

Daily sitting 41

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 45, Mr. Arseneau rose to request an emergency debate concerning the ongoing labour issues between public service workers and the government of New Brunswick. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Speaker introduced the new pages for the session: Bradley Doucet, Dieppe; Maggie Jardine, Blackville; Brock Johnson, Fredericton; Rosalind Keyes, Rothesay; Emily Simon, Battleford, Saskatchewan; Claudia Ruiz Valdes, Miami, Florida.

The returning pages were: Jane Landry, Fredericton; Emma Wagner, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia; Head Page Graci Young, Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Coon requested the unanimous consent of the House to table a document, and unanimous consent was denied.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. D'Amours used unparliamentary language when he used the term "cover up". Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. D'Amours withdraw the remark, which he did.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Crossman,

Bill 70, *An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 71, *An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act.*

By Hon. Ms. M. Wilson,

Bill 72, *An Act Respecting the Modernization of Legislation Governing Limited Liability Partnerships.*

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, November 4, 2021, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Bills 16 and 46; Motion 8.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Thursday, November 4, 2021, Bills 70, 71 and 72 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 65, 66, 67, 68 and 69 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 65, *An Act Respecting the Family Income Security Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1.04 p.m. the House resumed.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 65 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 65, *An Act Respecting the Family Income Security 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 66, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 66 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 66, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies 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 67, *An Act to Amend the Procurement Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson took the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 67 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Procurement 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 68, *An Act to Amend the Construction Remedies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 68 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 68, *An Act to Amend the 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 69, *Intimate Images Unlawful Distribution Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 69 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 69, *Intimate Images Unlawful Distribution Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

The Member for Kent North has once again asked leave to introduce a motion for an emergency debate on the ongoing labour issues between public service workers and the government of New Brunswick. I received notice from the Member last evening, satisfying the two hours' notice requirement.

Yesterday, I ruled that this matter could not go forward. However, I indicated that if, after a reasonable period of time, the matter had still not been brought before the House, then I would reconsider my decision, if the Member wished to make a further request for an emergency debate, which he has now done.

When making his request today, the Member submitted that due to notice requirements and the fact that next week's Opposition day will fall on Remembrance Day, there will not be an opportunity to debate this matter within the next two weeks.

As you are all aware, this is a matter of extreme importance to the Members of this House and to many of our fellow New Brunswickers. We are faced with a labour issue, during a State of Emergency, caused by a global pandemic. These are unprecedented issues occurring at the same time that should be debated in this House in a timely manner.

That being said, this is only the second day the House has sat. A reasonable period of time has not elapsed since my ruling yesterday. As well, I am still optimistic that this matter may be debated in the House, by other means, in the coming days, if it is the will of the House, or perhaps the labour issues will be resolved in the coming days for the benefit of all.

Accordingly, based on these reasons, I must again deny the Member's request for an emergency debate at this time, but I reserve the right to reconsider my decision next week, depending on the circumstances present at that time. Thank you.

And then, 2.52 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 2020-2021
Service New Brunswick

November 2, 2021