

Daily sitting 22

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
March 29, 2019.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I thank you for your Address and beg to assure you that I entertain the fullest confidence that in all your deliberations you will be guided by a most earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this province.

(Sgd. :) Jocelyne Roy Vienneau.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Landry welcomed to the House Mr. Kevin Vickers, recently elected Leader of the Liberal Party in New Brunswick.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Steeves made reference to a government study and should be required to table it in the House. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

Hon. Mr. Flemming laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *New Brunswick Restigouche Hospital Centre and the Centre of Excellence for Children and Youth with Complex Needs, Report of the External Advisor, April 27, 2019, Prepared by G. Weber.*

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.,

Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Prescription and Catastrophic Drug Insurance Act.*

Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Prescription Drug Payment Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Holland,

Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Quarriable Substances Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Holder,

Bill 27, *An Act Respecting Addressing Recommendations in the Report of the Task Force on WorkSafeNB.*

By Hon. Ms. Shephard,
Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*

Mr. DeSaulniers gave Notice of Motion 49 that on Thursday, May 16, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Austin:

WHEREAS New Brunswick cannabis retailer reports \$11.7 million loss in the first year;

WHEREAS since the legalization of cannabis, New Brunswick had the steepest price increase, with users paying 30.5 per cent more in the last six months;

WHEREAS under the privatization model, private growers could solve the current supply and demand issues by increasing cannabis stock to retailers;

WHEREAS legalizing current growers would limit the illegal market sales and increase revenue to New Brunswick from the captured portion of the illegal market;

WHEREAS placing cannabis sales in the hands of the private sector would create business opportunities for entrepreneurs and more jobs for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS New Brunswick would enjoy significant revenue increases from a flat tax on the sale of cannabis to retail businesses without the expense of running retail operations;

WHEREAS privatizing cannabis will increase provincial revenue through licensing fees;

WHEREAS the free market cannabis sales model would allow for greater business opportunities for primary cannabis businesses such as agriculture opportunities, processing, manufacturing and sale of cannabis products, as well as ancillary businesses such as point of sale systems, payment processors, digital marketing, attorneys, accountants and more;

WHEREAS New Brunswick can use Alberta's successful privatization model to ensure this province creates a made-in-New-Brunswick blueprint for success;

WHEREAS overall research indicates cannabis privatization would result in great economic gains for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS privatizing NB Cannabis will create more jobs for New Brunswick through small businesses and business investments bringing more money to the province's economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to begin the process of privatizing NB Cannabis placing the sale of cannabis in the hands of the private sector.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 9, 2019, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 39; other parties items.

Ms. Mitton gave notice of Bill 23.

Mr. Austin gave notice of Bill 18.

With leave of the House, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder: (Motion 50)

THAT the order referring Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Local Governance Act*, to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be discharged and the Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Thursday, May 9, 2019, Bills 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 would be called for second reading.

And then, 12.05 p.m., the House adjourned.