

Daily sitting 30

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 37, An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 36 that on Thursday, April 6, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Landry:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic brought home the reality that if we do not improve air quality systems in government buildings like schools, hospitals, and institutions, we increase the risk of the spread of airborne illnesses;

WHEREAS air quality in these buildings must be improved for the safety and well-being of patients, healthcare workers, students, educators, employees, and all who enter these buildings;

WHEREAS, while other Maritime Provinces like PEI and Nova Scotia are making strategic investments in systems that improve air quality and ventilation through programs like the federal COVID-19 resilience fund, New Brunswick has not yet made these investments a priority;

WHEREAS there are many regions of the province where air quality is diminished due to airborne pollutants, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents;

WHEREAS reducing pollutants and improving air quality and thus improving community and environmental health should be a priority of government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to modernize New Brunswick's air quality laws and standards with a goal of bringing forward a strengthened *Clean Air Act* and modernized regulations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report, and improve air quality systems in public buildings like hospitals, schools, and government buildings to mitigate the risks associated with the transfer of airborne illnesses, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 37 that on Thursday, April 6, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS, as of 2021, the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program had provided subsidies worth over \$101 million to New Brunswick pulp mills to ensure they paid the average industrial rate for electricity in Canada;

WHEREAS NB Power paid out \$9.7 million in rate subsidies to its industrial customers under the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program in the fiscal year 2020-21;

WHEREAS NB Power is expected to provide the six pulp mills with subsidies worth \$14.7 million this year;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development to immediately end the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program.

With leave of the House, Mr. Cardy moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque: (Motion 38)

WHEREAS the year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish State of Israel;

WHEREAS officially declared an independent nation on May 14, 1948, Israel plans a series of events throughout the year to celebrate its 75th anniversary;

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly would like to reaffirm the bonds of friendship, cooperation, and collaboration between New Brunswick and Israel;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick recognize the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel; extend the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future; and transmit a copy of this resolution to Israeli Ambassador H.E. Dr. Ronen Hoffman.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 38 was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 30 and 6.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, Bill 37 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House consider an adjournment motion; following which Bills 31 and 32 would be called for second reading; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, March 31, 2023, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 2023, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice shall state a time at which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time so stated and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time, and

THAT in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, either of the Deputy Speakers shall act in his stead for the purpose of this order.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 31 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Madam Deputy Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 23),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved the adjournment of the House.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 5.58 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report 2021-2022
Kings Landing Corporation

March 27, 2023