.

Motion 55 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Conroy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

WHEREAS Lexi Daken's tragic case is not an isolated incident, as there are many health zones with many cases;

WHEREAS the demand for mental health services in New Brunswick has seen a dramatic jump in the past five years with 117,000 people receiving help from CMHC in New Brunswick through online services from April to December 2020;

WHEREAS New Brunswick provides between 4% and 7% of the public health care budget to mental health;

WHEREAS CMHC has been advocating for mental health parity with physical health care resources, but no government has yet raised the mental health care budget;

WHEREAS mental health problems manifest physically in the body and, too often, doctors and nurses in the ER do not have sufficient training in mental health to identify the signs and provide the care these people need;

WHEREAS low to moderate cases are placing a huge strain on the health system and the ER is not the best place for people with mental health illness to go;

WHEREAS, before COVID-19, 2% of New Brunswickers had suicidal thoughts, in April 2020 that number increased to 6%, and, in the fall of 2020, that number jumped to 10%;

WHEREAS, in 2018, suicide was the leading cause of death among male youth aged 15 to 19 and was the second leading cause of death among female youth in Canada;

WHEREAS there are over 100 suicides in New Brunswick each year, and New Brunswick has a higher suicide rate per capita than any other province (particularly among men);

WHEREAS 70,000 people in New Brunswick do not have a family doctor, thus ending up at the ER, and the current wait time for specialists such as psychiatrists through the province is 12 months;

WHEREAS approximately 40% of those people who use virtual healthcare to see doctors and nurse practitioners online (allowing people to be assessed quickly) do not have a family doctor;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to issue a directive for both the Horizon and Vitalité Health Authorities that no minor will be turned away when presenting themselves at any Department of Health facility without being properly evaluated for their mental health concerns.

Motion 56 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Conroy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

WHEREAS rural hospitals face unit closures or shutdowns for periods of time due to staffing shortages;

WHEREAS New Brunswick health authorities are unable to recruit enough doctors to address the need of countless people who are waiting for a family physician;

WHEREAS nurses who take 811 calls cannot diagnose or treat people who call NB tele-care;

WHEREAS virtual healthcare allows patients to see doctors and nurse practitioners online providing access, diagnosis, and treatment quickly without patients leaving their home;

WHEREAS the mental health crisis, overcrowded emergency rooms, and doctor shortages are among the many issues the province's broken healthcare system could address through a virtual care model;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions throughout North America have had success with various virtual care models including 20 hospitals in Canada using some form of virtual care in their ER departments;

WHEREAS since 2020, the eVisitNB virtual healthcare platform had over 13,000 visits to its platform from people who are being seen by doctors and nurse practitioners currently working in the province when they are available.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to expand the use of virtual care in emergency rooms, rural clinics, and any other healthcare facility under the Department of Health as well as promoting access to virtual care availability for patients outside these facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to give the virtual care model equal remuneration to that of in person visits as it relates to Physician and Nurse Practitioner billing.

Motion 57 by Ms. Conroy, seconded by Mr. Austin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

WHEREAS the Auditor General's Report indicated the number of New Brunswick seniors aged 75 and older will double by 2036;

WHEREAS nursing home waitlists continue to grow, and there continue to be long wait times for nursing home placements, thus creating added pressure and costs for hospitals as about half of those seniors are waiting in hospitals;

WHEREAS, as indicated in the 2011-16 Nursing Home Renovation and Replacement Plan (as of November 2020), of the 704 specialized memory care beds to be added, only 428 were completed and 276 were not;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Nurses Union has called on government to order an independent inquiry into the long-term care sector, citing increasing severity of several issues, including low staffing ratios, residents going without basic personal care, and an increase in violence;

WHEREAS the Department of Social Development has produced a 2011-2016 Nursing Home Renovation and Replacement Plan, a 2018-2023 Nursing Home Plan and a 10-year Aging Strategy in collaboration with other stakeholders and, also taking into consideration the Department of Finance and Treasury Board's financial analysis of the nursing home delivery model, the Department of Social Development has failed to address the nursing home capacity demand;

