

Daily sitting 30

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

12 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Holder laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Municipal Fire and Police Binding Arbitration Stakeholder Committee Report to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, June 5, 2020.*

Mr. Harvey, Member for Carleton-Victoria, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reopen the Service New Brunswick in Plaster Rock. (Petition 27)

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

June 17, 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 ninth report.

Your Committee met on June 16 and had under consideration:

Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 11, *An Act Respecting Proof of Immunization*;

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.

Mr. C. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 72 that on Thursday, June 25, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Harvey:

WHEREAS not all areas of the province have adequate access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS access to high-speed Internet is crucial for many individuals and businesses;

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government was committed to ensuring all areas of the province would have access to high-speed Internet;

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, many students have had to undertake their studies remotely;

WHEREAS many universities will be moving to an online platform for at least part of the coming year;

WHEREAS students in rural areas will be at a distinct disadvantage as it pertains to studies;

WHEREAS many students without adequate access to Internet might be able to utilize the Internet services provided in public libraries;

WHEREAS students and the public would be well served if public libraries had extended hours during this time of restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to extend the hours of public libraries to match the needs of these students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to make the necessary investments to ramp up Internet accessibility by adding more computer stations as space permits in our public libraries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to partner with the federal government and Xplornet to ensure all areas of the province have access to high-speed Internet.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 73 that on Thursday, June 25, 2020, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS there are strong social and economic bonds between families and citizens of Madawaska and the border community of Temiscouata, Quebec;

WHEREAS there are strong social and economic bonds between families and people of Restigouche and the border communities of La Matapedia and Baie-des-Chaleurs, Quebec;

WHEREAS border travel restrictions are causing hardship for the people who regularly cross the borders in these border regions and for businesses that rely on people from border communities for their livelihoods;

WHEREAS there does not seem to be an indication of widespread virus transmission in these adjacent border regions;

WHEREAS there is discussion of an Atlantic bubble that would allow people in the Atlantic region to travel freely back and forth between the provincial borders;

WHEREAS there is also merit in considering a “border bubble” that would allow people in these adjacent border regions to travel freely across the New Brunswick-Quebec border;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to give due consideration to developing “border bubbles” for the border communities in Madawaska and Temiscouata, Quebec, and Restigouche and La Matapedia, Quebec, and Baie-des-Chaleurs, Quebec.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 74 that on Thursday, June 25, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS NB Power is on pace to meet its target to have 40% of the total in-province electricity sales in kilowatt-hours of electricity from renewable resources by December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS NB Power does not have any additional renewable energy targets beyond December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS the State of Maine, which also currently receives 40% of its electricity needs from renewable resources, has a goal of 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% by 2050;

WHEREAS municipalities and First Nations across New Brunswick could use cheap, renewable energy to power their government operations, but are prevented from doing so by provisions in the *Electricity Act*;

WHEREAS NB Power submitted a proposal to the Energy and Utilities Board to cut its spending on energy efficiency in half, from \$32 million to \$15 million, this year;

WHEREAS Efficiency One has saved Nova Scotians \$230 million on their annual energy costs and cut the province's carbon foot print by over 1 million tonnes annually;

WHEREAS a major program to retrofit homes and businesses would be an engine of economic growth for our province, increasing our GDP by \$2 to \$3 billion annually, creating between 900 and 1,300 jobs every year, while shrinking our carbon footprint;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to create an agency that would have the mandate to promote and develop jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency and public transportation, and invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and public transportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to update the renewable energy portfolio requirements under the regulations to the *Electricity Act* with targets to have 80% renewable energy on the grid by 2030 and 100% renewable energy on the grid by 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to reduce barriers to generating green energy by allowing municipalities and First Nations to directly purchase small-scale, New Brunswick-based renewable energy for use in their government operations.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 41; other parties items.

Ms. Mitton gave notice of Bill 55.

Mr. DeSaulniers gave notice of Motion 18.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 75 that on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs:

THAT the report of the Municipal Fire and Police Binding Arbitration Stakeholder Committee tabled by the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, stand referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to be considered by the committee during its deliberations on Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*.

Hon. Mr. Savoie requested unanimous consent to dispense with notice of Motion 75 and unanimous consent was denied.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 53, 54, 52, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 39 be called for second reading.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 43 be ordered for third reading forthwith.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 33, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly*.
Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 53 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal 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 54, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 54 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation 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 52, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 52 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control 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 44, *Construction Remedies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 44 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 44, *Construction Remedies 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 45, *An Act to Amend the Early Childhood Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 45 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Early Childhood Services 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 46, *An Act to Amend the Civil Service Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 46 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Civil Service 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 47, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 47 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Coroners 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 39, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 39 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 3.07 p.m., the House adjourned.