
Daily sitting 20

Friday, March 13, 2020

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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 21)

Mr. D'Amours gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS many parents will their personal residences to their children or a family member;

WHEREAS following the death of the parents, a residence that is no longer owner-occupied is subject to double taxation;

WHEREAS the inheriting children or family member may wish to sell the residence, but it may take a considerable period of time to find a buyer;

WHEREAS under the circumstances, double taxation represents an undue hardship for those attempting to sell a residence they have inherited;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that, in the event a residence is willed to a child or family member who is not occupying, leasing or renting the property, the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the double taxation on the residence for a period of two years from the date of the death of the testator.

Ms. Rogers gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS crystal meth is a dangerous and highly addictive drug;

WHEREAS users of crystal meth suffer significant loss of control over emotions and engage in erratic and dangerous behaviors;

WHEREAS crystal meth use can lead to many serious health issues including organ and tissue damage, respiratory issues and death;

WHEREAS the use of crystal meth in New Brunswick is increasing;

WHEREAS the health authorities, community health centres, addiction counsellors and health professionals are sounding an alarm that addiction to methamphetamines in New Brunswick is reaching a crisis state;

WHEREAS the health networks are developing awareness campaigns to educate the public on this serious issue;

WHEREAS there is a need for a comprehensive multi-departmental strategy to deal with this significant health issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to urgently adopt a comprehensive multi-departmental strategy to tackle the issue of crystal meth.

Ms. Rogers gave Notice of Motion 43 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS there is an ongoing need for additional low-income housing in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Conservative government has not made significant progress in addressing the low-income housing shortage;

WHEREAS successive governments have committed to incrementally address the issue of double taxation related to properties such as apartment buildings;

WHEREAS it may be desirable to accelerate the timeline for addressing double taxation while incentivizing additional low-income housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to accelerate the timeline for removing double taxation on apartment buildings in return for a certain number of units dedicated to low-income housing.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 44 that on Thursday, March 19, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure the province's infrastructure including roads and bridges does not fall into an unsafe state of disrepair;

WHEREAS there is a need to follow an asset management policy that provides for a rational plan to remediate and improve infrastructure based on professional evaluation as opposed to political considerations;

WHEREAS several other provinces like Nova Scotia have adopted 10-year plans that outline year by year the projects that will be undertaken year by year;

WHEREAS having a 10-year asset management plan will provide predictability for the construction industry and the public;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to adopt a 10-year public infrastructure plan.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 32 be called for second reading; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 12, *An Act Respecting the Management of Prescriptions and Recovery Authority*.

Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Climate Change Act*.

Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act*.

Bill 22, *Unclaimed Property Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 32, *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 32 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 32, *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.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 30),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

At 12 p.m., with unanimous consent, the House recessed. At 2.04 p.m. the House resumed.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to conclude the debate on Motion 30 and put the question forthwith.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 30 was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 24

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Anderson-Mason	Hon. Mr. Holland
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Fitch	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. Fairgrieve
Ms. Conroy	Hon. Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Crossman
Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Coon

Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Hon. 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.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to discharge the order referring the Capital Estimates 2020-2021 to the Committee of Supply and to refer said estimates back to the Legislative Assembly forthwith.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent that the Main Estimates 2020-2021 not be referred to the Committee of Supply; that the totals to be voted in the Main Estimates 2020-2021 and the Capital Estimates 2020-2021 be adopted by the Legislative Assembly forthwith; and that, in the interest of transparency and accountability, the subject matter of the Main Estimates 2020-2021 and the Capital Estimates 2020-2021 be considered by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy.

The estimates adopted by the House are as follows:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2020-2021

ORDINARY ACCOUNT (\$)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	40,178,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	40,131,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services	58,456,000
School Districts	1,168,503,000
Early Childhood Development	124,340,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	1,351,252,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Corporate Services and Community Funding	2,131,000
Local Government	144,283,000
Authorizations and Compliance	6,825,000
Environmental Science and Protection	4,546,000
Policy, Climate Change, First Nations and Public Engagement	2,671,000
Assessment and Planning Appeal Board	316,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	160,725,000

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE

Office of the Clerk, Chief Operating Officer and Head of the Public Service and Executive Council Secretariat ...	4,491,000
Corporate Communications	5,990,000
Office of the Lieutenant-Governor	449,000
Women's Equality Branch.....	3,134,000
Total	14,064,000

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD

Budget and Financial Management	839,000
Corporate Services	4,336,000
Fiscal Policy.....	1,524,000
Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer.....	4,282,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	6,595,000
Office of the Comptroller.....	3,051,000
Revenue Administration	5,427,000
Treasury	1,531,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	27,538,000

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Aboriginal Affairs.....	4,948,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	4,901,000

Commissions Paid to Collectors of Pari-Mutuel Taxes....	455,000
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	18,327,000
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	688,000

Intergovernmental Affairs.....	8,160,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	8,113,000

Investment in Climate Change Initiatives	36,000,000
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Legislated Pension Plans, Benefit Accruals, Subsidies, and Supplementary Allowances	141,473,000
Less amounts authorized by law	173,000
Total	141,300,000

Natural Gas Distribution Program	9,000,000
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Pension and Employee Benefits Plan	344,802,000
Less amounts authorized by law	2,000
Total	344,800,000

