

Daily sitting 15

Thursday, December 19, 2019
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Melanson used unparliamentary language when he asked the Premier to “come clean”. Mr. Melanson withdrew the remark.

Mr. Landry, Member for Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to ensure that couples may live together in the same nursing facility despite different levels of care needs. (Petition 14)

Mr. Harvey, Member for Carleton-Victoria, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to complete renovations to Bath Community School. (Petition 15)

Mr. Crossman, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Fourth Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 19, 2019

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their fourth report.

Your Committee met on December 18 and had under consideration:

Bill 20, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Essential Services in Nursing Homes Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Gary Crossman, M.L.A.
Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Melanson, from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 19, 2019

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this, their first report.

The report outlines the Committee's activities since it last reported on March 26, 2019.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Roger Melanson, M.L.A.
Chair

The full report of the Committee as presented follows:

Committee Activities

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts held a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the following:

June 11 and 13, 2019

Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick

Under review: Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2019, Volume I – Performance Audit.

Volume I presented performance audit reports completed during 2019 on Medicare cards, outsourcing of highway maintenance and construction work, and the collection and forgiveness of overdue property taxes. The volume also reported the results of a special review on a funding arrangement for the City of Saint John.

Special Examination

On July 2, the Committee held an organizational meeting in regard to Chapter 5 of the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2019, Volume I – Performance Audit*, concerning the Government of New Brunswick’s funding arrangement for the City of Saint John.

The following Motion was carried during the meeting:

THAT the Committee send a letter to the Clerk of the Executive Council asking that he table with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible copies of:

- *The draft report of the working committee of senior officials on the Saint John new deal as it existed at the change of government on or about November 9, 2018;*
- *The current draft of the working committee of senior officials on the Saint John new deal;*
- *The funding agreement between the Province and the City of Saint John;*

THAT the Committee perform the above, as long as it does not violate the terms of the agreement.

On July 12, the Clerk of the Executive Council responded to the motion and provided the Committee with the following documents:

- 1) The current draft of the working committee of senior officials on the Saint John new deal, Sustaining Saint John a Three-Part Plan;
- 2) The funding agreement between the Province and the City of Saint John.

Meetings were held on August 6 and 7 to call witnesses for a special examination into the New Saint John Deal.

The Committee heard from: Donald Darling, Mayor of Saint John; Judy Wagner, former Clerk of the Executive Council, current Deputy Minister of Policy and Legislative Affairs and Secretary to Cabinet; Brian Gallant, Q.C., former Premier of New Brunswick, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Shediac Bay-Dieppe; Jack Keir, former working group member and employee of the Office of the Premier; Lee-Bell Smith, former Deputy Attorney General; Cheryl Hansen, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance and Treasury Board; Patricia MacKenzie, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet; Jordan O’Brien, former Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier; Jacques Pinet, former Chief Executive Officer, Jobs Board

Secretariat, former President of the Regional Development Corporation; Ann Marie Wood-Seems, Vice President, Regional Development Corporation; Kelli Simmonds, Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Local Government; Kim MacPherson, Auditor General of New Brunswick.

The Committee also heard from the Joint Working Committee. From the Province of New Brunswick Members, the Committee heard from: Joel Dickinson, former Co-Chair of Joint Working Committee, current Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Elizabeth Hayward, current Secretary to the Working Committee, current Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister for Policy and Legislative Affairs. From the City of Saint John Members, the Committee heard from: Neil Jacobsen, former Co-Chair of Joint Working Committee and Acting City Manager, current Deputy City Manager; Jeff Trail, former Co-Chair of Joint Working Committee and Saint John City Manager; Kevin Fudge, Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer.

The following motion was carried prior to the conclusion of the August 7 meeting:

WHEREAS as a result of testimony before the Public Accounts Committee on the Saint John deal in relation to the documents provided by the Executive Council Office to the Auditor General there is confusion over which documents were provided;

WHEREAS to ensure that the Public Accounts Committee has all the necessary information to undertake its deliberations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Public Accounts Committee ask the Executive Council Office to table all the documents provided to the Auditor General related to her request for documentation related to the Agreement between the Province of New Brunswick and the City of Saint John for the period from June 1, 2017 until June 30, 2019.

On August 28, the Clerk of the Executive Council responded to the request, stating in a letter that the documents provided to the Auditor General for the time period in question included:

- 1) the Cabinet minute - protected under section 17 of the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- 2) the Memorandum to Executive Council (MEC) and Agreement - protected under section 17 of the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- 3) email exchanges between the AG staff and ECO staff; and
- 4) letter dated Sept 13, 2018.

The Executive Council Office further noted that the Auditor General had advised that items 3 and 4 were not releasable as they were deemed “working papers” pursuant to section 15.2 of the *Auditor General Act* which states “working papers of an audit of the Auditor General shall not be laid before the Legislative Assembly or any committee of the Legislative Assembly.”

Further Committee Activities

The Committee held meetings on October 9 and 10 and November 7. The following departments appeared and answered questions concerning the years under review and Auditor General recommendations:

October 9, 2019

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

October 10, 2019

Office of the Attorney General

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

Department of Environment and Local Government

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

November 7, 2019

Department of Energy and Resource Development

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

The Committee held a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the following:

December 3, 2019

Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick

Under review: Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2019, Volume II - Performance Audit and Volume III - Financial Audit.

Volume II presented performance audit reports completed during 2019 on university funding, group homes and specialized placements. It also presented follow-up work on prior year recommendations, which focused on two financial assistance case studies (blueberries and naval centre).

Volume III focused on New Brunswick’s year-end financial results and matters arising from the annual financial audit of the provincial government and Crown agencies, including understanding key financial audit issues and

observations on the state of New Brunswick's financial condition. Information was also provided on: tax expenditures, contaminated sites, accounts receivable, local government debt, property assessments, financial commitments and opportunities to improve transparency.

Rotation

Historically, individual Members had the ability to question entities without limit on the length or number of questions or comments. The Committee undertakes a full schedule with multiple entities appearing in one day, and Members had voiced discontent with the unpredictability of the current practice.

The Committee tested different rotations which allocated questions and blocks of time to the various caucuses and Members. This was met with positive feedback. The Chair requested that a monitor projecting a clock, using the same system found in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, be added for the convenience of Members. The current rotation is ten minutes per Member, rotating between the Official Opposition, Government, Green, and Peoples Alliance Caucuses, until questions have been exhausted.

Orientation

Auditor General Kim MacPherson held an orientation session on October 2 and 3 with the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF) to discuss the principles of an effective Public Accounts Committee. The session, which was open to all Members and the support staff of the various caucuses, covered such topics as parliamentary oversight, cross-party collaboration, and effective hearings.

At the conclusion of the orientation, the attendees were asked to rank the important next steps for the Committee. The CAAF summarized these responses as follows:

1. Planning
 - a) Creating a steering committee to take the lead on planning.
 - b) Setting the committee schedule for several months at a time.
 - c) Meeting preparation (including focused agenda, pre-hearing meetings to clarify meeting purpose and line of questioning, and briefing with the Auditor General).
 - d) Communicating the focus of meetings with the departments.
2. Working collaboratively. Several participants suggested the committee could start with mixing up the caucus seating arrangement during meetings.

3. Ensuring hearings are useful by reading Auditor General reports in advance, focusing on good questions and getting clear answers.
4. Improving follow-up, including the use of reports with committee recommendations and action plans.
5. Combining the Public Accounts Committee and the Crown Corporations Committee.
6. Getting additional research support for the committee.

Throughout the discussion, there was widespread support for:

1. The creation of a subcommittee for the purposes of planning meeting dates and identifying topics of study.
2. Increasing cross-party collaboration. One suggestion to reach this goal was to change the seating arrangement so Members no longer sit exclusively with their caucuses.
3. Merging the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.
4. Support, in principle, for the creation of a Legislative Internship Program.

To begin addressing some of the steps discussed during the session, the Committee carried the following two motions on October 10:

Motion 1:

THAT pursuant to Standing Rule 98, a subcommittee be appointed and be composed of the Committee Chair, the Vice-Chair, and a Committee Member from each remaining caucus;

THAT the subcommittee Members may:

- *represent their respective caucus in reviewing issues related to scheduling, agenda preparation and potential matters of Committee procedure;*
- *work collaboratively in moving the Committee forward with recommendations and action items proposed during the October 2-3, 2019 orientation session;*
- *utilize the Office of the Auditor General in these undertakings where necessary.*

THAT the subcommittee may meet informally and;

THAT substitutions be permitted on the subcommittee.

