
Daily sitting 2

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Bockus offered condolences to the family of the late Antoon “Tony” Huntjens, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Western Charlotte (1999-2006) and Charlotte-Campobello (2006-2010).

Following Statements by Members, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Ms. S. Wilson referred to the Premier by name. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken and reminded Members that the only exception is the last name of the current Premier followed by the word “government”.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

Ms. Mitton, Member for Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to a gas turbine facility in Centre Village. (Petition 1)

It was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting through the noon recess.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Dornan,

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Public Health Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Legacy,

Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Finnigan,

Bill 4, *An Act Respecting the Agriculture Appeal Board Act and the Bee Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Randall,

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Opportunities New Brunswick Act.*

By Hon. Mr. D’Amours,

Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the University of New Brunswick Act.*

Mr. Ames gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS drug addiction and recovery are critical public health and public safety issues that deeply impact individuals, families, small businesses and communities across New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the last report from Correctional Service Canada from 2019 estimated that 78% of offenders in correctional institutions struggled with substance use;

WHEREAS the chief of the Saint John police has attributed the 8% increase in violent crime in Saint John to illicit drugs;

WHEREAS therapeutic community models / therapeutic living units have been successfully implemented in correctional settings in North America and Europe, and have consistently demonstrated that these corrections-based programs are effective in reducing post-release criminal activity and re-incarceration rates;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest in developing therapeutic living units in all provincial correctional facilities in New Brunswick, complete with transition programs and follow-up supports, so inmates struggling with addiction can access the treatment that they need while incarcerated, allowing them to work toward a healthy future, free from substance-use disorder during and after their sentence.

Mr. Weir gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick's Health Plan acknowledges that patients in need of addictions treatment are waiting up to six months for a residential treatment bed;

WHEREAS delays of this length can mean the difference between recovery and relapse, as individuals seeking help for addiction and mental health challenges require immediate access to care;

WHEREAS national survey data show that individuals in recovery experience a more than 90 percent reduction in missing work or school, being fired, or dropping out of education, compared to when they were struggling with addiction;

WHEREAS the same survey found that those in recovery experience an 83 percent decrease in untreated mental health issues and a 95 percent decrease in frequent emergency department visits;

WHEREAS timely access to recovery services not only saves lives, but also reduces pressure on hospitals, improves community safety, and supports individuals in rebuilding healthy, productive lives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to increase the number and regional availability of recovery and treatment centres to ensure that when individuals reach out for help, help is available — because recovery cannot wait.

Mr. Weir gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS emergency services and hospital emergency departments are seeing increasing mental health demand;

WHEREAS police are frequently first responders to mental-health crises — studies report that 6% to as high as 30% of police calls involve persons believed to be experiencing a mental-health problem — and this variability underscores the need for consistent, evidence-based crisis response training across front-line services;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's mental health indicators are of particular concern: provincial reports and the Canadian Mental Health Association note higher-than-average rates of mood, anxiety and substance-use disorders in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS evidence reviews of crisis-response and de-escalation approaches indicate that training in trauma-informed care, mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation for police, EMS, emergency-room staff and social workers improves safety, reduces coercive responses, and connects people more effectively to care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to institute mandatory training for police, EMS, ER staff, and social workers in mental health crisis response and trauma-informed care be implemented.

Ms. M. Johnson gave Notice of Motion 4 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Conroy:

WHEREAS persons suffering from substance use disorders remain at high risk for relapse, even after receiving treatment for addiction;

WHEREAS receiving follow-up supports and lifestyle changes leads to improved outcomes and lower relapse rates after treatment;

WHEREAS stable housing, employment, and mental health support for addiction and co-occurring disorders are critical to maintaining sobriety;

WHEREAS the lack of gender-specific, age-appropriate, and culturally-safe services for women, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, youth, and Indigenous peoples, who face unique challenges in recovery, has been identified as a barrier to recovery;

WHEREAS careful and rigorous case management is critical to ensuring individuals in recovery are receiving the supports they need to maintain sobriety;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide persons in recovery from substance use disorders with integrated care plans comprising mental health support, employment opportunities, assistance finding affordable housing, access to recovery-focused support groups, and access to social services that meet the needs of marginalized groups.