WHEREAS the Auditor General made the recommendation in the 2016 Auditor General Report that the Department of Social Development evaluate whether there is an economic benefit to providing nursing home beds under the for-profit model versus the traditional model, and the recommendation has not been implemented;

WHEREAS the Department of Social Development needs to compare actual costs and overall quality of service to determine if the for-profit operated model has more economic benefit than the traditional model;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Social Development to initiate and release a report on the comparison of actual costs of providing nursing home services under the for-profit model versus the traditional public model, and, in addition, do a detailed comparison of quality of service between the two models.

Motion 63 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 1, 2021:

WHEREAS, in 2018, 579 sexual assaults were reported to the police in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick has seen a 27% increase in sexual assaults reported to the police since 2012;

WHEREAS the number of people charged with sexual assault in New Brunswick has dropped from 53.2% to 36.3% since 2012;

WHEREAS 87% of sexual assault victims in New Brunswick were women, and almost half of these victims were under the age of 18;

WHEREAS a *Globe and Mail* article published in February 2017 entitled *Will the Police Believe You?* found that Canada's national average of unfounded complaints for reported sexual assault was 32% in New Brunswick, the highest in Canada;

WHEREAS, in Canada, Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience sexual assault;

WHEREAS people who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual are twice as likely to report experiencing violent victimization compared to those who identify as heterosexual;

WHEREAS 61% of trans youth surveyed in Atlantic Canada aged 14-18 reported they had experienced sexual harassment within the past year;

WHEREAS sexual violence can have long-lasting impacts on survivors, being linked to mental health difficulties, including depression and PTSD, feelings of shame, self-blame, fear, and distressing memories of the experience;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Women's Council advises that the government increase funding for preventing and responding to sexual violence and improve police response to sexual violence;

WHEREAS, in 2019, 71% of students in Canadian post-secondary institutions witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a post-secondary setting;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to fully implement and fund the recommendations and actions in *Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in New Brunswick: A Framework for Action*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to examine the gaps in victims services provision through the Department of Justice and Public Safety, to identify and address gaps, especially in relation to where the crime occurred;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase funding for frontline services, including transition houses, and increase funding for trauma-informed support services, including access for all public post-secondary campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to adopt legislation requiring standalone campus violence policies for all publicly-funded universities and including provisions ensuring student involvement in the drafting and amending process, as well as built in metrics to guarantee the clarity of the reporting structure at each institution.

Motion 64 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 20, 2021:

WHEREAS no worker should fear losing their job as a result of getting ill or having to take care of a family member;

WHEREAS the pandemic has made it clear that minimum wage workers do essential work in our communities and do not receive a fair wage for it;

WHEREAS workers who work overtime in New Brunswick are only required to receive overtime pay at one and a half times the minimum wage, and not one and a half times their wage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to give all workers access to 5 paid sick days and 10 additional emergency days, if required due to a health pandemic or other emergency situation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to increasing the minimum wage to \$13 an hour by April 1, 2022, and to \$15 an hour by April 1, 2023;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that workers receive overtime pay of one and a half times their wage.

Motion 65 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Conroy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 20, 2021:

WHEREAS over 5 million cubic meters of New Brunswick Crown wood is utilized in the New Brunswick forest industry annually;

WHEREAS the taxpayers of New Brunswick pay to manage this land from budget items including \$19 million dollars for Crown land silviculture and an additional \$20 million of taxpayers dollars for forest management fees to private companies;

WHEREAS the price of finished forest products, according to *Madison's Lumber Report*, have risen from \$450 US per 1000 board feet to over \$1,600 US in 2021 for eastern spruce/fir lumber;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Government has changed regulations to restrict the use of unstamped lumber in construction projects across the province that has been successfully used for centuries in our province across rural New Brunswick in buildings that are still standing to this day;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Government has only provided a temporary, stop-gap interim measure to address this growing and costly situation;

WHEREAS the price of finished lumber across the province at all lumber warehouses has correspondingly increased to nearly 4 times their former prices for materials used in our construction industry, which is presently derailing investment and construction of commercial and residential properties;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to convene immediately a task force/working group to brainstorm ideas and remedies within the next 60 days to address this current situation.

