

Daily sitting 53

Thursday, December 2, 2021

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. McKee offered condolences to the family of the late Jean-Paul LeBlanc, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Moncton (1970-1974).

Mr. Speaker interrupted Statements by Members and requested that Mr. D'Amours withdraw the term "lie", which he did. Mr. Speaker reminded Members not to use unparliamentary language, even when quoting from a document.

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

December 2, 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 fifteenth report.

Your Committee met on November 12, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 30, and December 1, and had under consideration:

Bill 66, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*;
Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Procurement Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 70, *An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act*;
Bill 77, *An Act to Amend the Electricity Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C.,
Bill 83, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act*.
Bill 84, *An Act to Amend the Police Act*.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 82 be called for second reading; following which the House would recess until 2.30 p.m., at which time Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 82, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform*, a debate arose thereon.

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

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1.01 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had arrived.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, December 3, 2021, Bills 83 and 84 would be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 81, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards 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 81 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 51, Ms. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed through the various phases, many in-person services provided by government to the members of the public were limited;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the need for the public to continue to access many of the government programs and services during the pandemic, many more services were offered online;

WHEREAS, while it is commendable that government will make access to more programs and services available online, there is a concern for many New Brunswickers who are unable to access online services;

WHEREAS the reasons for being unable to access online services include factors such as lack of access to high-speed Internet, lack of technological literacy, and lack of access to computers, tablets, or other devices;

WHEREAS a lack of future access to many in-person services for people seeking government programs and services will disadvantage many New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that in-person access to government programs and services is not significantly reduced as a result of a move to increase availability of online services when eased health restrictions permit these services to be offered.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 51 was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 5.42 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2020-2021

Department of Finance and Treasury Board December 1, 2021

Annual Report 2020-2021

Department of Natural Resources and
Energy Development

December 1, 2021