Provision for Losses.....	14,200,000
Revenue Sharing Agreements with First Nations	53,600,000
Service New Brunswick.....	174,103,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	174,056,000
Supplementary Funding Provision.....	174,920,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	173,273,000
Medicare	699,624,000
Drug Programs.....	227,855,000
Part III Health Services.....	1,814,251,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	2,914,956,000
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	
Administration	1,143,000
Attorney General.....	20,302,000
Justice Services	25,859,000
Legal Aid	10,358,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	57,615,000
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations.....	9,137,000
Less amounts authorized by law	4,272,000
Total	4,865,000
Office of the Legislative Assembly	3,740,000
Office of the Auditor General	3,322,000
Offices of Leaders and Members of Registered	
Political Parties.....	2,184,000
Less amounts authorized by law	90,000
Total	2,094,000
Elections New Brunswick.....	9,110,000
Less amounts authorized by law	668,000
Total	8,442,000
Office of the Ombud	1,487,000
Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate.....	1,290,000
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.....	718,000
Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	493,000
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	320,000

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Administration	8,161,000
Natural Resources	79,860,000
Energy and Mines	5,402,000
Land Management	3,666,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	97,042,000
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER	
Administration	1,492,000
Less amounts authorized by law	67,000
Total	1,425,000
OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Administration and Business Development Services	13,624,000
Financial Assistance	25,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	38,577,000
OTHER AGENCIES	
Consolidated Entities	411,742,000
Less amounts authorized by law	411,742,000
Total	0
Council of Atlantic Premiers	642,000
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	2,819,000
Labour and Employment Board.....	647,000
New Brunswick Police Commission	668,000
New Brunswick Women's Council	461,000
Premier's Council on Disabilities	298,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Labour and Strategic Services	9,975,000
NB Public Libraries	15,539,000
Post-Secondary Affairs	460,946,000
Adult Learning	10,554,000
Employment Development	13,910,000
Canada-New Brunswick Workforce Development Agreement.....	18,945,000
Labour Market Development.....	102,189,000
Population Growth.....	9,977,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	641,988,000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	
Corporate Services	7,571,000
Community Safety Division	51,881,000
Law Enforcement and Inspections Division	126,591,000
Security and Emergencies Division	43,199,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	229,195,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Development Projects and Operations	65,465,000
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT	
Service of the Public Debt	631,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	624,800,000
Total	6,200,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Services	9,887,000
Seniors and Long Term Care	746,378,000
Child Welfare and Youth Services	144,166,000
Income Security	235,301,000
Housing Services	97,598,000
Other Benefits	55,783,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	1,289,066,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Administration	2,703,000
Parks and Attractions	12,996,000
Sport and Recreation.....	6,541,000
Culture, Heritage and Archaeology	20,321,000
Tourism.....	11,825,000
Less amounts authorized by law	47,000
Total	54,339,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Administration	14,702,000
Policy and Legislative Affairs	1,190,000
Maintenance.....	74,687,000
Winter Maintenance.....	68,894,000
Bridge and Highway Construction.....	3,025,000
Buildings Group.....	136,096,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation.....	22,752,000
Less amounts authorized by law	22,136,000
Total	299,210,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Capital Equipment	100,000
Strategic Infrastructure	200,000
Total	300,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools – Capital Equipment.....	400,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Local Service Districts.....	1,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals – Capital Equipment	24,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Mine Reclamation.....	1,150,000
Musquash Watershed Infrastructure –	
Capital Improvements	3,628,000
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	750,000
Total	5,528,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Deferred Maintenance Program	2,000,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Canada-New Brunswick Integrated Bilateral Agreement	10,000,000
Canada-New Brunswick New Building Canada Fund-	
Small Communities Fund	2,500,000
Strategic Infrastructure Initiative	27,500,000
Total	40,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Nursing Home Services - Capital Improvements	9,000,000
Nursing Home Services - Capital Maintenance.....	3,000,000
Total	12,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Capital Improvements	5,575,000
Strategic Infrastructure	4,545,000
Total	10,120,000

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Bridges	44,380,000
Highways	137,590,000
Municipal Designated Highway Program.....	10,000,000
Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Program	87,315,000
Vehicle Management Agency.....	15,000,000
Public Works and Infrastructure	209,549,000
Less amounts authorized by law	36,036,000
Total.....	467,798,000

LOANS AND ADVANCES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000
Loan Programs.....	9,500,000
Total.....	11,100,000

OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Financial Assistance to Industry	50,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Student Loan Advances	69,900,000

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Financial assistance under the Northern New Brunswick Economic Development and Innovation Fund Loan Program.....	4,000,000
Financial assistance under the Miramichi Regional Economic Development and Innovation Fund Loan Program.....	1,000,000
Total.....	5,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Housing.....	3,224,000

Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, reverted to Introduction of Bills.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
Bill 36, *Appropriations Act 2020-2021*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bill 36 was ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a second time:

Bill 36, *Appropriations Act 2020-2021*.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 36, *Appropriations Act 2020-2021*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to discharge the order referring Bills 30 and 32 to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy and to proceed to third reading of said Bills forthwith.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Honourable the Premier addressed the House and expressed his appreciation to the Members for their cooperation in expediting the business of the House due to the evolving situation with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

And then, 2.22 p.m., the House adjourned.