Motion 67 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 20, 2021:

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.

Motion 68 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 20, 2021:

WHEREAS it is estimated that Canadian companies avoid paying at least \$6 to \$8 billion in Canadian income taxes annually;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Statistics Canada reported that the Irving companies were owned by eight offshore holding companies based in Bermuda, a known tax haven with a 0% corporate income tax rate;

WHEREAS, in 2018, it was reported that Service New Brunswick and the Department of Finance were working on a beneficial ownership registry for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS, during question period on December 19, 2019, the Premier said that the government "is considering beneficial ownership amendments within the context of the potential modernization of the *Business Corporations Act*";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ban financial assistance to any companies that are known to use tax havens as a means of avoiding paying New Brunswick or Canadian income taxes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table legislation to implement a publicly accessible beneficial ownership registry by December 31, 2021.

Motion 69 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 20, 2021:

WHEREAS climate change is already having negative impacts in New Brunswick and, if not addressed, will have devastating effects on all aspects of the province's environment, economy, and society;

WHEREAS the sector of transportation is currently one of the largest contributors to New Brunswick's greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for 28% of the total greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS in New Brunswick cars and trucks burn more than 1.1 billion liters of gasoline each year, emitting more than 2.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere;

WHEREAS switching to an electric vehicle can lessen the contribution to climate change, extreme weather events, and smog related health problems by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 80%;

WHEREAS the government has failed to meet New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan target of having 2,500 electric vehicles on the road, and currently has approximately 730 electric vehicles on the road;

WHEREAS the government has failed to implement an electric vehicle strategy that specifies the required incentives, regulations, policies, programs, and charging infrastructure to achieve provincial targets for electric vehicles;

WHEREAS the province of Nova Scotia has announced incentives of \$3,000 for the purchase of a new electric vehicle and \$2,000 for the purchase of a used electric vehicle, in addition to the federal rebate;

WHEREAS the province of Prince Edward Island has announced a similar rebate consisting of \$5,000 for the purchase of a new or used electric vehicle;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to offer rebates for purchasing new and used electric vehicles to meet the provincial target of having 20,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to collaborate with municipal and local governments to expand cleaner alternative transportation options such as electric vehicles, public transit, carpooling, ride-sharing, bicycling, and walking;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to advance public transportation planning at the regional level to allow for route integration and improvements in access.

Motion 71 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 27, 2021:

WHEREAS the mental health care system in New Brunswick is failing to meet people's needs due to long waitlists, access issues, and underfunding;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified feelings of stress and anxiety, causing alarming levels of despair, suicidal thought, and hopelessness in New Brunswick's population;

WHEREAS there are challenges to access mental health services in New Brunswick, where wait times can last from 6 to 18 months for service;

WHEREAS suicide remains the second leading cause of death in Canada among young people aged 15 to 24, and New Brunswick has the highest suicide rate per capita in Canada;

WHEREAS the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate recognized that New Brunswick is lacking an effective provincial strategy for youth suicide prevention;

WHEREAS the Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick estimates that the percentage of the provincial population having suicidal or self-harm thoughts has increased from about 2% to 10% in the last year;

WHEREAS the Canadian Mental Health Association recommends increasing mental health spending to 9% of the total health budget, yet the provincial government has allotted in its 2021-2022 budget only 5.5% of the total health budget;

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly urged the government for the creation of the Mental Health Advocate in 2019, and yet this position has not been created;

WHEREAS there is a chronic shortage of registered school psychologists, with 23 of 38 funded positions in the Anglophone sector vacant and 14 of 38 funded positions in the Francophone sector vacant;

