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Daily sitting 40

Friday, May 19, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Fitch,

Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 46 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the opportunity to be an environmental leader powered by affordable clean energy that will be sustainable for future generations;

WHEREAS New Brunswick must continue to reduce our carbon footprint to achieve net zero/carbon neutrality by adopting blue, green, and clean technologies, modernizing infrastructure, and electrifying transportation;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's demand for clean, reliable, efficient, and affordable energy is currently straining resources and will continue to grow into the future;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a range of energy generating infrastructure at various stages of lifecycle; including the Mactaquac hydro facility, the NB Power Belledune Generating Station, and the Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has shared plans to deliver a clean electricity strategy by 2025;

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship adopted on February 17, 2023, a motion to hold public hearings on a clean energy strategy, whose conclusions must be finalized by the committee by October 1, 2023;

WHEREAS a comprehensive energy strategy in 2023 would provide a roadmap for optimizing energy production, promoting energy efficiency, and integrating renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS there are current opportunities for New Brunswick to play a role in the clean energy economy;

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BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expedite the development of a comprehensive energy strategy that recognizes the need for reliable baseline power and focuses on increased renewable energy sources encompassing the following key elements:

1. a full inventory of current generating infrastructure including current production capacity and current and projected gaps in demand;
2. the identification and evaluation of our region's renewable energy potential, including wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal resources and other energy sources including nuclear;
3. a commitment to stop further development of fossil fuels, including those from fracking and drilling;
4. a plan for the electrification of New Brunswick, including the development of a smart grid that will allow for and incentivize the adoption of community-level power production;
5. the fostering of partnerships with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders, and industry experts to ensure inclusivity and maximize collaboration;
6. a plan to increase public awareness, engagement, and education through targeted communication campaigns and community outreach programs;
7. a review and update of existing energy-related legislation to align with the goals of the comprehensive strategy in order to attract private investment in clean energy projects and take advantage of economic opportunities related to clean energy and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the strategy.

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Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 47 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS it is crucial that our education system provide the best education possible to provide students with the knowledge and abilities that position them for future success;

WHEREAS educational experts agree that decisions related to changes to educational programming and curriculum should be based on educational expertise, evaluations, assessments, and data, as opposed to political considerations that often involve personal biases and other inappropriate considerations;

WHEREAS the Auditor General found that the education system was suffering from instability caused by frequent changes to educational strategy, which shifts the focus away from educating students;

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WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate criticized the government for its political interference in Policy 713;

WHEREAS a former Deputy Minister of Education echoed the concerns expressed by the Auditor General and noted that there have been 37 major changes to our education system in the last 35 years and expressed an opinion that changes to education should be well thought out, researched, planned, and properly implemented, rather than sparked by political motives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put the proper safeguards in place that would prevent decisions being made by this government and successive governments based on political considerations as opposed to evidence and expertise.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Presentations of Petitions.

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Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 13)

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, Bill 58 would be called for second reading.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 37, 55 and 46 be called for second reading.

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At 10.24 a.m. the House recessed. At 10.28 a.m. the House resumed.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 37 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages 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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Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, be now read a second time.

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And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 55 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies 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 46, *Education Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

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And then, 2 p.m., the House adjourned.