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Daily sitting 36

Friday, May 12, 2023

*9 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. LePage offered condolences to the family of the late Jean-Paul Savoie, former Liberal MLA for Restigouche West (1987-1999).

Mr. Wetmore, from the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

May 12, 2023

To The Honourable  
The Legislative Assembly of  
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present herewith the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers.

Your Committee's Report contains recommendations for the implementation of a legislative calendar by Special Order and for amendments to the Standing Rules governing sitting hours of the House and Routine Proceedings.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd. :) Ross Wetmore, M.L.A.  
Chair

The full report of the Committee as presented follows:

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers begs leave to submit their First Report of the session. Your Committee met on January 10, February 21, March 23, April 28 and May 11 to consider Motion 10 and certain amendments to the Standing Rules.

Motion 10 was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on December 15, 2022, and directs your Committee to examine the options for a fixed legislative calendar and report back to the House with recommendations.

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Your Committee recommends the implementation of a legislative calendar by Special Order, as outlined in this report, to allow the House the flexibility to modify and improve the calendar mechanism, if needed, before deciding on its adoption into the Standing Rules.

In addition, pursuant to its permanent order of reference, your Committee recommends amendments to the Standing Rules to modify the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the House on Thursdays and Fridays, and to add statements of condolence and congratulation as an item of business under Routine Proceedings, consistent with the practice in recent sessions, rather than at the end of the sitting day.

#### SPECIAL ORDER

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following Special Order:

THAT, notwithstanding any Standing Rule, Special Order, or usual practice of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following Special Order:

- (1) During each session, the House shall meet:
  - (a) in the Fall period from the third Tuesday in October to no later than the second Friday in December, excluding constituency and committee weeks, for a minimum of 24 sitting days, except when a provincial general election is held pursuant to subsection 3(4) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*; and
  - (b) in the Spring period from the third Tuesday in March to no later than the second Friday in June, excluding constituency and committee weeks, for a minimum of 24 sitting days.
- (2) The House and its Committees shall not meet during constituency weeks, which shall include:
  - (a) the week of Remembrance Day or the week preceding if it falls on a Saturday or Sunday;
  - (b) the first week of January;
  - (c) the week of Spring vacation as established by the regulations under the *Education Act*;
  - (d) the week following Spring vacation.
- (3) During any period of adjournment, including constituency and committee weeks, if the Government advises the Speaker that the public interest requires the House to meet on an earlier day, and the Speaker is so satisfied, the Speaker may give notice that the House shall meet and in such notice shall state a day on which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet on the day so stated to transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that day.

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- (4) Before the House adjourns for the Summer recess, the Government House Leader shall move a sessional calendar motion, without notice, that indicates the days on which the House shall meet in the Fall period in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order and said motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.
- (5) Before the House adjourns for the Winter recess, the Government House Leader shall move a sessional calendar motion, without notice, that indicates the days on which the House shall meet in the Spring period in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order and said motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.
- (6) The House shall meet and adjourn on the days so stated in the motions moved and decided pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Special Order subject to any subsequent amendments adopted in accordance with paragraph (7).
- (7) Despite paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order, on motion of the Government House Leader, with notice, the House may amend a sessional calendar adopted pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5), to meet on a day or days the House was not scheduled to meet, or to not meet on a day or days the House was scheduled to meet, and said motion shall be decided without amendment and any debate shall be limited to one hour in duration and no Member shall speak for longer than ten minutes.
- (8) This Special Order shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature unless adopted as an amendment to the Standing Rules by motion of the House, with the necessary modifications.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING RULES

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following amendments to the Standing Rules:

1. Standing Rule 29 is repealed and the following is substituted:

**29** Unless otherwise provided by Standing or Special Order of the House, the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly shall be as follows:

Tuesday	1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Thursday	1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Friday	9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
2. In Standing Rule 30, subrules (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3) are repealed.

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3. Standing Rule 35 is amended by adding “Statements of Condolence and Congratulation.” after “Introduction of Guests.”
  4. The Standing Rules are amended by adding after Standing Rule 35.3 the following:

**35.4(1)** A maximum of ten minutes shall be allocated to the item of routine business “Statements of Condolence and Congratulation”.