WHEREAS ongoing staff shortages forced the four-bed Inpatient Youth and Wellness Unit at the Moncton Hospital to merge with the Provincial Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit, bringing the total number of beds for youth in crisis from 10 down to 6;

WHEREAS a central system of governance for the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) program would ensure that the sharing of information and financial resources among the ISD partners flow in a timely manner to properly address a child's need;

WHEREAS the death of 16-year-old Lexi Daken, who committed suicide after waiting in an emergency room for over 8 hours to see a psychiatrist and never saw one, has sparked calls for the New Brunswick government to transform the mental health care system, specifically on how it is being delivered to young people;

WHEREAS, as a response to the mental health and addiction crisis in New Brunswick, the provincial government has launched a 5-year Inter-Departmental Mental Health and Addiction Action Plan, which will establish 14 mental health clinics across the province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to add 24-hour emergency mental health services to the mental health walk-in clinics being established around the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to increase the proportion of health spending devoted to mental health to 9%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create a new government department responsible for child and youth services, with a legislative mandate to ensure the integration of services to children and youth across all government departments and agencies.

Motion 72 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 27, 2021:

WHEREAS NB Power met its target to have 40% of the total in-province electricity sales in kilowatt-hours in electricity from renewable resources by December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS NB Power no longer has a renewable energy target;

WHEREAS the State of Maine, which also currently receives 40% of its electricity needs from renewable resources, has a target of 80% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% by 2050;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is committed to have all government offices using renewable electricity by 2025;

WHEREAS municipalities and First Nations across New Brunswick could use cheap, renewable energy to power their government operations, but are prevented from doing so by provisions in the *Electricity Act*;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to update the renewable energy portfolio requirements under the *Electricity from Renewable Resources Regulation (2015-60)* under the *Electricity Act* with targets to have 80% renewable energy on the grid by 2030 and 100% renewable energy on the grid by 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table a plan to be carbon-neutral in its operation by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reduce barriers to generating green energy by allowing municipalities and First Nations to directly purchase small-scale, New Brunswick-based renewable energy for use in their government operations.

Motion 73 by Mr. D'Amours, seconded by Mr. Arseneault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 27, 2021:

WHEREAS, according to the Nurses Association of New Brunswick, the Nurses' Union, and the CEOs of the health authorities, there is a severe shortage of nurses in the province with serious implications for our health system if the shortage is not addressed;

WHEREAS the health authorities told a Legislative committee that the province has a shortage of 520 nurses per year;

WHEREAS the shortage is estimated to be upwards of 5 000 nurses in the next five years;

WHEREAS, in a move that boggles the mind, the Higgs government cut \$9 million from funding for nurse training;

WHEREAS, despite evidence that shows that NB nurses are amongst the lowest paid in Canada and statistics that show that New Brunswick is losing nurses and nursing graduates to other provinces with better compensation, contracts for nurses and licensed practical nurses have not been finalized and the Premier seems determined to avoid paying nurses a competitive salary;

WHEREAS, while other jurisdictions are offering incentives to nurses and nursing graduates, there is no comprehensive plan, to our knowledge, to attract and retain nurses in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the shortage of nurses has resulted in hospital services having to be reduced or temporarily shut down in hospitals throughout the province;

WHEREAS examples of these hospital service reductions due to nursing shortages include the diversion of ambulances to the Moncton Hospital from the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont Hospital, the shutdown of psychiatric services at the Campbellton hospital to divert nurses elsewhere, the shutdown of pediatric services at the Miramichi hospital to divert nursing resources, the temporary shutdown of obstetrical services at the Bathurst hospital due to nursing shortages, the shutdown of obstetrical services at the Campbellton hospital for a period of 14 months, bed closures at the Saint John Regional Hospital due to nurse shortages and others;

WHEREAS, despite that there is a crisis caused by the nursing shortage, the government has not done anything to address it, leading to speculation that the Premier plans to permanently reduce or shutdown services at hospitals throughout the province and will use the nursing shortage as an excuse for doing so;