Mr. Monahan gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace:

WHEREAS so-called “safe injection sites” have proven to be a public policy failure;

WHEREAS there is no actual “safe injection” of illicit drugs;

WHEREAS “safe injection sites” are not designed to help individuals suffering from addictions reach recovery but instead keep them suffering in their addiction;

WHEREAS where these injection sites are found, crime rises and community standards fall;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to close any and all “safe injection sites” that are operating in the province.

Mr. Lee gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Russell:

WHEREAS every person deserves the dignity of a safe place to call home, yet too many New Brunswickers living with mental illness, cognitive challenges, or addictions are caught between two extremes — struggling alone without adequate supports or being institutionalized in settings that are not designed to foster independence or community connection;

WHEREAS research consistently shows that supportive housing with integrated services reduces hospital admissions, lowers emergency room visits by up to 50%, and improves recovery outcomes, giving people the stability they need to rebuild their lives;

WHEREAS in New Brunswick, a shortage of community-based housing options has left many individuals with moderate mental health or cognitive support needs in inappropriate settings — including hospitals, shelters, or correctional facilities — with no clear path to stable housing, leading to a revolving door between crisis and care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to establish small-scale, supportive community living units with on-site staff for those who cannot live fully independently but do not require institutionalization, ensuring dignity, stability, and meaningful pathways to recovery and community participation.

Ms. Conroy gave Notice of Motion 7 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Bockus:

WHEREAS aftercare and transitional supports have been shown to reduce relapse;

WHEREAS all Horizon-operated mobile crisis units in the province close by 11 p.m.;

WHEREAS the only in-person option for after-hours treatment for overdose and other acute substance use related emergencies are often busy and crowded emergency rooms;

WHEREAS long-term stays in dedicated addiction rehabilitation facilities have been replaced by repeated short-term stays, emergency room visits, and calls for emergency services in a phenomenon called “the Revolving Door”;

WHEREAS overdoses present a critical opportunity for addiction intervention and connection to recovery services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to extend mobile care unit hours in all areas of the province to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and provide transitional supports, including follow-up consultations with addiction counsellors, to addicted patients leaving hospital care to stop the revolving door of substance use related emergencies and hospitalization.

Mr. Cullins gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Oliver:

WHEREAS New Brunswick continues to face significant mental health and addictions challenges, with growing wait times and limited access to services across the province;

WHEREAS while these positions represent a positive step forward, ten trainers are not sufficient to meet the training and capacity-building needs of an entire provincial mental health and addictions system;

WHEREAS effective and compassionate recovery care requires a well-supported workforce that includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counsellors, and peer support workers — all adequately trained and confident in addressing the complexities of addiction and mental health recovery;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to:

Expand workforce development initiatives beyond the ten current trainer positions to ensure adequate coverage across all health zones;

Implement a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and peer support workers to address ongoing staffing shortages;

Ensure all mental health and addictions professionals receive continuous, evidence-based training to build confidence, consistency, and recovery-oriented care across the province.

Mr. Austin gave Notice of Motion 9 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ames:

WHEREAS mental illness and addiction are not moral failings but health conditions that affect families and communities in every corner of this country, and each year in Canada, over 4,800 people die by suicide, while over 20 Canadians die every single day from toxic drug poisonings;

WHEREAS behind these statistics are loved ones — parents, children, neighbours, friends — whose suffering often unfolds in silence and desperation, leaving families and communities powerless and legally unable to intervene until it is too late;

WHEREAS in New Brunswick, suicide and overdose deaths have climbed steadily in recent years, with suicide rates among the highest in Atlantic Canada and the province seeing a more than 60% increase in suspected drug poisoning deaths since 2016, while emergency rooms and law enforcement agencies face increasing crisis calls with limited tools to respond effectively;

WHEREAS leading jurisdictions such as Portugal, Norway, and parts of Canada have shown that combining compassionate, legally safeguarded intervention with wraparound care — housing, treatment, counseling, and long-term follow-up — can reduce emergency visits, lower overdose deaths, and reconnect people with their families and communities;

WHEREAS the absence of a structured, compassionate intervention framework in New Brunswick leaves families without options, police without adequate supports, and people in crisis without a pathway to sustained recovery;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to establish a framework where individuals in severe crisis can be compassionately intervened upon — with safeguards, wraparound services, and clear oversight — ensuring dignity, safety, and the best chance for recovery.

