

Daily sitting 74

Friday, May 13, 2022

*9 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members,

I am sure that all of us have seen a list of unparliamentary words that are not acceptable for use in the Legislature.

Yesterday, I advised the House that I would review the tapes to determine if one of those words was used during Question Period. Following the end of the sitting, I had an opportunity to listen to the tapes and definitely heard the word “misleading” used by one of our Members.

Unfortunately, I could not determine who that person was who spoke the word, so I cannot rule any further. However, the floor is open to anyone who would like to step forward and withdraw the remarks.

I caution Members that words are our currency here in the Legislature and we should be respectful in our use of them.

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Mr. Speaker interrupted Oral Questions and requested that Mr. D'Amours withdraw the words “did not want to say it honestly” in reference to the Premier, which he did.

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Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 107 that on Thursday, May 19, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers are feeling the strain of trying to cope with rising prices for many goods and services;

WHEREAS fuel prices have risen significantly, and, unlike many other provinces, the Higgs government has decided to keep the carbon tax revenue and not give its citizens a rebate;

WHEREAS fuel price increases have provided an additional windfall to government through HST, which is charged on gasoline and heating fuels, but, again, this government is keeping those additional revenues and not sharing them with New Brunswickers in need;

WHEREAS there is a housing crisis in New Brunswick with a lack of affordable housing that this government has not addressed;

WHEREAS tenants in New Brunswick are facing the highest rental rate increases in the country;

WHEREAS the government eliminated the home energy rebate program which provided much needed financial support for over 33,000 low-income families;

WHEREAS the government is planning to increase the premiums for prescription and catastrophic drugs;

WHEREAS property assessments are increasing at alarming rates, leaving many New Brunswickers struggling to pay increased property taxes;

WHEREAS many residents, especially rural residents, are worried that, when the province implements local government reform, it will download the costs of many services to the new local entities and people will see dramatic increases in property taxes;

WHEREAS, despite the struggles faced by many businesses and individuals throughout the pandemic, this government provided very little support in comparison to the support programs that other provinces were offering to support their citizens;

WHEREAS the government is boasting about having record surpluses;

WHEREAS, instead of providing additional financial support programs to help New Brunswickers in need, this government is obsessing about its bottom line and wants to make even deeper spending cuts;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a comprehensive program of support measures to help New Brunswickers in need.

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Mr. Arseneault requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Landry: (Motion 108)

WHEREAS over 400 New Brunswickers have lost their lives to COVID-19;

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WHEREAS many New Brunswickers believe that the province should have an annual day to remember all those who have died as a result of the pandemic;

WHEREAS the restrictions in place throughout the pandemic have made it difficult for many families to grieve their losses;

WHEREAS an annual day of remembrance will provide an opportunity for reflection for all those touched by the virus, especially those who have lost a loved one;

WHEREAS a day of remembrance will also allow New Brunswickers to acknowledge the health care workers who made many personal sacrifices while working to keep people safe;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to designate an annual day of remembrance for the victims of COVID-19.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 108 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, May 19, 2022.

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And then, 10.02 a.m., the House adjourned.