

Daily sitting 39

Thursday, May 18, 2023

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 45 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS, through a partnership between Hunters Helping the Hungry and Feed Nova Scotia, hunters in Nova Scotia have been able to supply hundreds of kilograms of deer and moose meat to food banks and meal programs across Nova Scotia since 2006;

WHEREAS, under this program, hunters can bring harvested deer and moose to a participating licensed meat cutter and Feed Nova Scotia will pick up and distribute the meat;

WHEREAS British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan all have programs that support the supply of wild meat to food banks;

WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Brunswick Department of Health launched a pilot project in Saint Andrews to permit the harvesting of deer meat under Department of Health protocols for distribution to local food banks;

WHEREAS the program was a collaborative effort between the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, and the Town of Saint Andrews;

WHEREAS, if it were expanded, such a program could be invaluable in helping supply food banks across the province with much-needed protein;

WHEREAS the inflation on costs of food, and particularly healthy food, has impacted the buying power of New Brunswickers, and Statistics Canada indicates that the yearly inflation rate for New Brunswick in 2022 was 7.4%;

WHEREAS food banks in New Brunswick have seen their number of clients rise drastically - on average, over 30% in 2022 - according to Stephane Sirois, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Food Depot;

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BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to work with communities and community organizations to assist in expanding this wild game distribution program throughout the province by the fall of 2023.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 48, 53, 54, 55 and 46 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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The Order being read for third reading of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, was read a third time and passed.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 48 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 53 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

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And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 54 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had arrived.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 31, Mr. Bourque moved, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are facing many challenges related to rapidly rising rents and housing affordability;

WHEREAS the government lifted the rent cap without putting a comprehensive housing plan in place;

WHEREAS there may be a perceived or real inequality of power that favours the landlord over a tenant in a rent increase dispute where the onus is on the tenant to prove that the rent increase is unreasonable;

WHEREAS the definition of unreasonable is vague and arbitrary in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there is a backlog of reviews at the Residential Tenancies Tribunal, causing undue hardship for New Brunswickers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare guidelines to better define reasonable increases and possible reasons for permitting increases in excess of the guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend *The Residential Tenancies Act* to require that the burden of proof be placed on any landlord applying for an increase in excess of the established guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide a mechanism and support whereby the rent increase applications may be adjudicated on a regional basis.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 31 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

Mr. Legacy	Mr. Coon	Mr. Bourque
Ms. Holt	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Mallet
Mr. McKee	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Losier
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry

NAYS - 24

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Turner	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Conroy

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 56, *An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason took the chair.

And after some further time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.