

Daily sitting 23

Thursday, December 7, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Ms. Dunn laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Achieving Greater Accessibility: New Brunswick's Framework for Accessibility Legislation*.

Mr. Allain, Member for Moncton East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to relocate a scrapyard in Moncton. (Petition 8)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,

Bill 19, *An Act Respecting the Right to a Healthy Environment*.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 39)

THAT the document entitled *Achieving Greater Accessibility: New Brunswick's Framework for Accessibility Legislation* tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 7, 2023, be referred to the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate resumed on Motion 29, moved by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau, on Thursday, November 30, 2023.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 29 was resolved in the negative on the following recording division:

YEAS - 3

Mr. Coon

Ms. Mitton

Mr. Arseneau

NAYS - 37

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie
Hon. Mr. Steeves
Hon. Ms. Green
Hon. Mr. Flemming
Hon. Mr. Fitch
Hon. Mr. Holland
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Turner
Hon. Ms. Bockus
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Ms. S. Wilson
Mr. Allain
Mr. Holder
Mr. Cullins

Mr. Legacy
Mr. McKee
Mr. Gauvin
Mr. C. Chiasson
Mr. J. LeBlanc
Mr. D'Amours
Mr. Bourque

Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. Shephard	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Dawson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Conroy	Ms. Landry
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Carr	
Hon. Mr. Ames	Mr. Arseneault	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Ms. Landry moved, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

WHEREAS the right to food is a basic right, families are struggling to obtain enough quality food, and food is the market basket item that has increased in price the most;

WHEREAS school breakfasts are important to give children the energy and food they need to start the day right, and not all children have access to a nutritious breakfast (which can include fruit, milk and dairy products, eggs, cereal, and wholegrain bread);

WHEREAS these programs aim to reduce absenteeism and promote healthy eating habits;

WHEREAS education and health are intrinsically linked to children's success, and a free, universal breakfast program provides equal opportunity to access food and improves the health, wellbeing, and academic performance of all students;

WHEREAS many regions provide school breakfast programs to ensure that all students have access to a nutritious meal in the morning;

WHEREAS the current program in New Brunswick is inequitable, since it only funds schools with no community or volunteer involvement;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to introduce and fund a public and universal breakfast program to provide a free morning meal to all students in every public school, regardless of their financial or social situation, before the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Hon. Ms. Johnson, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ames, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 21 be amended by deleting the 5th and 6th whereas clauses and substituting the following:

“WHEREAS all schools will have a meal program by the end of the fiscal year;

WHEREAS this government has kept its commitment to fund school food programs where they did not exist;”

By deleting the resolution clause and substituting the following:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to continue working with all partners to ensure there is a meal program offered in each school throughout the province for years to come.”

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

And after some time, Mr. J. LeBlanc, seconded by Ms. Landry, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

THAT the amendment to Motion 21 be amended by deleting the proposed 6th whereas clause and substituting the following:

“WHEREAS this government is working with all partners to provide food programs;”

In the resolution clause by deleting “continue working with all partners to ensure there is a meal program offered in each school” and substituting “commit to a universal meal program that meets a minimum standard nutritious breakfast in each public school”.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and a debate ensued.

At 5.34 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.39 p.m. the House resumed.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 21 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the right to food is a basic right, families are struggling to obtain enough quality food, and food is the market basket item that has increased in price the most;

WHEREAS school breakfasts are important to give children the energy and food they need to start the day right, and not all children have access to a nutritious breakfast (which can include fruit, milk and dairy products, eggs, cereal, and wholegrain bread);

WHEREAS these programs aim to reduce absenteeism and promote healthy eating habits;

WHEREAS education and health are intrinsically linked to children's success, and a free, universal breakfast program provides equal opportunity to access food and improves the health, wellbeing, and academic performance of all students;

WHEREAS all schools will have a meal program by the end of the fiscal year;

WHEREAS this government is working with all partners to provide food programs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to commit to a universal meal program that meets a minimum standard nutritious breakfast in each public school throughout the province for years to come.

And the question being put, Motion 21 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Arseneault moved the adjournment of the House.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 5.44 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39: