

Daily sitting 23

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to limit the number of seats on the Chamber floor to 28, in order to allow for physical distancing, and to designate these seats as follows: 12 to the government caucus; 11 to the Official Opposition caucus; 2 to the Green caucus; 2 to the People's Alliance caucus; and 1 to the independent Member.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to allow the 28 Members seated on the Chamber floor the option to speak from a seat other than their own.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to allow the remaining 18 Members to be seated in the Chamber gallery in designated seats, in order to allow for physical distancing, where they can participate in debates using the microphones provided, participate in voice votes and recorded divisions, and avail themselves of all the rights and privileges afforded to Members of the Legislative Assembly, while also observing the rules of debate and decorum and the conventions of the House.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, it was agreed by unanimous consent to allow for the use of electronic documents in the Chamber, including but not limited to bills, notices of motions, and amendments thereto, in order to limit the use and distribution of paper documents as much as possible, and that Members be permitted to use electronic devices on the floor and in the gallery of the Chamber, as long as the devices are silent in nature and do not cause a disruption in the House or interfere with the decorum or conventions of the House.

Mr. Landry offered condolences to the family of the late Roland Haché, former Liberal MLA for Nigadoo-Chaleur (1999-2014). Mr. Speaker joined in this regard.

At 1.29 p.m. the House recessed due to technical difficulties with the sound and interpretation system. At 1.33 p.m. the House resumed.

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 23)

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by Mr. Arseneault: (Motion 45)

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be amended by substituting Ms. Thériault for Ms. Rogers.

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

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 46)

THAT unless otherwise provided by Standing Rule or Special Order of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following sessional calendar for the remainder of the Third Session of the 59th Legislature:

Tuesday, May 26 to Thursday, May 28, 2020;
Tuesday, June 2 to Thursday, June 4, 2020;
Tuesday, June 9 to Thursday, June 11, 2020;
Tuesday, June 16 to Thursday, June 18, 2020;

THAT notwithstanding the Special Order of the House adopted November 21, 2018, the Assembly no longer sit on Fridays for the duration of this sessional calendar;

THAT the sitting day commence at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays;

THAT the sitting days on Wednesday, May 27, and Thursday, May 28, commence at 10 a.m. and continue without a noon recess;

THAT the sitting days for the remainder of the Wednesdays and Thursdays commence at 12 noon;

THAT Opposition Members' Business on May 28, June 4 and June 11 be 2 hours and 30 minutes in duration;

THAT Opposition Members' Business on June 18 be 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration;

THAT each sitting day be no longer than 4 hours in duration;

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Thursday, June 18, 2020, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, September 15, 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 had 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.

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

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 47 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

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 correspondence between the Canadian Red Cross and any of the following: the Office of the Premier; the Executive Council Office; the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; and the Department of Finance and Treasury Board, since February 1, 2020.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 48 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House any information on any contracts entered into concerning the New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 49 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House any correspondence concerning the budget and application deadlines for the New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit among any of the following: the Office of the Premier; the Executive Council Office; the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; and the Department of Finance and Treasury Board, since February 1, 2020.

Mr. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 50 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

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 correspondence concerning the #ExploreNB and #NBalways tourism campaigns from any of the following: the Office of the Premier; the Executive Council Office; the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; and Service New Brunswick, since January 1, 2020.

Mr. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 51 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House any information on any contracts entered into concerning the #ExploreNB and #NBalways tourism campaigns, including graphic design, brand development, website development, audio/visual production, and any other components relating to these campaigns.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 52 that on Thursday, June 4, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS a 2018 study by Université de Moncton economist Pierre-Marcel Desjardins found that a 5 percent increase in New Brunswickers buying local products would result in over 9000 jobs, add \$881 million to New Brunswick's GDP, and generate \$1.14 billion in revenue for the provincial government and \$2 billion in additional sales annually after five years;

WHEREAS the Centre of Local Prosperity's 2018 report "Import Replacement: Local Prosperity for Atlantic Canada" found that, in New Brunswick, a 10 percent shift away from imports and towards local production would result in 14,502 new jobs, \$907 million in labour income, \$1.8 billion in value-added production and \$84 million in indirect businesses taxes in our province;

WHEREAS the public entities such as provincial and municipal government offices, schools, universities, hospitals and nursing homes could kickstart this 10 percent shift through a New Brunswick-first procurement policy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to determine which government goods and services could be procured locally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to ensuring at least 10 percent of the goods and services it procures in the fiscal year 2020-2021 be sourced locally.

And then, 3.18 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:

Legislative Activities 2018	April 29, 2020
Annual Report 2019, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	May 6, 2020
Annual Report 2017 Supervisor of Political Financing	May 19, 2020
Annual Report 2017-2018 New Brunswick Child, Youth and Seniors' Advocate	May 21, 2020