WHEREAS the Premier said to nursing home workers who were asking for a better salary "if you want that kind of wage, then Alberta's where to get it";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to immediately address the nursing shortage by initiatives such as providing nurses and licensed practical nurses with competitive salaries, investing in more nursing seats, and providing a comprehensive incentive program to attract and retain nurses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to abandon any plans to reduce hospital services throughout the province by attempting to justify them based on a nursing shortage crisis that his government has not been willing to resolve.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

Motion 74 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, June 10, 2021:

WHEREAS palliative care is an important component of the continuum of care, and it currently does not receive sufficient attention, funding and resources from the provincial government;

WHEREAS approximately 80-85% of individuals receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the highest rate of in-hospital deaths in Canada, with 80% of end-stage cancer patients being admitted to hospital for the last two weeks of their life, compared to the Canadian average of 60%;

WHEREAS quality palliative care provides patients and families with the care they need, when they want, in the setting of their choice and is an efficient use of health care money that can help create a more sustainable health care system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide additional funding for specialty care staff including, palliative care nurses, palliative care social workers, primary care workers, extra mural, licensed practical nurses, homecare workers, personal support workers, and paramedics across the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest resources to deliver palliative care within the home and within the long-term care settings, and increase the number of staff, equipment, and resources for hospices to enhance community capacity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to strengthen caregiver supports, particularly related to grief and bereavement, as well as educate and communicate to New Brunswickers the resources available in the community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to update and report on the status of New Brunswick Palliative Care Strategy, including on the implementations of the Five Strategic Pillars, actions plans, policies, programs and services, and on the status of the New Brunswick Palliative Care Advisory Committee by December 31, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Health to table in the Legislative Assembly a report on the state of palliative care in New Brunswick every 3 years.

Motion 75 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. McKee to propose the following resolution on Thursday, June 10, 2021:

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.

Motion 76 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Arseneault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, June 10, 2021:

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.

Motion 77 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, June 10, 2021:

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.

Motions for Returns

Motion 25 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 17, 2020:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding discussions and agreements with Groupe Lokia, its long-term care and special care facilities in New Brunswick including Manoir de la Vallée, Manoir Brise de l'Oasis, Manoir Oasis de la Baie, Manoir Sugarloaf, Manoir Sunrise, and its representatives and agents, in relation to, but not limited to, the pilot project, staffing ratios, and care levels.

Motion 31 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to the expenses for all members of the Premier's Office staff since June 2020.

Motion 32 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding discussions between staff of the Premier's Office and Jeannot Volpé for the period November 1, 2020, to January 8, 2021.

Motion 33 by Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to meetings held between members of the Executive Council and interest groups, community groups, and communities.

Motion 34 by Mr. Guitard, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to the number of persons hired by government, by department, including full-time employees, casual and term employees, and personal services contracts, since November 2018, and the names of the persons hired.

Motion 35 by Mr. Guitard, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House the names of all full-time employees terminated by government since December 1, 2018.

Motion 36 by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Bourque to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to information provided to the public and stakeholders on the health reform process including the consultation process and all information related to advertising and informing the public.

Motion 37 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. Mallet to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to all persons hired by government, by department, as political staff under the hiring competition exemption provided under Section 18 of the *Civil Service Act*, since November 15, 2018.

Motion 38 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. Mallet to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all calendars and meeting schedules of the Premier and Members of the Executive Council since November 2018.

Motion 39 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to amounts paid for any cost of living and/or accommodation allowance for members of the staff of the Premier of New Brunswick, Executive Council staff, deputy ministers and senior staff in Part 1 of the public service, and all persons hired under a Personal Services Contract, since November 2018.

Motion 40 by Mr. Mallet, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to virtual and/or Zoom meetings between the Premier and third parties.

Motion 41 by Mr. Mallet, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to deputy heads, members of the Executive Council, their staff, and the staff of the Premier's Office who applied for and received a rebate under the Explore NB Travel Incentive program.

Motion 42 by Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages between the Minister of Health and the Health Authorities related to the proposed health reform process.