Motion 2:

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Public Accounts would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Office of the Auditor General for its hard work hosting a two-day orientation session held on October 2 and 3, 2019 in conjunction with the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation;

WHEREAS the Committee may consider the implementation of some of the good practices found across Canada; including:

- *Focusing on the administration of a program or policy, and not the merits of a program, and*
- *Committee Members changing the historically partisan culture of the Public Accounts Committee to promote non-partisanship;*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Committee affirms its willingness to work collaboratively to improve its functioning, moving forward;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee offers its support to the Auditor General in her request to have the mandate of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations merged into the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Moving Forward

Historically, the Committee has held a number of meetings when the House is not in session, typically in the fall and winter. The established precedent is to have all departments appear annually to examine their latest annual reports.

Following the orientation session, the Committee has signaled an interest in changing the established procedure based on some good practices suggested by the CAAF. Ultimately, the Committee wishes to put on the record that it is interested in changing and adopting new practices in order to use its time more effectively.

Ordered that the report be received, and leave granted.

Mr. Fairgrieve, from the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

December 19, 2019

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

I present herewith the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers for the Third Session of the 59th Legislature.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 92, all Standing Rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Committee.

Further to its permanent order of reference, the Committee held a meeting on December 18, 2019, to review the Standing Rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly and its committees.

The Committee's Report contains recommendations for amendments to the Standing Rules in order to dissolve the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations and merge its mandate with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and to create a new Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship.

And your Committee asks leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Stewart Fairgrieve, M.L.A.
Chair

The full report of the Committee as presented follows:

Your Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers begs leave to submit this, their First Report of the session.

Further to its permanent order of reference, your Committee held a meeting on December 18, 2019, to review the Standing Rules with the consideration of merging the mandate of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations with the mandate of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Committee also considered the creation of a new Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship.

Merging the separate mandates into a single oversight body that is the Public Accounts Committee is supported by the Auditor General, who outlined a number of reasons for doing so, of which included:

- A sole Public Accounts Committee would have more ability to hold relevant entities (departments and Crown corporations) and senior officials and senior corporate executives to account;
- Interrelationships of government departments and Crown corporations have become more complex with a number of Crown corporations performing functions that in the past were considered mainstream government programs;
- Most Canadian jurisdictions have a single Public Accounts Committee and not a separate Crown Corporations Committee.

The Public Accounts Committee held orientation sessions open to all Members and relevant staff on October 2 and 3, 2019, which was hosted by the Office of the Auditor General in conjunction with the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation. Based on recommendations brought forward by the Auditor General and discussions during these sessions, the Public Accounts Committee subsequently carried a motion on October 10, 2019, in support of merging the two committees.

The Committee agrees with the Public Accounts Committee and recommends amendments to the Standing Rules in order to dissolve the Crown Corporations Committee and merge its mandate with the Public Accounts Committee.

On December 12, 2019, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS herbicides and pesticides are used by the forest industry, NB Power, and the agricultural sector for vegetation control;

WHEREAS despite findings by Health Canada and New Brunswick's Chief Medical Officer indicating that glyphosate does not pose a cancer risk to humans at current exposure rates, concerns about the spraying of glyphosate remain;

WHEREAS, prior to taking any decision related to changes to the application of glyphosate in New Brunswick, it is important to hear from stakeholders including the forest and agricultural sectors, subject matter experts, and the general public;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to refer the issue of glyphosate spraying to a legislative committee in order to hold public hearings, engage stakeholders, invite submissions, and make recommendations to government within six months.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House support the creation of a legislative committee dedicated to climate change and environmental stewardship.

The above resolution was considered by the Committee and the Committee recommends that a Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship be added to the list of Committees under the Standing Rules.

Amendments to the Standing Rules

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following amendments to the Standing Rules:

1 Standing Rule 89 is repealed and the following is substituted:

89 The Standing Committees shall be appointed on motion at the commencement of each House and shall be:

- (a) the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship;
- (b) the Standing Committee on Economic Policy;
- (c) the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy;
- (d) the Standing Committee on Law Amendments;
- (e) the Legislative Administration Committee;
- (f) the Standing Committee on Private Bills;
- (g) the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers;
- (h) the Standing Committee on Public Accounts;
- (i) the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

2 Standing Rule 90 is repealed.

3 Standing Rule 93 is repealed and the following is substituted:

93 All reports to the House of the Auditor General, all Public Accounts, and all annual reports of government departments, provincial agencies, boards and commissions stand permanently referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Rogers gave Notice of Motion 31 that on Thursday, January 9, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS the Trudeau Government announced a commitment to plant two billion trees over the next 10 years to help fight climate change and reach zero net emissions by 2050 as part of a \$3 billion effort to deploy natural climate solutions;

