

Daily sitting 16

Friday, December 20, 2019

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to delay the delivery of certain Members' Statements until after Oral Questions.

Mr. Speaker interrupted Oral Questions and advised the visitors in the gallery that they were not permitted to participate in the debate.

Mr. Speaker interrupted the proceedings and requested that Ms. Harris withdraw the term "untrue" in relation to the Minister's Statement of Hon. Ms. Shephard, which she did.

Mr. Harvey, Member for Carleton-Victoria, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to sign an AgriRecovery Framework Agreement with the federal government and Potatoes New Brunswick. (Petition 16)

Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to improve the banks on Johnston Point Road. (Petition 17)

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

December 20, 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 fifth report.

Your Committee met on December 19 and had under consideration:

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Gaming Control Act*;
Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

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. Horsman gave Notice of Motion 34 that on Thursday, January 9, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS an internal government study conducted in 2015 proposed that government could save money by refurbishing Fredericton's Centennial Building and relocating government departments from expensive leased properties;

WHEREAS it was estimated that there was a potential to save \$2.5 million per year over 40 years by relocating this office space;

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government accepted the recommendation to refurbish the Centennial Building;

WHEREAS the Fredericton Justice Building is outdated, inadequate and has significant security issues, the government decided that a new Justice Complex would be provided for within the renovated property;

WHEREAS the proposed Justice Complex would have housed the Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal, plus additional justice services;

WHEREAS the \$76-million renovation cost would have been recouped in 30 years as a result of the savings;

WHEREAS the Higgs government cancelled the renovation to the Centennial Building in Fredericton which was well underway;

WHEREAS, in addition to the loss of the significant savings for taxpayers represented by the consolidation of office space, the government incurred huge costs associated with the cancellation of the awarded tender upwards of \$13 million;

WHEREAS there may be additional costs associated with the cancellation that have yet to be revealed;

WHEREAS the government announced it sold the Centennial Building to a private developer;

WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the financial impact of decisions made by the Higgs government in relation to the Centennial Building;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Office of the Auditor General to undertake a financial review of the decision to cancel the renovation to the Centennial Building including the full cost implications to taxpayers and report back to the Legislative Assembly with its findings.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 35 that on Thursday, January 9, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the Higgs government cancelled the Free Tuition and Tuition Relief for the Middle-Class programs introduced by the previous government, which provided access to post-secondary education to many New Brunswick students who could not otherwise afford to attend a post-secondary institution;

WHEREAS the Higgs government also cancelled the Debt Reduction for Timely Completion Benefit, which provided significant student debt relief to many students;

WHEREAS the Higgs government announced changes to the Tuition Bursary Program that would see many students receive less funding, as the funding cap was reduced from \$10,000 to \$3,000;

WHEREAS the Higgs government announced a tuition tax credit program, but did not provide enhanced debt relief;

WHEREAS universities, students, and student organizations like the New Brunswick Student Alliance condemned the cancellation of these programs, concerned that the new programs would leave students with less access, less financial assistance, and more student debt;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forth a program that provides non-repayable grants to students based on financial need and to create a new debt relief program that will provide significant debt relief for students.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 36 that on Thursday, January 9, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Harris:

WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established to facilitate reconciliation among former students, their families, their communities and all Canadians;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report in December 2015 including 94 recommendations or “calls to action”;

WHEREAS Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accepted the final report on behalf of Canada;

WHEREAS recommendation 57, entitled Professional Development and Training for Public Servants, calls upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations;

WHEREAS KAIROS, an organization of faith and conscience working for justice and human rights to promote reconciliation through education and understanding rights, has worked with Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers and educators to develop a program that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to mandate a KAIROS Blanket Exercise or similar training program to all employees of the departments of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and Aboriginal Affairs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide funding in the amount of \$1.5 million to create a “Reconciliation Through Post-Secondary Education Fund” to support reconciliation initiatives and programming at post-secondary institutions across the province.

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 13 be called for second reading; following which the House would consider Motion 29; following which Royal Assent would take place.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bills 8 and 10 be ordered for third reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Gaming Control Act*.

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Essential Services in Nursing Homes Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, at 12.10 p.m., during a recorded division, Mr. Speaker recessed the House due to a disruption in the gallery. At 12.17 p.m., the House resumed.

The question being put that Bill 17 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 24

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Carr
Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Anderson-Mason	Hon. Mr. Holland
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. Urquhart
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Stewart	Hon. Mr. Oliver
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Mr. Northrup
Mr. Austin	Mr. DeSaulniers	Mr. Fitch
Ms. Conroy	Hon. Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Fairgrieve
Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Crossman

NAYS - 22

Mr. Arseneault	Ms. Mitton	Mr. LeBlanc
Mr. Melanson	Mr. Bourque	Mr. K. Chiasson
Mr. Landry	Ms. Landry	Mr. Horsman
Ms. Rogers	Ms. Thériault	Mr. Lowe
Mr. Harvey	Mr. LePage	Mr. McKee
Ms. Harris	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. D'Amours
Mr. Kenny	Ms. LeBlanc	
Mr. Coon	Mr. Arseneau	

Accordingly, Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Essential Services in Nursing Homes Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 20, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 20 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 20, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

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

At 12.25 p.m. the House recessed. At 1.28 p.m. the House resumed.

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 29, Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Holder:

WHEREAS the following public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, were listed in the 2019 Annual Report, *Statute Repeal Act*, laid before the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2019, as public Acts or provisions of public Acts that are to come into force by proclamation, that were assented to nine years or more before December 31, 2018, and that have not come into force on or before that date:

1. *Pension Benefits Act*, S.N.B. 1987, c.P-5.1:
 - section 2

2. *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, S.N.B. 2001, c.29:
 - sections 1 and 5 and paragraph 2(b)
3. *An Act to Amend the Clean Environment Act*. S.N.B. 2009, c.40
4. *Petroleum Act*, S.N.B. 2007, c.P-8.03

WHEREAS, as a result of being listed in the Annual Report, these public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, will be repealed on December 31, 2019, pursuant to section 2 of the *Statute Repeal Act*, unless the Legislative Assembly adopts a resolution that these Acts or provisions not be repealed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that these public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, listed in this resolution, not be repealed.

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

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 Tuesday, March 10, 2020, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice shall state a time at which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time so stated and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time, and

THAT in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, either of the Deputy Speakers shall act in his stead for the purpose of this order.

Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker addressed Her Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick has passed several Bills at the present sittings of the Legislature to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Deputy Clerk then read the titles of the Bills as follows:

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.*

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act.*

Bill 6, *Enduring Powers of Attorney Act.*

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Gaming Control Act.*

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act.*

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act.*

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

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

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

Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Property Act.*

Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety 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.*

Her Honour signified Her Assent as follows:

It is the Queen's wish. La reine le veut.

To these Bills, Her Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:

In Her Majesty's name, Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor assents to these Bills, enacting the same and ordering them to be enrolled.

Her Honour then retired and Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And then, 2.10 p.m., the House adjourned.