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Daily sitting 43

Thursday, June 8, 2023

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Following Statements by Ministers, Mr. Arseneau rose on a point of order and submitted that government announcements on policy and matters of public interest should be made in the House. Mr. Arseneault and Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and advised that as a sign of respect for the institution, Ministers should deliver important announcements in the House if it is sitting that day.

Mr. Ames, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Twelfth Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

June 8, 2023

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

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their twelfth report.

Your Committee met on June 6 and 7, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Richard Ames, M.L.A.  
Chair

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Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

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The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. C. Chiasson,  
Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House recess until 2.30 p.m.; at which time Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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At 11.23 a.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

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Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 56, *An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling*, be now read a second time.

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At 3 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.09 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 56 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 36, Mr. D'Amours moved, on behalf of Mr. LePage, 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;

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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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Turner, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 36 be amended by deleting the third whereas clause.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

At 4.05 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.18 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 36 as amended as follows:

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 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.

And the question being put, Motion 36 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 44

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. Gauvin
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Coon
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Ms. M. Wilson	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. Cullins	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Ames	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Dawson	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Bockus	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Arseneau
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Legacy	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Allain	Ms. Holt	Ms. Landry
Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. McKee	Mr. Cardy
Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Thériault	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 46, Mr. K. Chiasson moved, 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;

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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;

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:

- a. a full inventory of current generating infrastructure including current production capacity and current and projected gaps in demand;
- b. 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;
- c. a commitment to stop further development of fossil fuels, including those from fracking and drilling;
- d. 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;

- e. the fostering of partnerships with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders, and industry experts to ensure inclusivity and maximize collaboration;
- f. a plan to increase public awareness, engagement, and education through targeted communication campaigns and community outreach programs;
- g. 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.

And the question being put, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6 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:

Response to Petition 13

June 7, 2023