WHEREAS planting trees is an excellent way to combat climate change as trees absorb greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels which are driving global warming;

WHEREAS this initiative will help Canada meet its commitment to the Paris accord;

WHEREAS in addition to the benefits associated with fighting climate change, planting trees reduces the impact of deforestation, prevents soil erosion, enhances coastal protection, increases land fertility, supports wildlife habitat and mitigates against flooding;

WHEREAS this tree planting program also provides an opportunity to increase our forest biodiversity;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick should take advantage of this initiative to fight climate change here in our province;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to work in cooperation with the federal government to get its fair share and develop a program whereby individuals and organizations can apply to plant trees respecting the principle of biodiversity, throughout urban and rural New Brunswick.

With leave of the House, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Mr. Melanson: (Motion 32)

THAT the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be concurred in by the House.

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

With leave of the House, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder: (Motion 33)

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 89, the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship be appointed for the duration of the 59th Legislative Assembly and that the membership of the said Committee be as follows:

Mr. Fitch, Hon. Mr. Carr, Hon. Mr. Holland, Hon. Mr. Wetmore, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Harvey, Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Arseneau, and Mr. DeSaulniers.

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

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 18 and 16 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*.

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*.

Bill 28, *Aquaculture Act*.

Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Seafood Processing Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 18 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change 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 16, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 16 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 11.45 a.m. the House recessed. At 2.39 p.m. the House resumed.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 24, Mr. D'Amours moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Holder, seconded by Hon. Mr. Flemming, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 24 be amended:

By striking out the eighth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth whereas clauses;

By striking out the first resolution clause and substituting the following:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to continue its efforts to enhance the availability of nursing seats at New Brunswick post-secondary institutions to allow for the potential annual graduation of the 130 additional registered nurses called for in government’s own estimates.”

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

And after some time, Mr. C. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. LePage, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 24 be amended by striking out the second paragraph and proposed substitution of the first resolution clause.

Mr. 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 defeated.

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 24 as amended as follows:

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 other jurisdictions are actively recruiting New Brunswick nursing graduates;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to continue its efforts to enhance the availability of nursing seats at New Brunswick post-secondary institutions to allow for the potential annual graduation of the 130 additional registered nurses called for in 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.

And the question being put, Motion 24 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 27, Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Horsman:

WHEREAS the Auditor General in her recent report to the Legislative Assembly expressed concern that vulnerable children in group homes are at risk;

WHEREAS the specific concerns identified by the Auditor General indicated that the failure to adequately manage the placement and care of these children may increase the risks of suicide, addictions, long term mental health challenges and homelessness;

WHEREAS the Auditor General pointed out that the decline in available foster homes may result in younger children being placed in group homes including children as young as 4 years of age;

WHEREAS the Auditor General has made a series of recommendations to improve standards and procedures related to group home placements, monitoring and care;

WHEREAS the Auditor General urged Members of the Legislative Assembly to hold follow-up hearings on this pressing and serious issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to refer this matter to a legislative committee where it can hold public hearings, invite submissions, listen to stakeholders and subject matter experts, and make recommendations to government as to how to best improve the system for dealing with children at risk and children in care.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Hon. Ms. Shephard, seconded by Ms. Conroy, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 27 be amended by striking out the resolution clause and substituting the following:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table a plan by March 31, 2020, including reference to those who were consulted, based on the recommendations by the Auditor General;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy for consideration.”

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

And after some time, Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 27 be amended by adding after “for consideration” the following: “, and that it be allowed to call for persons, papers and documents during its consideration of this plan”.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 27 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Auditor General in her recent report to the Legislative Assembly expressed concern that vulnerable children in group homes are at risk;

WHEREAS the specific concerns identified by the Auditor General indicated that the failure to adequately manage the placement and care of these children may increase the risks of suicide, addictions, long term mental health challenges and homelessness;

WHEREAS the Auditor General pointed out that the decline in available foster homes may result in younger children being placed in group homes including children as young as 4 years of age;

WHEREAS the Auditor General has made a series of recommendations to improve standards and procedures related to group home placements, monitoring and care;

WHEREAS the Auditor General urged Members of the Legislative Assembly to hold follow-up hearings on this pressing and serious issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table a plan by March 31, 2020, including reference to those who were consulted, based on the recommendations by the Auditor General;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy for consideration, and that it be allowed to call for persons, papers and documents during its consideration of this plan.

And the question being put, Motion 27 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 5.53 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report 2018-2019
New Brunswick Arts Board

December 18, 2019