

Daily sitting 42

Friday, May 17, 2024

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Turner,  
Bill 47, *Accessibility Act*.

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Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 76 that on Thursday, May 30, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS a conducive learning environment is essential for the academic success and overall development of students;

WHEREAS the state of many school buildings in our province is concerning and poses risks to the safety and well-being of students and staff;

WHEREAS the government has a duty to ensure that school infrastructure meets necessary standards for the benefit of education;

WHEREAS adequate funding is crucial to address maintenance and renovation needs of schools with substandard infrastructure;

WHEREAS resources should be allocated in a prioritized manner to those schools most in need of infrastructure improvements;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to conduct an immediate public review of all school buildings across the province to assess their structural integrity and safety standards and make public the results;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide adequate funds to address the pressing maintenance and renovation needs of schools with substandard infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prioritize the allocation of resources to schools that are most affected by poor building conditions and make the criteria of the annual priority list public.

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Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 77 that on Thursday, May 30, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS the education and health of our youth is of paramount importance for the future prosperity of our province;

WHEREAS the current shortage of teachers, support staff, and school psychologists in our school systems is reaching critical levels, thereby compromising the mental health and well-being of New Brunswick students and contributing to the growing mental health crisis in the province;

WHEREAS the existing educators and staff members are overwhelmed with their workload, leading to burnout and reduced effectiveness in the classroom;

WHEREAS the shortage of teachers and support staff exacerbates the disparities in educational opportunities for students from marginalized communities;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to address the shortage of staff, teachers, and school psychologists in our school systems by:

1. allocating funds for recruiting and retaining qualified educators;
2. implementing measures to reduce the workload of existing educators;
3. prioritizing the hiring of school psychologists and support staff to support students' mental health needs.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, Bill 47 would be called for second reading.

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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; following which the House would consider Motion 50.

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The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 25, *An Act Respecting An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*.

Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act*.

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

Bill 39, *Justices of the Peace Act*.

Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Hearing Officers*.

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Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 45, *An Act Respecting the Firefighters' Compensation Act and the Workers' Compensation Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 45 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 45, *An Act Respecting the Firefighters' Compensation Act and the Workers' Compensation Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 50, Ms. Conroy moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie :

WHEREAS the Chignecto Isthmus, located in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is an interprovincial surface and rail trade corridor of national importance;

WHEREAS the Intercolonial Railway constructed along the Chignecto Isthmus, in accordance with section 145 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, physically united the Canadian federation by linking the province of Nova Scotia with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec;

WHEREAS Parliament passed, in 1948, the *Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act*, which provided for the Government of Canada to construct and reconstruct dykes, aboiteaux, and breakwaters;

WHEREAS the Chignecto Isthmus is currently vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels and increasingly intense severe weather events that threaten this interprovincial surface and rail trade corridor of national importance;

WHEREAS the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have undertaken the Chignecto Isthmus Climate Change Adaptation Comprehensive Engineering and Feasibility Study to expeditiously mitigate impacts of climate change on the communities and farmlands located within the Chignecto Isthmus;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Parliament of Canada to pass Bill S-273, *An Act to declare the Chignecto Isthmus Dykeland System and related works to be for the general advantage of Canada*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and all New Brunswick Members of the House of Commons and Senators.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 50 was resolved in the affirmative.

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And then, 11.45 a.m., the House adjourned.