
Daily sitting 41

Thursday, May 16, 2024

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Ms. Holt referred to a Member by name. Mr. Speaker reminded Members to refer to one another by title or constituency, with the exception of the last name of the current Premier followed by the word “government”.

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

May 16, 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 tenth report.

Your Committee met on May 15, 2024, and had under consideration:

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*;
Bill 39, *Justices of the Peace Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 48, Mr. Losier moved, seconded by Mr. Legacy:

WHEREAS housing is a human right that the majority of New Brunswickers fear will be taken from them due to unaffordability;

WHEREAS building affordable housing is harder than ever before for developers because of the rising cost of building materials and property taxes;

WHEREAS construction of rental developments is almost at a standstill in rural areas with an alarming vacancy rate of less than 2% across the province;

WHEREAS the federal government announced in September 2023 it would remove the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the construction of purpose-built rental housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to establish a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) rebate program for new affordable rental builds to help create more housing, ensuring that the province remains competitive with neighbouring provinces as it addresses the growing demand for affordable rental housing.

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. Green, seconded by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 48 be amended by striking out “establish a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) rebate program” and substituting “evaluate innovative incentive programs”.

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

At 2.50 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.01 p.m. the House resumed.

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

 SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 48 be amended by striking out “evaluate” and substituting “implement new” and by adding after “programs” the words “for developers by July 1st that would accelerate affordable housing construction”.

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

At 3.17 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.26 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the sub-amendment was defeated on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Bourque
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Losier
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry

NAYS - 22

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Allain
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Shephard
Hon. Ms. Green	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Turner	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Ms. Bockus	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	

Mr. Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 22

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Allain
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Shephard
Hon. Ms. Green	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Turner	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Ms. Bockus	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	

NAYS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Bourque
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Losier
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 48 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS housing is a human right that the majority of New Brunswickers fear will be taken from them due to unaffordability;

WHEREAS building affordable housing is harder than ever before for developers because of the rising cost of building materials and property taxes;

WHEREAS construction of rental developments is almost at a standstill in rural areas with an alarming vacancy rate of less than 2% across the province;

WHEREAS the federal government announced in September 2023 it would remove the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the construction of purpose-built rental housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to evaluate innovative incentive programs for new affordable rental builds to help create more housing, ensuring that the province remains competitive with neighbouring provinces as it addresses the growing demand for affordable rental housing.

And the question being put, Motion 48 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 37

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

NAYS - 2

Mr. Coon

Ms. Mitton

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 56, Mr. M. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS the effective functioning of labour relations is crucial for fostering prosperity and well-being among workers and employers in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS recent legislative actions, such as Bill 23 in 2022 and Bill 17 last fall, have strained the relationship between the government and the labor movement, resulting in heightened tensions and diminished trust;

WHEREAS there exist opportunities for enhancing labour relations practices within the province to foster greater cooperation and collaboration among employers, employees, and their representatives;

WHEREAS the current framework provided by the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* and the *Industrial Relations Act* could be refined through collaborative efforts to address concerns and promote mutual understanding, thereby fostering increased job satisfaction, productivity, and economic growth in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to take proactive measures aimed at improving labour relations in the province and to establish a committee, comprised of government officials and labour representatives, tasked with conducting a thorough examination of the current state of labour relations and proposing actionable steps to enhance cooperation and dialogue between the government and labour stakeholders.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Conroy took the chair.

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Turner, seconded by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 56 be amended:

By striking out the second whereas clause;

In the resolution clause, by striking out all the words after “New Brunswick” and substituting “to continue to work towards improving labour relations”.

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

And after some time, Mr. J. LeBlanc moved the adjournment of the House.

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

And then, 5.54 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 2018-2019

New Brunswick Women’s Council

May 15, 2024