

Daily sitting 38

Friday, May 10, 2024

*9 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Ms. Conroy, Member for Miramichi, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to support the International Air Cargo project. (Petition 19)

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 74 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the Higgs government aims to table legislation for the involuntary treatment of people with substance use disorder;

WHEREAS this proposed legislation is seen as a cynical attempt to “clean up the streets” without addressing the underlying social determinants of health;

WHEREAS involuntary treatment disregards the intersectional challenges of poverty, intergenerational trauma, gender non-conformity, neurodiversity, Indigeneity, racialization, and other barriers to care;

WHEREAS the lack of suitable and affordable housing and low rates of income assistance exacerbate the crisis in homelessness;

WHEREAS the incarceration of persons without addressing the root causes is a violation of basic human rights and has not been proven effective based on current data and research;

WHEREAS enacting legislation for involuntary treatment would contravene section 7 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which guarantees the right to life, liberty, and security of the person;

WHEREAS the healthcare system is already under significant strain and this legislation would further burden an already stretched system;

WHEREAS involuntary treatment would create a medical ethical dilemma among healthcare providers and increase the risk of fatal overdoses upon release;

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WHEREAS the proposed legislation does not align with the priorities outlined in the 2021 *Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action* or the 2021 Inter-Departmental Addiction and Mental Health Action Plan;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to explore alternative ways to address addiction and mental health treatment that prioritize voluntary treatment, address the social determinants of health, and uphold the rights and dignity of individuals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to address the social determinants of health, including but not limited to:

1. increasing access to suitable and affordable housing;
2. implementing policies to address poverty and income inequality;
3. providing culturally appropriate and community-based mental health and addiction support services;
4. enhancing support for individuals experiencing intergenerational trauma, gender non-conformity, neurodiversity, Indigeneity, racialization, and other intersecting barriers to care;
5. increasing mental health and addiction services in jails;
6. establishing a Mental Health Court province-wide; and
7. developing programs that allow a person to regain self-esteem and resume an active role in the community.

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Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that the House adjourn.

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The following Bills were read a third time:

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

Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act.*

Bill 24, *An Act Respecting Occupational Health and Safety.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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And then, 10.13 a.m., the House adjourned.