



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK Third Session, 60th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 7
Thursday, October 26, 2023

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

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

***Debate adjourned by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie on behalf of the Honourable the Premier.
Debate to resume on Friday, October 27, 2023.***

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Adjourned Debates

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Private Investigators and Security Services Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Bill 2, An Act to Repeal the Beverage Containers Act – Hon. Mr. Crossman

Bill 3, An Act Respecting the Fisheries Bargaining Act and the Industrial Relations Act
– Hon. Ms. Dunn

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act – Hon. Ms. M. Wilson

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Clean Environment Act – Hon. Mr. Crossman

Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Trespass Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[Order in accordance with notice provided pursuant to Standing Rule 44(4)]

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 8 by Ms. Landry, seconded by Ms. Thériault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS the government in its Speech from the Throne has committed to creating 550 additional designated childcare spaces, despite a waitlist of 3,300 and continued population growth, which increases the demand on childcare services in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS families in New Brunswick are struggling with the growing cost of living, including access to affordable childcare services;

WHEREAS limited access to childcare is a major obstacle, especially for women returning to the labour market;

WHEREAS families in New Brunswick face increased childcare costs for school-aged children;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table, no later than April 1, 2024, a human resources plan for the childcare sector;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to present a formal plan, no later than April 1, 2024, to allocate additional subsidized childcare spaces to eliminate the waitlist and respond to expected demographic growth.

Motion 5 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Losier to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's healthcare system has been grappling with a multitude of challenges, including critical shortages of healthcare workers and staffing retention issues that need to be addressed;

WHEREAS patients in New Brunswick endure prolonged wait times for essential healthcare services;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a significant senior population and one of the highest rates of chronic health conditions in the nation, which further emphasizes the pressing need for a healthcare system that is readily accessible to all residents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table, no later than April 1, 2024, a healthcare worker retention plan.

Motion 1 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS, on September 20, the Premier of New Brunswick told protesters outside the Legislative Assembly, “children are being taught to lie to their parents” by teachers;

WHEREAS that statement by the Premier of New Brunswick was disrespectful to teachers;

WHEREAS the teachers of New Brunswick play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our province through their dedication and hard work in educating our children;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier of New Brunswick to issue a formal apology to the teachers of New Brunswick.

Motion 2 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS the Human Development Council reported that there are at least 560 unhoused people living in New Brunswick’s three major cities who cannot be housed with significant support mechanisms;

WHEREAS British Columbia offers complex care housing, which provides an enhanced level of health and social supports to address the needs of people who have overlapping mental health and substance use issues, trauma, or acquired brain injuries who are often left to experience homelessness or at risk of eviction;

WHEREAS there is limited peer-supported housing with wrap-around services for homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS providing wrap-around services such as mental health support, addiction treatment, employment assistance, and case management is crucial to preventing more New Brunswickers from experiencing homelessness and addressing the complex needs of homeless individuals;

WHEREAS a comprehensive and holistic approach to homelessness can significantly reduce the strain on social services, healthcare, and law enforcement while promoting community well-being;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to fund and implement a comprehensive program for peer-supported housing for the homeless, along with wrap-around services to address their diverse needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to set targets and measurable outcomes to gauge the success of this program, with regular reporting to the public.

Motion 3 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are facing financial challenges due to the rising costs of gasoline, which are affecting their daily lives, commuting, and overall cost of living;

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimated that the average New Brunswick household is expected to pay at least \$501 more on gas per year;

WHEREAS the Higgs government authorized a new tax to be added to regulated fuel prices to force consumers to pay for Irving Oil's additional costs in complying with the federal clean fuel regulations;

WHEREAS the Higgs government gas tax has added as much as seven cents for a regular unleaded litre of gasoline since its introduction on July 1, 2023, making New Brunswick's gasoline among the most expensive in Canada;

WHEREAS there was no need for the Higgs government to make it legally possible for Irving Oil to pass the costs for cleaning up their petroleum products to New Brunswickers since there was a 36-cent increase in refinery margins in New Brunswick between 2019 and 2022;

WHEREAS the Energy and Utilities Board plans to review the Higgs government's gas tax formula after six months of its implementation;

WHEREAS there is no way for customers who have been paying the Higgs government gas tax to get their money back if, after its review, the Energy and Utilities Board finds that the tax was too high or unnecessary;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately eliminate the Higgs government's tax on gasoline prices.

