

Daily sitting 44

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 45, Mr. Arseneau rose to request an emergency debate concerning the ongoing labour issues between public service workers and the government of New Brunswick. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Speaker reminded Members to respect the time limits during Statements of Condolence and Congratulation.

Mr. Speaker interrupted Statements by Members and requested that Mr. C. Chiasson withdraw his statement as it alleged dishonesty and contained allegations of misleading the House. Mr. C. Chiasson withdrew the statement.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 20)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 21)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 22)

Mr. Speaker reminded Members that the statements provided during Presentations of Petitions are to be brief.

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 23)

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 24)

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 25)

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 26)

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Hon. Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that the statements provided during Presentations of Petitions were overly lengthy and detailed. Mr. Arseneau spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and requested that the statements not exceed two minutes and the petitions be summarized when necessary.

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 27)

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 28)

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 29)

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition supporting frontline workers. (Petition 30)

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The Honourable the Premier gave Notice of Motion 82 that on Friday, November 12, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has been negotiating collective agreements with Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) bargaining units covering nearly 20,000 employees in the civil service, in schools and in the health care system;

WHEREAS these bargaining units include workers such as court stenographers, highway workers, social workers, correctional officers, educational assistants, school bus drivers, LPNs, and hospital support workers among many others;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick recognizes the important role public service employees play in providing valuable services to New Brunswickers and are committed to working with bargaining units in good faith to reach agreements;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has demonstrated a commitment to working with CUPE bargaining units to reach a fair deal and on November 4th, CUPE and Government reinstated discussions over possible negotiations;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick offered wage increases of 15 percent over five years, which includes a wage adjustment, to seven of the CUPE locals representing nearly 20,000 employees;

WHEREAS the wage increase of 15 percent over five years includes a two percent a year increase over a five-year period and an annual wage adjustment of 25 cents per hour, representing an additional increase of one percent per year on average;

WHEREAS in part of the agreement from November 4th, CUPE and the Government of New Brunswick would have actuaries review the pensions and create a path forward for the two groups affected;

WHEREAS the offer also includes raising the salary for casuals to 100 percent of the salary paid to permanent staff, representing \$8 Million more in wages for casual workers;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick recognizes the importance of all employees having access to a pension that is sustainable and supports their future;

WHEREAS CUPE Members have not yet had the opportunity to vote on this offer;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support the Government of New Brunswick to continue to keep the health and safety of New Brunswickers as a top priority during this strike action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support CUPE voting on the final and full proposal from the Government of New Brunswick.

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The Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to the request for an emergency debate:

#### STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

The Member for Kent North has once again asked leave to introduce a motion for an emergency debate on the ongoing labour issues between public service workers and the government of New Brunswick.

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In light of the Notice of Motion introduced today by the Premier, I find the matter will now come before the House, by other means, this coming Friday. Accordingly, I must deny the Member's request for an emergency debate and I look forward to a full debate on Friday.

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And then, 2.44 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report 2020-2021  
Elections New Brunswick

November 5, 2021