

Daily sitting 22

Thursday, March 25, 2021

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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

March 25, 2021

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 seventh report.

Your Committee met on March 24 and had under consideration:

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

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Greg Turner, 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.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, April 1, 2021, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS, in 2018, 579 sexual assaults were reported to the police in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick has seen a 27% increase in sexual assaults reported to the police since 2012;

WHEREAS the number of people charged with sexual assault in New Brunswick has dropped from 53.2% to 36.3% since 2012;

WHEREAS 87% of sexual assault victims in New Brunswick were women, and almost half of these victims were under the age of 18;

WHEREAS a *Globe and Mail* article published in February 2017 entitled *Will the Police Believe You?* found that Canada's national average of unfounded complaints for reported sexual assault was 32% in New Brunswick, the highest in Canada;

WHEREAS, in Canada, Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience sexual assault;

WHEREAS people who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual are twice as likely to report experiencing violent victimization compared to those who identify as heterosexual;

WHEREAS 61% of trans youth surveyed in Atlantic Canada aged 14-18 reported they had experienced sexual harassment within the past year;

WHEREAS sexual violence can have long-lasting impacts on survivors, being linked to mental health difficulties, including depression and PTSD, feelings of shame, self-blame, fear, and distressing memories of the experience;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Women's Council advises that the government increase funding for preventing and responding to sexual violence and improve police response to sexual violence;

WHEREAS, in 2019, 71% of students in Canadian post-secondary institutions witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours in a post-secondary setting;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to fully implement and fund the recommendations and actions in *Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in New Brunswick: A Framework for Action*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to examine the gaps in victims services provision through the Department of Justice and Public Safety, to identify and address gaps, especially in relation to where the crime occurred;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase funding for frontline services, including transition houses, and increase funding for trauma-informed support services, including access for all public post-secondary campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to adopt legislation requiring standalone campus violence policies for all publicly-funded universities and including provisions ensuring student involvement in the drafting and amending process, as well as built in metrics to guarantee the clarity of the reporting structure at each institution.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that the House consider Motions 60, 58 and 61 until no later than 2 p.m.; at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, March 26, 2021, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 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, May 11, 2021, 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 - 24

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Hogan
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Stewart
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Turner

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NAYS - 22

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Legacy
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Melanson	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Gauvin
Mr. McKee	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Landry	Mr. LePage	Mr. Landry
Ms. Harris	Mr. D'Amour	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	
Mr. Austin	Ms. Conroy	

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At 12.12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 45 be ordered for third reading forthwith.

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The following Bill was read a third time:

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

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 60, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 60 be amended:

In the portion preceding paragraph 1, by striking out “during the current State of Emergency in the Province of New Brunswick”.

By striking out paragraph 1 and substituting the following:

“In emergency or extraordinary circumstances, including those circumstances prescribed by paragraph 34(5)(d) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, 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 where necessary.”

By striking out paragraph 16 and substituting the following:

“This Special Order remains in effect during the remainder of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.”

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

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved the adjournment of the debate.

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 58, Hon. Mr. Cardy moved, 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.”

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And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 58 was resolved in the affirmative.

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Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

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Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume consideration of Motions 60.

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Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 60, moved by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted had expired.

Mr. Melanson requested the unanimous consent of the House to conclude the debate on Motion 60 and put the questions forthwith, and unanimous consent was denied.

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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 the debate continuing, after some time it was on motion of Hon. Mr. Savoie, on behalf of the Honourable the Premier, adjourned over.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 52, Ms. Thériault moved, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the people of New Brunswick to have more women elected to serve as Members of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS women are often the primary caregiver of children, and a significant barrier to participation by more women in the provincial political process that is often cited is the fact that the rules governing parliamentary institutions are not family-friendly or parent-friendly;

WHEREAS many other jurisdictions nationally and internationally are moving forward with reforms to make their parliaments or governing institutions more parent-friendly;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's "Women for 50%", which is focused on gender parity in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, supports reforms that are more parent-friendly;

WHEREAS British MPs voted to bring in family friendly reforms like a system of "baby leave" that would provide new parents in the House of Commons with proxy votes that could be utilized by their legislative colleagues, which allows MPs to care for their families while doing their jobs;

WHEREAS certain provinces allow childcare costs as eligible campaign expenses;

WHEREAS legislatures have adopted measures that permit virtual participation in proceedings;

WHEREAS reforms dealing with shared legislative responsibilities, the availability of on-site childcare, changes to the sitting hours, and additional initiatives that reduce barriers to participation in the political process have been adopted by other jurisdictions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers to undertake a review of initiatives that will encourage more women to offer as candidates to represent New Brunswickers in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly and report back to the Legislative Assembly within three months with specific recommendations.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Ms. Mitton, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 52 be amended in the resolution clause by striking out "three" and substituting "two".



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

At 4.30 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.39 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 52 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the people of New Brunswick to have more women elected to serve as Members of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS women are often the primary caregiver of children, and a significant barrier to participation by more women in the provincial political process that is often cited is the fact that the rules governing parliamentary institutions are not family-friendly or parent-friendly;

WHEREAS many other jurisdictions nationally and internationally are moving forward with reforms to make their parliaments or governing institutions more parent-friendly;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's "Women for 50%", which is focused on gender parity in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, supports reforms that are more parent-friendly;

WHEREAS British MPs voted to bring in family friendly reforms like a system of "baby leave" that would provide new parents in the House of Commons with proxy votes that could be utilized by their legislative colleagues, which allows MPs to care for their families while doing their jobs;

WHEREAS certain provinces allow childcare costs as eligible campaign expenses;

WHEREAS legislatures have adopted measures that permit virtual participation in proceedings;

WHEREAS reforms dealing with shared legislative responsibilities, the availability of on-site childcare, changes to the sitting hours, and additional initiatives that reduce barriers to participation in the political process have been adopted by other jurisdictions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers to undertake a review of initiatives that will encourage more women to offer as candidates to represent New Brunswickers in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly and report back to the Legislative Assembly within two months with specific recommendations.

And the question being put, Motion 52 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

## YEAS - 43

Hon. Mr. Holder	Ms. Bockus	Mr. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Mr. Cullins	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Mr. Hogan	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Ames	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Carr	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Legacy
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Thériault	Mr. Guitard
Hon. Mr. Cardy	Mr. Melanson	Mr. Gauvin
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. McKee	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Allain	Ms. Landry	Mr. Landry
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Harris	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Coon	
Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Austin	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 49, Mr. McKee moved, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

WHEREAS the tragic death of 16-year-old Lexi Daken has drawn attention to the gaps in our mental health services that desperately need to be addressed;

WHEREAS Lexi's story was a catalyst for many other families to come forward with other tragic stories of how our mental health system has failed their loved ones who were not able to receive the help they needed when they needed it;

WHEREAS, while the reviews undertaken by the Child and Youth Advocate and Horizon Health in relation to the events leading up to the death of Lexi Daken are appropriate, there is a recognition that mental health services have been chronically underfunded for many years, which must be addressed;

WHEREAS mental health experts and advocates believe the mental health crisis is worsening and believe there is an urgent need to ensure our healthcare system can respond to those struggling with mental health issues who need immediate help;

WHEREAS the Official Opposition brought a motion forward in the Legislative Assembly in 2019 calling for the position of Mental Health Advocate to be created;

WHEREAS this motion received unanimous support from all Members of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the Official Opposition has also called for the expansion of the mental health court to ensure that people appearing in the courts with mental health issues have access to the treatments and services they require;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health has just announced an Addiction and Mental Health action plan for priority areas for 2021-2025;

WHEREAS there is a need for urgent action on improvements to our mental health system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to accelerate the timeline for the implementation of all the measures contained in the action plan from 5 years to 3 years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately enhance the funding for mental health services to achieve this objective;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish the position of Mental Health Advocate without delay.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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, 6 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 2020  
New Brunswick Insurance Board

March 24, 2021