Motion 4 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments have implemented policies to centralize the management of New Brunswick's healthcare system;

WHEREAS the decentralization of our healthcare system will provide better decision-making that reflects local realities, allowing for more responsive and effective healthcare services;

WHEREAS involving local decision-making can improve healthcare services, increase community engagement, and lead to more innovative solutions to address healthcare issues at the grassroots level;

WHEREAS an Angus Reid Institute survey, in collaboration with the Canadian Medical Association, indicates that New Brunswickers' dissatisfaction towards the province's management of the healthcare system was the highest in Canada, with a combined 82% saying they are either "moderately" or "very dissatisfied";

WHEREAS the same survey shows that 82% of New Brunswickers feel that the overall quality of healthcare in New Brunswick has deteriorated over the past 10 to 15 years;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reinstate locally elected board members for the Regional Health Authorities boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to re-establish the essential role of hospital administrators to manage their local hospitals, in collaboration with the medical and non-medical staff who work there.

Motion 6 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the risk of spread of airborne illnesses in public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes if significant improvements to air quality systems in government buildings are not made;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's report on the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that 73% of nursing homes do not meet design standards that are now almost a decade old and that departmental staff acknowledged that they believe that the infrastructural deficiencies in nursing homes contributed to the COVID-19 outbreaks because the buildings were inadequate to mitigate airborne diseases;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's same report also acknowledged that the Department of Social Development has no formal plan to bring these nursing homes up to standard;

WHEREAS in the 2nd session of the 60th Legislative Assembly, the House unanimously adopted Motion 36 urging the government to modernize the *Clean Air Act* and urging the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report on, and improve air quality systems in public buildings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table a strengthened *Clean Air Act* in this session;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to present a formal plan of capital investment, no later than April 1, 2024, to bring all nursing homes to the most recent departmental design standards.

Motion 7 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Ms. Holt to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS seniors prefer to stay in the familiar surroundings of their homes for as long as possible;

WHEREAS caregivers play an important role in supporting seniors to stay in their homes, which may delay or even avoid the need for more costly forms of long-term care services and may also lead to better overall health and quality of life for seniors;

WHEREAS caregiving comes at considerable personal and professional sacrifice with significant financial cost for the caregiver, who is expected to cover fuel when transporting seniors to medical appointments or other household spending such as snow removal or lawn care;

WHEREAS the gendered nature of caregiving imposes undue burdens on women for family care work, which the University of Alberta's Research on Aging Policies and Practice Centre estimates to be worth an economic value of \$2.4 billion in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS legislative regimes in other jurisdictions maintain programs that support caregivers through direct compensation, which produce positive benefits for both the caregiver and the cared;

WHEREAS the support of caregivers and their role in providing essential aid is of significant importance to New Brunswick;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a direct compensation benefit to caregivers in the 2024-2025 budget.

Motion 9 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including but not limited to extreme weather events, such as more frequent and severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, droughts, and forest fires;

WHEREAS effective communication during climate-related emergencies is vital to ensure public safety and minimize the impact of climate-related disasters;

WHEREAS access to cellphone coverage remains inconsistent across New Brunswick, with numerous rural areas experiencing inadequate or unreliable cellular network service, rendering rural New Brunswickers vulnerable during times of climate-related emergencies;

WHEREAS cellphones and wireless communication provide a crucial means of broadcasting timely and life-saving information to the public during emergencies, such as evacuation notices, weather alerts, and safety instructions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to guarantee provincewide cellphone coverage, including the implementation of necessary public infrastructure and financial investments to ensure reliable network connectivity.

Motion 10 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS the increasing cost of rent is exacerbating the affordability crisis that many New Brunswickers are facing;

WHEREAS housing is a fundamental human right, and affordable and stable housing is essential for the well-being of all New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS a temporary rent cap was implemented in 2022;

WHEREAS the Higgs government is failing to protect tenants from unaffordable rent increases;

WHEREAS a permanent rent cap can provide a long-term solution to protect renters from excessive rent increases and create stability in the housing market;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a permanent rent cap.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Ms. Mitton, October 18, 2023.

Petition 2: Ms. Mitton, October 18, 2023.

Petition 3: Ms. Landry, October 25, 2023.

Petition 4: Mr. Coon, October 25, 2023.

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly