

Daily sitting 26

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Randall made political remarks during Introduction of Guests. Mr. M. LeBlanc spoke on the point of order. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken.

Following Statements by Members, Madam Speaker reminded Members to refer to one another by riding or title.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton Lincoln, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to retain the Anglophone School District West librarians. (Petition 10).

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

May 14, 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 fifth report.

Your Committee met on May 13, 2025, and had under consideration:

Bill 8, *An Act Respecting the Degree Granting Act*;
Bill 13, *An Act Respecting the Firefighters' Compensation Act and the Workers' Compensation Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 7, *An Act Respecting Travel Nurses*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

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.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, May 29, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers facing serious illnesses, such as cancer, should not have to choose between seeking life-saving treatment and job security;

WHEREAS the current length of job-protected leave in New Brunswick is insufficient to cover the average treatment and recovery period for many common cancers, which can last over 36 weeks;

WHEREAS the federal government has extended the EI sickness benefit to 26 weeks, yet New Brunswick workers risk losing their jobs if provincial job protection is not extended accordingly;

WHEREAS other provinces, including Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, and Ontario, have extended job-protected leave to at least 26 weeks, aligning with the federal EI sickness benefit;

WHEREAS 85% of New Brunswickers support extending job-protected leave to 26 weeks;

WHEREAS extending job protection would ensure New Brunswick workers can focus on recovery without the fear of losing employment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to introduce legislation extending unpaid job-protected leave for serious illness from the current 5 days to 26 weeks.

Mr. Oliver, Acting Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 15, 2025, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 7, 15 and 17; Third Party Item.

Ms. Mitton gave notice that the Third Party item would be Bill 19.

Mr. M. LeBlanc, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 20, 12, 33, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 22, 24 and 35 be called for second reading.

The following Bill was read a third time:

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

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 20, *Special Appropriation Act 2025*, be now read a second time.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. M. LeBlanc moved the adjournment of the debate.

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

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, be now read a second time, moved by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Ames, on March 26, 2025.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative.

And the question being put that Bill 12 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Community Funding Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. M. LeBlanc moved the adjournment of the debate.

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 21 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 23, *An Act Respecting the Prescription Monitoring Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Madam Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.