

Daily sitting 19

Friday, March 19, 2021

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
March 11, 2021.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I thank you for your Address and beg to assure you that I entertain the fullest confidence that in all your deliberations you will be guided by a most earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this province.

(Sgd.:) Brenda Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Dunn,

Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Opportunities New Brunswick Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace,

Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Combat Sport Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Savoie,

Bill 42, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act.*

Bill 43, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.,

Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Allain,

Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Municipal General Elections in 2021.*

By Mr. Gauvin,

Bill 46, *Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act.*

Hon. Mr. Cardy gave Notice of Motion 58 that on Thursday, March 25, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

THAT the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

As defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 59 that on Thursday, March 25, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a copy of the report entitled *The Needs Analysis and Best Practices Review of Sexual Harm to Children* prepared by the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy Branch of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 60 that on Thursday, March 25, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT, notwithstanding any Standing Rule, Special Order, or usual practice of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following Special Order to facilitate the participation of Members in House and Committee proceedings during the current State of Emergency in the Province of New Brunswick:

1. In emergency or extraordinary circumstances, Members may participate in proceedings of the House, either in person or by virtual means using the Zoom platform, at the discretion of the Speaker following consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and with the agreement of all House Leaders.
2. The presence of fourteen Members in person, including the Speaker, is considered a quorum and is required to constitute a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers.
3. Meetings of a Committee of the House may be conducted by virtual means as determined by the Chair in consultation with the Office of the Clerk.
4. Members who participate by virtual means in a Committee are counted for the purposes of a quorum.
5. House Leaders shall advise the Office of the Clerk of the anticipated attendance of their Members by virtual means three days in advance of each House sitting or Committee meeting.

6. Members who participate in the proceedings of the House or a Committee by virtual means may table documents, present petitions and committee reports, introduce bills, provide notice of motions and move motions and amendments to bills and motions electronically, provided the documents are transmitted to and received by the Clerk prior to their presentation in the House or Committee.
 7. The rules and practices that relate to proper decorum in the House are applicable to those Members who wish to participate in any proceedings by virtual means.
 8. Members who wish to participate by virtual means shall utilize the proper hardware and software as designated by the Office of the Clerk.
 9. Recorded divisions shall be conducted with Members participating in person in the manner prescribed by the Standing Rules, followed by a roll call of the Members participating virtually in an order and manner as determined by the Speaker.
 10. In order to vote during a recorded division, a virtual Member shall be present on screen at the time the Speaker orders the doors to be secured and for the duration of the vote.
 11. The video and audio of a Member participating virtually shall be activated when called upon for a recorded division.
 12. When called upon for a recorded division, each virtual Member shall state whether they are voting “yes” or “no” to the question put.
 13. In the event of technical issues, the Speaker shall be empowered to take all necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the voting process.
 14. Members participating virtually shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and freedoms of those Members participating in person, except to the extent they are specifically limited by this Special Order.
 15. The Speaker or Chair is empowered to exercise discretion in the interpretation or application of any provision of the Standing Rules or this Special Order that may require leniency or alteration to allow all Members to fully exercise their duties and rights in the proceedings of the House or a Committee conducted by virtual means.
 16. This Special Order remains in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency first declared on March 19, 2020 in the Province of New Brunswick and ceases to be in force when said State of Emergency ends.
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Hon. Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 61 that on Thursday, March 25, 2021, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT, pursuant to subsection 39(1) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Legislative Assembly direct the Legislative Administration Committee to establish a committee to review the salary and benefits of members under the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the salaries and benefits of members who have responsibilities under the *Executive Council Act*.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, Bills 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 be called for second reading until 12 p.m.; at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

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 after some time, Ms. S. Wilson, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for second reading had expired.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 28),

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

The debate was resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

And then, 2 p.m., the House adjourned.