

Daily sitting 64

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker acknowledged Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and thanked Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for providing Members with commemorative pins.

Mr. C. Chiasson offered condolences to the family of the late Evérard H. Daigle, former Liberal MLA for the Riding of Grand Falls (1974-1987).

Mr. Speaker offered condolences to the family of the late David L.E. Peterson, Q.C., former lawyer, city councillor, special prosecutor, deputy judge and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick from 1978 to 1993.

Mr. Arseneault requested the unanimous consent of the House to extend Oral Questions by 15 minutes, and unanimous consent was denied.

Mr. Landry, Member for Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to a part of Big River becoming part of the City of Bathurst. (Petition 41)

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

March 23, 2022

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their twentieth report.

Your Committee met on January 25, 26, 27 and 28 and February 1, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 69, *Intimate Images Unlawful Distribution Act*;
Bill 72, *An Act Respecting the Modernization of Legislation Governing Limited Liability Partnerships*;
Bill 73, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*;
Bill 74, *An Act to Amend the Electrical Installation and Inspection Act*;
Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Mining Act*;
Bill 79, *An Act Respecting the Retail Sale of Cannabis*;

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.

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 96 that on Thursday, March 31, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

WHEREAS the Emergency Order was lifted as of March 14, 2022;

WHEREAS governments at all levels will undoubtedly reflect on the pandemic as it applies to preparedness, public health and safety measures implemented, communications and accountability, programs to support individuals and businesses and other related matters;

WHEREAS there is tremendous benefit that can be gained from undertaking an extensive COVID-19 review which could examine which measures were effective and how additional measures might have assisted in reducing the transmission of the virus;

WHEREAS such a review would provide an opportunity to obtain information, advice and ideas that might assist in future emergency preparedness;

WHEREAS a review could look at vulnerabilities and best practices and use that knowledge for planning, policy development and protocols to assist in dealing with future public health threats;

WHEREAS a review would also provide the opportunity to hear from front line workers, health professionals and other subject matter experts;

WHEREAS the Liberal Opposition has called for a complete independent review to be undertaken of the response by the provincial government to the COVID-19 health crisis;

WHEREAS the government has indicated that it now sees the benefit of undertaking a review of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that such a review is independent of government and is adequately resourced;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to request that the Auditor General undertake a review of the response by the provincial government to the COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the powers provided for under the *Auditor General Act*, the Auditor General shall have the powers prescribed pursuant to the *Inquiries Act* including the power to subpoena documents and compel witnesses to testify;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor General be provided any additional financial resources required to carry out the review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the alternative, should the Auditor General be unable to undertake this review, then an independent individual or entity be engaged to do so.

Hon. Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 97 that on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT unless otherwise provided by Standing Rule or Special Order of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following calendar for meetings of the House in 2022:

Tuesday, March 22 to Friday, March 25;
Tuesday, March 29 to Friday, April 1;
Tuesday, May 10 to Friday, May 13;
Tuesday, May 17 to Friday, May 20;
Tuesday, May 31 to Friday, June 3;
Tuesday, June 7 to Friday, June 10;
Tuesday, October 25 to Friday October 28;
Tuesday, November 1 to Friday, November 4;
Tuesday, November 15 to Friday, November 18;
Tuesday, November 22 to Friday, November 25;
Tuesday, December 6 to Friday, December 9; and
Tuesday, December 13 to Friday, December 16;

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 any period of adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice shall 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 had been duly adjourned to that time;

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;

THAT during the weeks in which the House is adjourned, the following dates are available to the standing and select committees to meet to consider bills, estimates and other matters:

Tuesday, April 5 to Friday, April 8;
Tuesday, April 12 to Thursday, April 14;
Tuesday, April 19 to Friday, April 22;
Tuesday, April 26 to Friday, April 29;
Tuesday, May 3 to Friday, May 6;
Tuesday, May 24 to Friday, May 27;
Tuesday, September 6 to Friday, September 9;
Tuesday, September 13 to Friday, September 16;
Tuesday, September 20 to Friday, September 23;
Tuesday, September 27 to Thursday, September 29;
Tuesday, October 4 to Friday, October 7;
Tuesday, October 11 to Friday, October 14;
Tuesday, November 8 to Thursday, November 10; and
Tuesday, November 29 to Friday, December 2;

THAT, notwithstanding the dates available to committees, the chairs of standing and select committees may call meetings outside of the available dates when required;

THAT this Special Order come into effect on March 22 and remain in effect until December 16, 2022.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 98)

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship be amended by substituting Mr. Carr for Hon. Mr. Hogan;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Savoie;

THAT the membership of the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Hogan.

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

And then, 11.23 a.m., the House adjourned.