

Daily sitting 28

Thursday, June 11, 2020

12 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

June 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 eighth report.

Your Committee met on June 9 and 10 and had under consideration:

Bill 33, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly*;
Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 11, *An Act Respecting Proof of Immunization*;
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneault,
Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

By Mr. Arseneau,
Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*.

Following first reading of Bill 50, Mr. Arseneault requested unanimous consent to debate the Bill at second reading forthwith, and unanimous consent was denied.

Mr. Harvey gave Notice of Motion 68 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, many businesses have had to close for an extended period and have incurred significant losses and expense;

WHEREAS, although some have been able to reopen, they have had to incur additional expenses related to implementing health and safety protocols including masks and other equipment for staff, installing Plexiglas or other partitions required to protect the public, enhanced sanitization equipment and related purchases;

WHEREAS, despite being able to reopen, businesses like restaurants, hairdressers, barbers, and many other services are unable to run at full capacity due to social distancing requirements;

WHEREAS the federal government has come forward with a variety of small business support programs;

WHEREAS many provinces have also come forward with programs to support small businesses;

WHEREAS, in addition to specific programs to support small business, other provinces have announced additional measures such as deferments and reductions of taxes and worker's compensation premiums;

WHEREAS, unfortunately, as a province, New Brunswick has provided the least amount of support to our business community of any of the provinces;

WHEREAS the only support provided to small business by the province is a repayable loan program that will only add to business debt;

WHEREAS economic recovery must be paramount and it is crucial that the province use its best efforts to help maintain and sustain our small businesses;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Province of New Brunswick to step up and bring forward a comprehensive program of support for small businesses.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House take into consideration Opposition Members' Business.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 44, Ms. Landry moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 44 was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 41, Mr. D'Amours moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 41 be amended by adding after the resolution clause the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that changes related to double taxation on non-owner-occupied residential properties will be undertaken as the fiscal situation allows.”

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

At 3.42 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.52 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 4 p.m., the House adjourned.