

Daily sitting 39

Thursday, June 13, 2019

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

On motion of Mr. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Friday, June 14, 2019, at 10 a.m.

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that, with unanimous consent, Bill 18 be called for third reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 18 be called for third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

At 2 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 51, moved by Hon. Mr. Flemming, seconded by Mr. Savoie, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 51 be amended:

In the sixth whereas clause by deleting "the government has failed to recognize" and substituting "the government recognizes".

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

And after some further time, Mr. D'Amours, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 51 be amended:

By adding before "the government recognizes" the following: "New Brunswickers are very concerned and want to ensure that".

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

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 51 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS a significant nursing shortage exists throughout the province;

WHEREAS projections show that, in the next 5 years, New Brunswick will lose upwards of 2,400 nurses due to retirements;

WHEREAS in each health region, nurses are on sick leave and stress leave due to overwork and stressful working environments as a result of the nursing shortage;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions are aggressively recruiting New Brunswick nurses;

WHEREAS hospitals have had to cancel services such as obstetrics due to the nursing shortage;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are very concerned and want to ensure that the government recognizes that the nursing shortage has become a crisis;

WHEREAS there are several programs in the province that provide incentives for the recruitment and retention of family practitioners and medical specialists;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions have incentives to recruit and retain nurses;

WHEREAS the government should take action to address the nursing shortage by supporting nurse training, recruiting nurses from other jurisdictions, developing incentive programs for recruitment and retention, and supporting New Brunswick nurses through measures such as flexible work schedules and a safe and quality work environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the government to work with the New Brunswick Nurses' Union, the Nurses Association of New Brunswick, RHAs, l'Université de Moncton, the University of New Brunswick, community colleges, and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy to train, recruit, retain, and support nurses.

And the question being put, Motion 51 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 59, Mr. Arseneault moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS Diabetes Canada estimates that, as of 2018, 9.3% of Canadians were living with diabetes;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is leading the country and is estimated to have the highest rate of diabetes in Canada, with 12.1% of people living with diabetes;

WHEREAS, according to estimates, one in three New Brunswickers is either living with diabetes or has prediabetes right now and this number is expected to grow over the next few years if no action is taken;

WHEREAS diabetes and the medical complications resulting from poorly managed diabetes are significant cost drivers in our healthcare system;

WHEREAS management of diabetes can represent a significant personal cost burden for many New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS government should not just focus on disease prevention and treatment, but should also use its best efforts to support persons with diabetes in managing their disease;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to immediately renew the lapsed provincial Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy and to provide additional financial support for people living with diabetes to assist with the costs associated with diabetes medications, monitoring devices, blood glucose testing supplies, and insulin delivery devices that are not currently covered by the province.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Cardy, seconded by Mr. Fairgrieve, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 59 be amended:

By deleting the resolution clause and substituting the following:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to develop a comprehensive approach to chronic disease prevention and management, within a broader primary health care framework in collaboration with the Regional Health Authorities and other key stakeholders.”

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 59 be amended:

By adding after “government to” the following: “renew the lapsed provincial comprehensive diabetes strategy and”.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and it was defeated.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 59 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS Diabetes Canada estimates that, as of 2018, 9.3% of Canadians were living with diabetes;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is leading the country and is estimated to have the highest rate of diabetes in Canada, with 12.1% of people living with diabetes;

WHEREAS, according to estimates, one in three New Brunswickers is either living with diabetes or has prediabetes right now and this number is expected to grow over the next few years if no action is taken;

WHEREAS diabetes and the medical complications resulting from poorly managed diabetes are significant cost drivers in our healthcare system;

WHEREAS management of diabetes can represent a significant personal cost burden for many New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS government should not just focus on disease prevention and treatment, but should also use its best efforts to support persons with diabetes in managing their disease;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the government to develop a comprehensive approach to chronic disease prevention and management, within a broader primary health care framework in collaboration with the Regional Health Authorities and other key stakeholders.

And the question being put, Motion 59 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Introduction of Guests and to allow the Premier of Alberta to briefly address the House during its proceedings.

Hon. Mr. Higgs welcomed to the House the Premier of Alberta, the Honourable Jason Kenney, following which Premier Kenney addressed the House.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 47, moved by Hon. Mr. Holder, seconded by Hon. Ms. M. Wilson, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 47 be amended:

In the resolution clause by deleting the words after “urge the government” and substituting the following: “to increase the funding to the SEED program when appropriate and affordable”.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.