
Daily sitting 30

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Madam Speaker reminded Members not to read from an electronic device while addressing the House.

During Statements by Members, Madam Speaker addressed several points of order regarding personal attacks and reiterated that the purpose of these statements was to provide Members the opportunity to raise matters of importance or concern to their constituents. The statements were not an opportunity to question a fellow Member's integrity, honesty or character.

Following further interjections, Madam Speaker enquired whether it was the will of the House to no longer allow statements containing criticisms of government or opposition policy. Based on the response of the House, the Speaker found such statements to be in order and the matter to be resolved.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 37 that on Thursday, June 5, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS New Brunswick only produces 9% of the vegetables and 3% of all of the food that New Brunswickers eat;

WHEREAS the threat of US tariffs has underscored the importance of creating a resilient local food economy;

WHEREAS New Brunswick lost 20% of its farms between 2016 and 2021;

WHEREAS only 6.7% of New Brunswick farmers are under 35 years old;

WHEREAS encouraging local non-industrial agriculture constitutes a way to fight climate change;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately set ambitious local purchasing targets for public institutions in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure stable government funding for local food contracts to enable more of our food to be produced locally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to adequately fund Food Depot Alimentaire's Fresh Local Food Program.

Ms. M. Johnson, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 29, 2025, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Third Party item; Motion 35 and 22.

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

Mr. M. LeBlanc, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 21, 25 and 12 be called for third reading; following which Bills 22, 24, 28 and 30 would be called for second reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*.

Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Subordinate Judicial Officials*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Savoie, seconded by Ms. Conroy, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for third reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

"Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, be not now read a third time but that the order for third reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments."

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

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed with Mr. Bourque, the Deputy Speaker, in the chair.

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

Debate resumed.

And after some time, Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Cullins, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for third reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

“Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, be not now read a third time because passage of this Bill could destabilize the pension plans of over 10,000 New Brunswickers, including 2,500 part-time employees who would lose legislated protections to receive a pension if the *Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act* was repealed.”

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

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

Debate resumed.

And after some time, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Austin used unparliamentary language when he used the term “B.S.” Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken and requested that Mr. Austin withdraw the remark, which he did.

And after some further time, Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. M. Johnson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for third reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

“Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, be not now read a third time but that the Bill be read a third time this day six months hence.”

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

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

And the question being put that Bill 12 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 27

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Mallet
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Holt	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Randall	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Wilcott	Ms. Mitton

NAYS - 15

Mr. Hogan	Mr. Monahan	Mr. Oliver
Ms. M. Johnson	Mr. Ames	Ms. S. Wilson
Mr. Savoie	Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Cullins
Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Weir	Ms. Bockus
Mr. Austin	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Lee

Accordingly, Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, was read a third time and passed.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 22, *An Act Respecting Property Tax Affordability Measures*, be now read a second time.

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.

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:

Response to Petition 9

May 26, 2025