Motion 43 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Bourque to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all meetings and/or representations by persons registered under the *Lobbyists' Registration Act* and all members of the Executive Council.

Motion 44 by Mr. Legacy, seconded by Mr. Guitard to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding the decision to have the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development write to the Energy and Utilities Board with respect to the application by Irving Oil for an increase in fuel margins, including but not limited to all discussions between the Premier's Office and third parties.

Motion 45 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding the review of the *Official Languages Act*, including but not limited to the consultation process.

Motion 46 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. Guitard to propose the following resolution on Thursday, February 18, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to contracts entered into and purchases made since March 15, 2020, for which exemptions under the *Procurement Act* were utilized.

Motion 53 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, information, memos, records, and correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and text messages about discussions, agreements, and service contracts concerning the organization of Destination Acadie events between 2014 and 2020.

Motion 54 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation regarding expenditures of the government of New Brunswick related to organizing and holding Destination Acadie events between 2014 and 2020.

Motion 59 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 25, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a copy of the report entitled *The Needs Analysis and Best Practices Review of Sexual Harm to Children* prepared by the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy Branch of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Motion 62 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 1, 2021:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information including documentation, notes, memos, minutes, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, and SMS text messages between members of the Executive Council, the Premier's Office, the Department of Finance and Treasury Board, the Department of Health, the Department of Justice and Public Safety, Cannabis New Brunswick, the Cannabis Management Corporation, Alcool NB Liquor, their staff, employees, agents, and contractors, and all third parties, related to discussions and meetings regarding the issuance of a request for proposals issued for a single private entity to operate, distribute, and sell recreational cannabis in New Brunswick, and the subsequent evaluation of and negotiations with the eight proponents, including the terms and conditions of the final negotiations with the sole remaining proponent.

CONCLUDED

Motion 3 by Ms. Harris. Debated and carried as amended December 10, 2020.

Motion 4 by Ms. Thériault. Debated and carried as amended December 17, 2020.

Motion 49 by Mr. McKee. Debated and carried May 13, 2021.

Motion 52 by Ms. Thériault. Debated and carried as amended March 25, 2021.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Mr. Arseneau, November 20, 2020.	(Response, February 10, 2021)
Petition 2: Mr. Arseneau, November 20, 2020.	(Response, February 9, 2021)
Petition 3: Mr. Bourque, December 11, 2020.	(Response, December 22, 2020)
Petition 4: Ms. Mitton, February 12, 2021.	(Response, March 1, 2021)
Petition 5: Mr. Coon, March 17, 2021.	(Response, May 10, 2021)
Petition 6: Mr. Ames, March 23, 2021.	(Response, March 31, 2021)
Petition 7: Hon. Mr. Crossman, March 24, 2021.	(Response, May 10, 2021)
Petition 8: Mr. C. Chiasson, March 24, 2021.	
Petition 9: Ms. Mitton, May 12, 2021.	(Response, June 3, 2021)
Petition 10: Mr. Austin, May 12, 2021.	(Response, May 27, 2021)
Petition 11: Mr. McKee, May 21, 2021.	
Petition 12: Hon. Mr. Crossman, June 4, 2021.	
Petition 13: Mr. K. Chiasson, June 8, 2021.	
Petition 14: Mr. Coon, June 8, 2021.	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Administration Committee	First Report, December 18, 2020
Standing Committee on Economic Policy	First Report, December 8, 2020 Second Report, December 15, 2020 Third Report, December 16, 2020 Fourth Report, December 17, 2020 Fifth Report, December 18, 2020 Sixth Report, February 12, 2021 Seventh Report, March 25, 2021 Eighth Report, May 11, 2021 Ninth Report, May 19, 2021 Tenth Report, June 1, 2021 Eleventh Report, June 8, 2021
Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy	First Report, May 11, 2021
Standing Committee on Private Bills	First Report, December 15, 2020 Second Report, February 12, 2021 Third Report, June 1, 2021
Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers	First Report, March 17, 2021

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly