
Daily sitting 6

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Acting Clerk addressed the House as follows:

Members,

I wish to advise you that due to the travel restrictions recommended by Public Health in Zone 1 and Zone 2 of the province, our Speaker and both Deputy Speakers made the appropriate and prudent decision not to travel to the Legislative Assembly today. As such, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, we must rely on Standing Rule 18 and section 16 of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Accordingly, when the Legislative Assembly is informed by the Clerk of the unavoidable absence of the Speaker and both Deputy Speakers, on a motion by which the question shall be put by the Clerk, the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a Member to take the chair and act as Speaker during the continuance of the absence or until the Legislative Assembly otherwise orders.

The Acting Clerk recognized Hon. Ms. Green, Acting Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Green moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Shephard:

THAT Jeff Carr, Member for the electoral district of New Maryland-Sunbury, be appointed Acting Speaker for the remainder of this sitting day, November 24, 2020.

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

Mr. Carr took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 45, Mr. Arseneau rose to request an emergency debate on the Legislature implementing virtual and hybrid sittings.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the request for an emergency debate was out of order. Mr. Arseneau spoke on the point of order.

The Acting Speaker advised the House that he would take the matter under advisement.

Hon. Ms. Green requested the unanimous consent of the House to proceed to Statements by Ministers, and unanimous consent was denied.

Hon. Ms. Green moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Shephard:

THAT the House do now proceed to Statements by Ministers.

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

The Acting Speaker, at the request of Hon. Ms. Green, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Green moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Shephard: (Motion 18)

WHEREAS the following public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, were listed in the 2020 Annual Report, *Statute Repeal Act*, laid before the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2020, as public Acts or provisions of public Acts that are to come into force by proclamation, that were assented to nine years or more before December 31, 2019, and that have not come into force on or before that date:

1. *Pension Benefits Act*, S.N.B. 1987, c.P-5.1:
 - section 2
2. *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, S.N.B. 2001, c.29:
 - sections 1 and 5 and paragraph 2(b)
3. *An Act to Amend the Clean Environment Act*. S.N.B. 2009, c.40
4. *Petroleum Act*, S.N.B. 2007, c.P-8.03
5. *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*, S.N.B. 2010, c.24
6. *Early Childhood Services Act* (formerly the *Early Learning and Childcare Act*), S.N.B. 2010, c.E-0.5, s.18, 54, Part 3

WHEREAS, as a result of being listed in the Annual Report, these public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, will be repealed on December 31, 2020, pursuant to section 2 of the *Statute Repeal Act*, unless the Legislative Assembly adopts a resolution that these Acts or provisions not be repealed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that these public Acts of the Legislature, or provisions of public Acts of the Legislature, listed in this resolution, not be repealed.

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

Hon. Ms. Green moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Shephard:

THAT when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, December 8, 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 or that the adjournment should continue beyond Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice may 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 has been duly adjourned to that time, or in such notice may state that the adjournment shall continue until further notice is given by the Speaker, 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, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the motion, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 11

Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Landry
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Stewart	Mr. LePage
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Arseneault	

NAYS - 4

Mr. Coon	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Austin		

The Acting Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to the request for an emergency debate:

STATEMENT BY ACTING SPEAKER

Members,

I now wish to address the request for an emergency debate by the Member for Kent North, regarding virtual or hybrid sittings of the Legislative Assembly. Obviously, this is a very important matter and a matter that has to be resolved, and in this day and age of global pandemic, we see other Legislatures and Houses conducting their business virtually.

It is my understanding that this has been discussed by our Legislative Administration Committee, otherwise known as LAC, a few weeks ago and will likely be discussed again at the next committee meeting. As well, given that the majority of our Members were unable to attend today's sitting, including our Speaker and Deputy Speakers, I do not believe that it would be appropriate for us to schedule such an important debate in the current circumstances. As such, the Member's request for an emergency debate is denied.

And then, 1.49 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:

Annual Report 2019-2020
Opportunities NB

November 20, 2020