

Daily sitting 9

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to provide accessibility to publicly funded abortion services in appropriate settings. (Petition 8)

Mr. Fairgrieve requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Northrup: (Motion 22)

THAT in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1) and by Special Order of the House adopted November 21, 2018, the House may sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m;

THAT this Special Order shall come into effect on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, and shall remain in effect until Friday, December 20, 2019.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 22 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Friday, December 13, 2019.

Mr. D'Amours gave Notice of Motion 23 that on Thursday, December 19, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick health authorities reported over 1,600 violent incidents in the 2018-19 fiscal year;

WHEREAS health authority tracking shows there are 4.5 violent incidents in New Brunswick hospitals each day;

WHEREAS there is at least one violent incident each day at New Brunswick hospitals that requires the presence of police;

WHEREAS health authority statistics show there were over 2,000 "Code Whites", or responses to violent persons, last year;

WHEREAS research shows that New Brunswick's health authorities have combined violence rates per employee far higher than the Nova Scotia Health Authority, despite the fact that Nova Scotia has thousands more employees;

WHEREAS more than half of security guard positions in New Brunswick were vacant as of early 2019;

WHEREAS the CEO of Horizon Health, Karen McGrath, has testified that security guards are not peace officers, but rather “diplomats” who are not allowed to lay hands on violent persons in hospitals;

WHEREAS WorksafeNB data shows that accepted workplace violence claims for employees of hospitals and nursing homes are more than triple those of employees in correctional facilities;

WHEREAS WorksafeNB data shows that accepted mental health and PTSD claims among nurses make up nearly 1/3 (28%) of all mental health and PTSD claims in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS Horizon Health Board Chair John McGarry has said publicly that data from Horizon Health indicates that violence levels are “out of control”;

WHEREAS there is a need for the health authorities to conduct annual violence reviews as provided for under occupational health and safety legislation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government and its health authorities to complete the annual workplace violence risk assessments required by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and to provide the health authorities with sufficient funding to complete the assessments and implement the recommendations that emerge from them.

Mr. D’Amours gave Notice of Motion 24 that on Thursday, December 19, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS the province of New Brunswick is facing a shortage of nurses that will have an impact on its ability to provide quality health services throughout New Brunswick;

WHEREAS, as a result of the nursing shortage, there have been several instances whereby health services have had to be suspended or hospital beds closed, including in Saint John, Campbellton, Bathurst, and Perth-Andover;

WHEREAS the crisis will only deepen with a growing number of nurses nearing retirement age;

WHEREAS, as reported in a media article dated June 21, 2019, the Nurses Association of New Brunswick says it expects a shortage of 5,000 nurses in the next five years;

WHEREAS the health authorities told a legislative committee that there was a shortage of 520 nurses per year;

WHEREAS New Brunswick graduates about 320 nurses a year and yet, even if all the students graduated and stayed in the province, there would still be a shortage of 200 nurses per year;

WHEREAS according to the provincial nursing resource strategy, approximately 30% of nursing students will not graduate from their training program;

WHEREAS many New Brunswick nursing graduates are leaving the province as they cannot find full-time positions in New Brunswick, given that the province is not providing the health authorities with sufficient funding to hire them;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions are actively recruiting New Brunswick nursing graduates;

WHEREAS the provincial government cut \$8.7 million in funding that supported 95 additional nurse training seats, including clinical training, at the University of New Brunswick and the University of Moncton;

WHEREAS, in a joint press release, the universities stated that “the cuts will hurt the ability of universities to deliver clinical training and build their programs”;

WHEREAS UNB is turning away hundreds of applicants to its nursing program each year as it is underfunded by approximately \$14,000 per nursing student position;

WHEREAS these applicants are pursuing nursing training in other provinces;

WHEREAS the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour subsequently ignored a proposal from UNB for doubling the number of nursing seats;

WHEREAS the expanded nurse bridging program announcement by the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour in November 2019 will only fund the training of a maximum of 49 nursing positions which will train existing LPNs to become registered nurses and does not actually result in any net new nurses;

WHEREAS the training monies provided of \$500,000 per year are far short of the \$8.7 million that was cut from existing nursing training;

WHEREAS this proposal by the provincial government for nurse training is woefully inadequate to address the nursing shortage crisis;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to commit to funding sufficient additional nursing seats at New Brunswick universities—taking into account known costs and student attrition rates—to allow for the potential annual graduation of the 130 additional registered nurses called for in the government’s own estimates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House urge the government to commit to implementing funding for those seats for the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year and for a period of no less than 10 years.

Mr. Austin gave Notice of Motion 25 that on Thursday, December 19, 2019, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. DeSaulniers:

WHEREAS the International Agency for Research on Cancer has toughened their stance that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen in 2018;

WHEREAS there are over 50 peer-reviewed, published and independent worldwide research papers that assert glyphosate is toxic and linked to non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma;

WHEREAS these research papers also show conclusively that glyphosate also causes DNA damage, liver and kidney damage, is an endocrine disruptor, and the cause of numerous other health concerns;

WHEREAS the conflict between industry science and independent science suggests this is the ideal case for implementing the precautionary principle in the best interest of public health and the health of fish and wildlife species;

WHEREAS three court cases in the US have resulted in payouts to plaintiffs in the order of \$200 million where juries have found glyphosate caused cancer and that the company has attempted to cover up the risks;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to prohibit the spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides on Crown land.

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House take into consideration Motion 19 and, with leave, Motion 22; following which Bills 26, 27, 19, 20 and 17 would be called for second reading until no later than 4.30 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

Hon. Mr. Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, 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.
December 10, 2019.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Capital Estimates* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, required for the services of the province, not otherwise provided for, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Brenda Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 19, Hon. Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the capital budgetary policy of the government.

And the question being put, Hon. Mr. Steeves proceeded to deliver the 2020-2021 capital budget speech.

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

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to be granted to Her Majesty forthwith.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. C. Chiasson in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. C. Chiasson, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee proceeding in the matter under consideration, had passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

And he was directed to ask leave to sit again.

Mr. C. Chiasson moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT the House does concur with the Committee of Supply in its report and agrees in its resolution that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

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

Mr. Savoie, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT consideration of estimates in Committee of Supply be added to the Orders of the Day until such time as they are dispatched.

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

Mr. Savoie requested unanimous consent to consider Motion 22, and unanimous consent was denied.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 26 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 27 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And then, 4.30 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Report on Performance 2018-2019, Auditor General of New Brunswick Annual Report 2018-2019	November 29, 2019
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	December 3, 2019
Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume II, Performance Audit, 2019	December 3, 2019
Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume III, Financial Audit, 2019 Annual Report 2018-2019	December 3, 2019
Service New Brunswick	December 4, 2019
Pursuant to the <i>Private Occupational Training Act</i> , the audited financial statements of the Training Completions Fund for the 2018-2019 fiscal year	December 5, 2019
Air Quality Monitoring Results, 2017, Department of Environment and Local Government	December 6, 2019
Annual Report 2018-2019 Department of Aboriginal Affairs	December 6, 2019
Annual Report 2018-2019 Labour and Employment Board	December 6, 2019
Response to Petitions 2, 5	December 5, 2019
Response to Petitions 1, 3, 4, 6	December 6, 2019