
Daily sitting 66

Friday, March 25, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Ames, Member for Carleton-York, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to save the MacElwain Bridge in Temperance Vale. (Petition 42)

Mr. McKee, Member for Moncton Centre, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to require indoor face masking in schools. (Petition 43)

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 99 that on Thursday, March 31, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS in February 2021, Judge Yvette Finn and John McLaughlin were appointed as commissioners and asked to undertake a review of the *Official Languages Act* and find ways to improve second language learning in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the commissioners engaged in private consultations and provided recommendations to the government;

WHEREAS the commissioners presented their first report on the Review of the *Official Languages Act* to government on December 15, 2021;

WHEREAS the commissioners presented their second report on the Review of the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick – Report on second language learning on February 2, 2022;

WHEREAS the Higgs government has yet to respond to the report and its recommendations;

WHEREAS, in considering its recommendations, the commissioners asked decision-makers to “remain cognizant of the tremendous strain that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our various institutions and government departments” and urged government to “approach these recommendations cautiously” and with a “light touch”;

WHEREAS, although the report suggests that there may be measures that can be taken to improve second language learning, and makes several recommendations to this end, it recognizes that “it is never too early to begin learning another language”;

WHEREAS the report also acknowledges the success of the French immersion program citing that “Large-scale provincial assessments conducted by EECD indicate that over 90% of students who complete the French immersion program achieve at least an *Intermediate* level of French, and subject matter experts agree that this translates into a conversational level of proficiency”;

WHEREAS the commissioners acknowledge that there is a downside to setting “aspirational proficiency targets in response to a ‘raise the bar’ approach to academic excellence”;

WHEREAS the commissioners have indicated that “change must be well planned”, acknowledged the “Auditor General’s cautions about abrupt changes to the educational system”, and asserted the need to develop a new assessment program “if we are to track our province’s progress towards a new language proficiency goal”;

WHEREAS the commissioners have indicated that “a cookie-cutter approach to teaching the second official language is not appropriate in a linguistic ecosystem as complex and diverse as New Brunswick’s”;

WHEREAS the commissioners have indicated that experts understand that “frequency”, “intensity”, “extensiveness”, “meaningful communication”, and “motivation” are essential pillars to successful second language programs, and that if “any one of these pillars is missing or not fully realized, a language program will be less effective than it might be otherwise”;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to make major changes to the French immersion program in the Anglophone sector without these changes being supported by high quality research in French second language learning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government that any changes to existing second language programs must represent enhancements to these programs and must be properly weighed, assessed, and funded prior to being implemented.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 100 that on Thursday, March 31, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic, students in the primary and secondary school system have missed many in school education days;

WHEREAS, although there has been at home instruction, there are concerns that it has not adequately delivered the educational programming that would have been available through in school instruction;

WHEREAS many students have been educationally disadvantaged by living in areas without adequate high-speed internet to support remote learning;

WHEREAS many students who require specialized in class support have been unable to obtain the level of support they have been able to access in the past;

WHEREAS many parents are worried that the educational limitations brought on as a result of the pandemic have caused their children's educational progress to be negatively impacted;

WHEREAS it is necessary to ensure that children do not fall behind educationally;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately bring forward a plan to measure the educational impact of the lessened instructional opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a comprehensive plan to ensure children will not be educationally disadvantaged by the instructional limitations of the pandemic.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 101 that on Thursday, March 31, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS Bill 61, *An Act to Amend the Human Tissue Gift Act*, was introduced on May 11, 2021, debated at second reading on May 13, 2021, and referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments;

WHEREAS there was widespread support for the Bill and the government agreed to bring it back to the Legislature;

WHEREAS the Bill has not yet been considered by the Standing Committee on Law Amendments;

WHEREAS the two commissioners appointed to undertake a review of the *Official Languages Act* and second language learning have filed two reports, the latest of which was filed on February 2, 2022;

WHEREAS the government has yet to respond to the findings and recommendations of the commissioners;

WHEREAS there have been motions passed by the Legislative Assembly that the government has yet to respond to;

WHEREAS the actions of the government in ignoring the will of the Members of the Legislative Assembly show a contempt for its authority and the will of the people;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to respond in a timely manner to motions and legislation passed in the Legislative Assembly and outline a plan for implementing the measures and initiatives supported which includes regular reporting and progress updates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to respond in a timely manner to reports that have been commissioned by the government.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, deferred third reading of several Bills to Tuesday, March 29, 2022, and announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 95),

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 interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 2 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 2019-2020 New Brunswick Lotteries and Gaming Corporation	March 24, 2022
Annual Report 2018-2019 Cannabis Management Corporation	March 24, 2022
Annual Report 2019-2020 Cannabis Management Corporation	March 24, 2022