
Daily sitting 10

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Arseneau rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Fitch declined to answer questions. Mr. Speaker reminded Members of Standing Rule 41(3) and the options provided to Ministers.

Ms. Conroy, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

November 1, 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 first report.

Your Committee met on October 31, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting the Fisheries Bargaining Act and the Industrial Relations Act*;

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act*;

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Michelle Conroy, M.L.A.
Chair

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.

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 17 that on Thursday, November 9, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. J. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court offers an alternative for offenders with mental health issues;

WHEREAS this program is widely praised by mental health advocates for its focus on community treatment as opposed to incarceration or other penalties;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court program was developed based on best practices in other jurisdictions and informed by research;

WHEREAS there is a need to expand the Mental Health Court program to other regions of the province so that more offenders with mental health issues can avail themselves of this invaluable service for addressing their mental health needs;

WHEREAS other provinces including our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia have recognized the benefits of having a Mental Health Court and have made a commitment to expanding availability;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expand the Mental Health Court program throughout the province in this session.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Thursday, November 9, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Losier:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation related to the expenses incurred by Elections New Brunswick relating to the preparation and planning of a potential provincial election since May 1, 2023.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 19 that on Thursday, November 9, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Losier:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages, regarding all communications between the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and Elections New Brunswick relating to the preparation and planning of a potential provincial election since May 1, 2023.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, November 9, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS, despite the government's social assistance reform, New Brunswick's social assistance rates are still the lowest in Canada for all household categories;

WHEREAS social assistance recipients in New Brunswick are still living well below the poverty line and in deep poverty, struggling to meet their basic needs and attain a decent standard of living;

WHEREAS the Higgs government's austerity measures led to six consecutive surpluses, including a surplus of over \$1 billion for the fiscal year 2022-23;

WHEREAS implementing a guaranteed liveable income program for social assistance recipients would eliminate poverty by ensuring that individuals and families have the financial means to meet their basic needs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to develop a strategy to implement a guaranteed liveable income program in consultation with experts, social assistance recipients, and advocacy groups.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, November 2, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 11 and 12.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 be called for second reading until 2 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 9, *An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 9 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 9, *An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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 10 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And then, 2 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 2022-2023

Premier's Council on Disabilities

October 31, 2023