Mr. Austin gave Notice of Motion 10 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS collaboration with First Nations and other stakeholders is essential in fostering mutual respect, ensuring environmental stewardship, and promoting inclusive decision-making in the management of natural resources;

WHEREAS Natural Resources Canada estimates that New Brunswick sits on nearly 80 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas, which the Fraser Institute estimates is worth between \$186 billion and \$221 billion at current market prices;

WHEREAS the federal government has demonstrated interest in the development and export of Canada's energy resources to our allies, as exemplified by the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent between Canada and Germany in August 2025 to build energy partnerships and Saint John-Kennebecasis Liberal MP Wayne Long stating in September 2025 that the Holt government should restart shale gas development in New Brunswick to take advantage of the next export potential;

WHEREAS the Russian war against Ukraine has forced Europe to reassess its previous reliance on Russian natural gas imports, resulting in the European Union's REPowerEU Plan, adopted in May 2022 which seeks to eliminate all imports of Russian gas by the end of 2027, thus necessitating new import sources;

WHEREAS Europe's transition to green energy includes natural gas, as reinforced via a European Commission court ruling in September 2025;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately lift the moratorium on natural gas exploration and work collaboratively with First Nations and other stakeholders to explore and develop our natural gas resources.

Ms. S. Wilson gave Notice of Motion 11 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Austin:

WHEREAS since 2016, opioid-related harms have resulted in over 52,000 deaths nationwide and nearly 500 deaths and 950 hospitalizations in New Brunswick alone;

WHEREAS methadone treatment is a critical lifesaving intervention for individuals recovering from opioid dependence;

WHEREAS serious concerns have been raised by medical professionals and patients regarding the quality of care provided by some privately operated, methadone clinics, including rushed appointments, limited counselling, and lack of long-term recovery supports;

WHEREAS experts and treatment pioneers have called for a transition toward community-based, patient-centred care models that promote recovery, dignity, and continuity of care;

WHEREAS evidence shows that poorly managed or abrupt withdrawal from methadone can lead to severe physical and psychological consequences, increasing the risk of relapse or overdose;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to:

Strengthen provincial oversight and care standards for all methadone treatment providers to ensure integrated access to counselling, mental health, and recovery supports;

Develop a phased plan to transition patients from high-volume, privately operated methadone clinics to regulated, community-based, or publicly accountable treatment settings; and

Guarantee that during this transition, no patient experiences service disruption, withdrawal complications, or reduced access to care.

Ms. M. Wilson gave Notice of Motion 12 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. S. Wilson:

WHEREAS New Brunswick homeowners have experienced significant and unsustainable increases in property assessment rates since the pandemic;

WHEREAS 30 percent of New Brunswickers cited housing affordability as a top issue of concern in an Angus Reid poll conducted in September 2025;

WHEREAS the 2021 census found that nearly eight percent of New Brunswick homeowners were spending over 30 percent of their income on shelter;

WHEREAS the existing 10 percent spike protection limit still did not protect 37 percent of New Brunswick properties from receiving assessment increases in 2025 and the one-year assessment freeze for 2025-26 is not a long-term answer to providing tax relief or sustainable and predictable costs to homeowners;

WHEREAS New Brunswick tenants benefit from a three percent cap in annual rent fees that is denied to homeowners;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reduce the spike protection mechanism from ten percent per year to three percent per year.

Ms. M. Wilson gave Notice of Motion 13 that on Thursday, October 30, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. S. Wilson:

WHEREAS New Brunswick homeowners have experienced significant and unsustainable increases in property assessment values since the pandemic;

WHEREAS the sharp increases in assessment values mean that the current cost of assessment fee of \$19.40 for every \$100,000 of a property's assessed value increasingly represents an unbearable cost burden for homeowners;

WHEREAS CBC News in March 2024 reported that the assessment fee doubled for homeowners in some New Brunswick communities in the previous three years;

WHEREAS 30 percent of New Brunswickers cited housing affordability as a top issue of concern in an Angus Reid poll conducted in September 2025 and the same poll found that 60 percent of New Brunswickers cited the cost of living as a top issue of concern;

WHEREAS municipalities also pay the Government of New Brunswick the cost of assessment fee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to eliminate the "cost of assessment" fee associated with the property assessment process.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Friday, October 24, 2025, Bills 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 would be called for second reading.

And then, 12.29 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:

Under the provision of the *Fees Act*,
information regarding proposed fee changes
to campsites and beach maintenance fees
at provincial parks

October 21, 2025