
Daily sitting 7

Thursday, October 30, 2025

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier offered condolences to the family of the late Sheldon Lee, former Liberal MLA for Charlotte Centre (1978-1995) and Charlotte (1995-2003). Mr. Lee joined in this regard.

Ms. M. Johnson rose on a point of order and submitted that when the Speaker rose to interrupt proceedings, the Members standing in applause did not relinquish the floor. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken and further reminded Member to not interrupt the business of the House by engaging in private conversation or otherwise.

Mr. Ames gave Notice of Motion 14 that on Thursday, November 6, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace:

WHEREAS the current drought has severely affected water availability for households, livestock, and agricultural production;

WHEREAS many communities and individual farmers are experiencing extreme hardship due to dried-up water sources and cannot afford the high costs of drilling new wells or rehabilitating existing ones;

WHEREAS access to clean, reliable water is essential for sustaining livelihoods, protecting public health, and ensuring food security;

WHEREAS the Department of Public Safety's Disaster Financial Assistance Program provides recovery support for natural disasters that result in sudden, unexpected, and uninsurable losses, such as flooding, but currently does not address the impacts of drought, which represent a crisis of too little water rather than too much;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to:

Establish an emergency financial assistance program to subsidize or fully fund the drilling, equipping, and rehabilitation of wells in drought-affected areas;

Prioritize support for farmers, small business owners, and residents of rural communities who are most severely impacted by the drought;

Partner with licensed water drilling contractors, local authorities, and community organizations to ensure transparent, efficient, and equitable implementation of the assistance program; and

Develop long-term water management strategies, including sustainable water conservation education, improved groundwater management, and rainwater harvesting initiatives, to mitigate the impacts of future droughts.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Weir moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. McKee, seconded by Ms. Wilcott, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 2 be amended in the resolution clause by deleting “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” and replacing it with “continue their work towards increasing the number of beds providing recovery and treatment for individuals struggling with addictions in regional and local community settings to reduce wait times for services”.

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

At 3.12 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.22 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Savoie, seconded by Ms. M. Johnson, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 2 be amended by striking out “continue their”.

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

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the sub-amendment was out of order.

At 4.33 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.36 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the sub-amendment to be in order.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the sub-amendment was defeated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 27

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. McKee	Hon. Ms. Townsend
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Ms. Wilcott
Hon. Ms. Holt	Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Herron	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Randall	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Robichaud

NAYS - 17

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 2 as amended as follows:

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 continue their work towards increasing the number of beds providing recovery and treatment for individuals struggling with addictions in regional and local community settings to reduce wait times for services.

And the question being put, Motion 2 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 11, Ms. S. Wilson moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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.