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Daily sitting 18

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

*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.  
February 6, 2020.

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. :) Brenda L. Murphy.  
Lieutenant-Governor.

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Mr. Arseneault requested the unanimous consent of the House to extend Oral Questions by 15 minutes, and unanimous consent was denied.

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Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to the nightly closures of certain hospital emergency rooms including the Sussex Health Center. (Petition 18)

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Mr. C. Chiasson, Member for Victoria-La Vallée, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to the nightly closure of the emergency department at the Grand Falls General Hospital. (Petition 19)

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reverse its decision to make certain changes to the Sackville Memorial Hospital. (Petition 20)

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

March 11, 2020

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 sixth report.

Your Committee met on January 21 and 22 and had under consideration:

Bill 12, *An Act Respecting the Management of Prescriptions and Recovery Authority*;  
Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*;  
Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act*;  
Bill 22, *Unclaimed Property Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change 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

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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.

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,  
Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.  
By Hon. Mr. Urquhart,  
Bill 33, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly*.  
Bill 34, *Building Code Administration Act*.  
By Ms. Mitton,  
Bill 35, *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act*.

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At 12 o'clock p.m. the House recessed. At 1 o'clock p.m. the House resumed.

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Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 37 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all briefing notes, correspondence, and draft and final plans, including plans for future phases, related to the government's healthcare reform announcement that was made on February 11, 2020, including the minutes of the meetings and motions adopted where the Board of Governors of Horizon and Vitalité approved the plan.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 38 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS there is broad agreement that healthcare reform is needed;

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers are unable to access their healthcare provider in a timely manner;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers need timely access to primary care providers and other healthcare professionals, which could improve chronic illnesses management and prevent some ER visits and hospital admissions;

WHEREAS on February 11, 2020, the Department of Health, Horizon and Vitalité announced they were closing the emergency rooms of six rural hospitals between midnight and 8:00 a.m. without consulting local healthcare professionals or citizens;

WHEREAS it was also announced that all of the acute care beds would be eliminated from these six hospitals;

WHEREAS Horizon announced the closure of the day surgery unit at the Sackville Memorial Hospital without consulting local healthcare professionals or citizens;

WHEREAS successful healthcare reform will depend on the participation and support from all political parties and the public;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to refer the matter of healthcare reform to a legislative committee where it can hold public hearings, invite submissions, listen to stakeholders and subject matter experts and make recommendations to government for improving the healthcare system and its services by September 2020.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 39 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS a single recipient on transitional assistance receives \$537 a month with no increase since 2010;

WHEREAS the Common Front for Social Justice found that the minimum monthly cost of living in Moncton is \$1300 a month for a single person;

WHEREAS a single recipient on the extended benefit program receives \$576 a month with no increase since 2014;

WHEREAS the Common Front for Social Justice found that the minimum monthly cost of living for a single mobility impaired person in Moncton is \$1,400;

WHEREAS a family of four on transitional assistance receives \$995 a month with no increase since 2014;

WHEREAS the Human Development Council found that a monthly income of \$5,500 is needed for a family of four in Saint John to meet their needs;

WHEREAS subject to specific exemptions, the government currently does not allow individuals on social assistance to share accommodations;

WHEREAS the government currently forces seniors on social assistance to collect their Canada Pension Plans at age 60, resulting in a reduced pension;

WHEREAS child support payments, disability pensions and survivor benefits are clawed back from social assistance recipients;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to conduct a comprehensive review of social assistance legislation, regulations, and policy in New Brunswick and report back to the Legislature by June 1, 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately increase social assistance rates by 16.51% for single individuals on transitional assistance and 8.27% for other recipients to account for the loss of purchasing power since they were last raised;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to pursue a basic income guarantee pilot project in New Brunswick with the participation of the federal government.

Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS food should be considered a basic human right and not an exchangeable commodity;

WHEREAS New Brunswick only produces 3% of the food that New Brunswickers eat;

WHEREAS in the case of a road closure or any other natural disaster, New Brunswick would only have enough food to last for 72 hours;

WHEREAS it would be in the interests of our farmers, fishers and harvesters that people buy New Brunswick products;

WHEREAS no department has the mandate of ensuring that New Brunswickers have access to high quality, locally produced food;

WHEREAS Ontario and Quebec have a department with a mandate for food;

WHEREAS at the Public Accounts Committee, no department was able to say who works on food sovereignty in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries should have the mandate to ensure other departments consider New Brunswick food sovereignty and food security;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to change the name of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries to the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, Food and Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, March 13, 2020, Bills 32, 33 and 34 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 3, 14, 15, 30 and 11 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Days of Rest Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 3 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Days of Rest 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 14, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 14 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods 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 15, *An Act Respecting the Enhancement of Off-Road Vehicle Safety*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 15 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 15, *An Act Respecting the Enhancement of Off-Road Vehicle Safety*, 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 30, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 30 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 11, *An Act Respecting Proof of Immunization*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 11 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 11, *An Act Respecting Proof of Immunization*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 2.04 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:

Under the provisions of the *Fees Act*, information  
regarding the reduction of fees under the  
Hunting Regulation and the General Angling  
Regulation under the *Fish and Wildlife Act*      March 10, 2020