**35.4(2)** A Member making a statement of condolence or a statement of congratulation shall speak for no more than sixty seconds.
  5. In Standing Rule 44, subrule (1) is repealed and the following is substituted:

**44(1)** The first Order of the Day commencing on the second Thursday of the session shall be “Opposition Members’ Business” which shall have precedence over all other business of the House except the ordinary daily routine of business.
  6. In Standing Rule 105,
    - a. subrule (1) is amended by striking out “six” and substituting “five”;
    - b. subrule (3) is amended by striking out “sixth” and substituting “fifth”.
  7. In Standing Rule 106,
    - a. subrule (3) is amended by striking out “six” and substituting “five”;
    - b. subrule (4) is amended by striking out “sixth” and substituting “fifth”.

Ordered that the report be received, and leave granted.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,  
*Bill 56, An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and  
Drilling.*

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Hon. Mr. Holland gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ames:

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station has been operational since 1983, making nuclear energy a fundamental part of New Brunswick’s energy mix for the last 40 years;

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WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station underwent a refurbishment to extend its life to continue to provide clean electricity for 30 more years;

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station contributes significantly to the New Brunswick economy, providing 2 700 direct and indirect jobs, \$287 million in provincial GDP, and \$29 million in provincial revenue;

WHEREAS the province has supported the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) in New Brunswick since 2018, under two different governments;

WHEREAS the province has invested significantly in two advanced small modular reactor vendors, ARC Clean Technology and Moltex Energy, to support the development of the technology in the province, including research capabilities at the University of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS advanced small modular reactors have the potential to revitalize New Brunswick's nuclear supply chain, support local industries across the province, and provide significant economic benefits;

WHEREAS nuclear energy can play a crucial role in helping the province achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS the province is committed to a clean electricity grid by 2035, with already 80% of in-province electricity coming from clean sources, including wind, hydro, and nuclear;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick commit to the long-term support of the nuclear sector in New Brunswick and the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support the development of advanced small modular reactors in New Brunswick.

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Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mallet:

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WHEREAS the housing crisis is one of the biggest issues currently looming over the province, threatening to cripple New Brunswick's growth and impair the quality of life of its residents;

WHEREAS households are struggling to make ends meet with the cost-of-living pressures on individuals and families at an all-time high;

WHEREAS housing prices in New Brunswick have risen faster than virtually any other province in the country;

WHEREAS the lack of access to appropriate housing has a significant impact on overall well-being, leading to significant impacts on health, education, population growth, and economic development;

WHEREAS the number of people waiting for NB Housing assistance is increasing steadily;

WHEREAS the state of NB Housing units is declining across the province because of the lack of maintenance;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase the existing subsidy programs for public, private, and not-for-profit developments through NB Housing to better reflect the rising cost of living and market conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase the number of provincially subsidized housing units across the province by 500 units each year, starting this year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish an inspection and enforcement process for the maintenance of provincially subsidized housing to ensure New Brunswickers are living in healthy and habitable conditions.

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Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the housing crisis is one of the biggest issues currently looming over the province, threatening to cripple New Brunswick's growth and the quality of life of its residents;

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WHEREAS the provincial government owns various types of properties, such as vacant lots, unused buildings, and other real estate assets, and such Crown properties can play a significant role in addressing the housing crisis in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS municipalities and nonprofits see the opportunity to leverage these Crown properties and have expressed serious interest in repurposing them to develop affordable housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to evaluate surplus Crown properties for sale or development as affordable housing as a priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to review policies, funding programs, and the public engagement process to assess opportunities to leverage surplus Crown properties by partnering with municipalities, nonprofits, and private developers to create additional affordability stock;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to engage municipalities for the repurposing of structures at least a year before they are vacated in order to navigate the long acquisition and conversion process.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie requested the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Statements by Ministers, and unanimous consent was denied.

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And then, 10.14 a.m., the House adjourned.