

Daily sitting 23

Thursday, May 8, 2025

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Ms. M. Johnson referred to a Minister by name and not by title or riding. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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

May 8, 2025

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Madam Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their third report.

Your Committee met on May 7, 2025, and had under consideration:

Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Natacha Vautour, M.L.A.
Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Madam 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 Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. J. LeBlanc,
Bill 34, *Massage Therapy Act*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Ms. Bockus moved, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson:

WHEREAS the sale of beer, wine, and spirits is currently regulated in a manner that limits consumer choice and convenience, resulting in unnecessary barriers to access for responsible adults in our province;

WHEREAS other provinces, including Ontario and British Columbia, have successfully allowed the sale of beer, wine, and spirits in grocery and convenience stores, leading to an increase in consumer convenience, reduced government oversight, and competitive market conditions, without compromising public safety;

WHEREAS the revenue generated from expanded sales of alcohol in grocery and convenience stores would provide a valuable opportunity to enhance government revenue and support public health initiatives, while maintaining a strong regulatory framework to ensure responsible sales and consumption;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate steps to allow the sale of beer, wine, and spirits in grocery and convenience stores, ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place for responsible distribution, safety, and health regulations.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Bourque, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 21 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 12

Mr. Hogan
Ms. M. Johnson
Ms. Scott-Wallace
Mr. Austin

Mr. Monahan
Ms. M. Wilson
Mr. Weir
Ms. Conroy

Mr. Oliver
Ms. S. Wilson
Mr. Cullins
Ms. Bockus

NAYS - 25

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Herron	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Randall	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. LePage	Ms. Wilcott	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Mallet	
Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Arseneault	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 17, Mr. Hogan moved, seconded by Mr. Weir:

WHEREAS Canada's healthcare system is one of the most comprehensive in the world, but rural and underserved areas face a growing shortage of healthcare professionals, with over 1.2 million Canadians living in communities without access to a family doctor;

WHEREAS New Brunswick currently faces significant healthcare challenges, with rural areas of the province experiencing critical shortages of family physicians and specialists, which impact the quality and accessibility of healthcare for residents;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, as of 2021, nearly 140,000 New Brunswickers did not have access to a family doctor, contributing to longer wait times and poorer health outcomes for many in the province;

WHEREAS the implementation of financial incentives, such as tuition rebates or loan forgiveness programs, has been shown to be effective in other provinces in attracting and retaining healthcare professionals in underserved areas, including successful models in Quebec and Manitoba;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government and Department of Health to explore financial incentives such as a tuition rebate for medical students who agree to return and practice medicine in New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Dornan, seconded by Hon. Mr. D'Amours, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 17 be amended in the resolution clause by adding “to continue” after “Department of Health”.

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

At 5.14 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.40 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Monahan, seconded by Mr. Oliver, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 17 be amended by adding “paying special attention to rural New Brunswick” after “continue”.

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

At the request of Mr. M. LeBlanc, it was agreed by unanimous consent that the House adjourn.

And then, 5.55 p.m., the House adjourned.