
Daily sitting 40

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that a question taken under advisement had not yet been answered on a subsequent day. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken as there is no timeline prescribed for a response.

Mr. Speaker reminded Hon. Mr. Ames to not read from a smartphone while taking part in proceedings.

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

May 15, 2024

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 ninth report.

Your Committee met on May 14, 2024, and had under consideration:

Bill 25, *An Act Respecting An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*;
Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act*;
Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Hearing Officers*;

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.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Holland,
Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 75 that on Thursday, May 23, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has been identified by Health Canada as being present in all buildings and as being the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick has the highest rate of newly diagnosed lung cancer rates in the country, lung cancer being the deadliest form of cancer in Canada;

WHEREAS radon is odorless, tasteless, and colourless, making its presence undetectable without specific testing equipment;

WHEREAS, according to NB Lung and Health Canada, more than one in four New Brunswick homes have dangerous levels of radon, this being the second highest rate in Canada;

WHEREAS the Auditor General of New Brunswick estimated that 33% of NB Housing units will test positive for exceeding 2019 radon level guidelines and require remediation;

WHEREAS the Department of Health and the Department of Environment and Local Government have made little effort to ensure that private homeowners test and remediate their homes to avoid preventable disease induced by the natural environment;

WHEREAS many homeowners and residents in New Brunswick may be unaware of the risks associated with radon, the presence of radon in their homes, or the critical importance of remediation, and may not be able to afford the cost of remediation;

WHEREAS radon-induced lung cancer is entirely preventable, and mitigation systems are proven to effectively divert radon away from the home and lower indoor levels by more than 80% (Health Canada);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to allocate sufficient resources to ensure that comprehensive radon testing is available and accessible to all homeowners and residents in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to establish a publicly funded remediation program to assist homeowners with the costs of radon remediation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Department of Health to initiate a public awareness campaign aimed at educating New Brunswickers about the risks of radon, the importance of testing, and the availability of testing and remediation supports.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 48, 56 and 49.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, May 17, 2024, Bill 46 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 45 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 29, *An Act Respecting Cannabis Control*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 29 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 29, *An Act Respecting Cannabis Control*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 45, *An Act Respecting the Firefighters' Compensation Act and the Workers' Compensation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At the request of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to adjourn the debate.

And then, 12.01 p.m., the House adjourned.