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Daily sitting 82

Friday, June 3, 2022

*9 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. C. Chiasson, Member for Victoria-La Vallée, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to suspend the proposed education governance reform until consultations are held. (Petition 48)

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Mr. D'Amours gave Notice of Motion 112 that on Thursday, June 9, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Legacy:

WHEREAS the Minister of Health said that 10% of 800 000 New Brunswickers, which means about 80 000 New Brunswickers, are waiting for a family doctor;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Nurses' Union has indicated that, as of February 2022, there were 1 000 registered nursing positions and 300 practical nursing positions unfilled;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health promised in April 2021 to provide a primary caregiver for all New Brunswickers waiting for a doctor within 6 months and has failed to do so;

WHEREAS, in February 2022, four highly reputable retired family physicians who are concerned about the lack of care available for New Brunswickers weighed in with a plan to provide primary care to every New Brunswicker;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health did not heed this advice and the primary care shortage persists;

WHEREAS surgical wait lists in New Brunswick are amongst the longest in Canada;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has one of the highest COVID counts in the country and had over 400 COVID-19-related deaths in May 2022;

WHEREAS, as a result of political decision-making trumping public health advice, the minister has failed miserably in keeping New Brunswickers safe throughout the pandemic;

WHEREAS, with a flagrant dismissal of the need for public transparency, the Minister of Health has tried to muzzle the CEOs of the regional health authorities;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health again showed a blatant disregard for transparency and protecting the health of New Brunswickers by failing to advise the public of the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant;

WHEREAS the minister's continued failures have resulted in a loss of confidence in the minister by New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to establish accountability and performance measurement frameworks for the Minister of Health and make the improvement of health care delivery in New Brunswick a top priority.

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Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 113 that on Thursday, June 9, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Legacy:

WHEREAS New Brunswick has an aging demographic and, over the next decade, about 120 000 New Brunswickers will retire;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is in the midst of a labour crisis and many employers are having difficulty finding trained labour with shortages in healthcare, long-term care, childcare, transportation, construction, education, trades, information technology, manufacturing, and tourism, to name a few;

WHEREAS we are also in the midst of a health crisis based on a shortage of nurses which threatens the delivery of health services;

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Higgs government eliminated the free tuition program that made postsecondary education accessible for many New Brunswickers who saw tuition costs as a barrier to entry;

WHEREAS New Brunswick does not provide tuition incentives or relief from student debt for students in targeted programs where labour shortages exist;

WHEREAS, as a result of labour shortages, other provinces and the federal government are stepping up to announce programs to tackle the issue head on;

WHEREAS the other provinces are offering incentives for students to enter targeted professions like health and social services, education, engineering, childcare services, information technologies, trades, construction, and other fields where labour shortages exist;

WHEREAS other provinces are also announcing programs such as those to cut tuition fees for overseas students as a further incentive to address the labour shortages and programs to attract and assist young people to pursue careers in the trades;

WHEREAS New Brunswick lacks a comprehensive strategy to deal with the labour shortages;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a series of targeted labour incentive programs to address New Brunswick's labour shortages.

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

June 3, 2022

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 twenty-seventh report.

Your Committee met on June 2, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 89, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*;  
Bill 103, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 96, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 99, *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

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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.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 114 be called for second reading until 11 a.m.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 105, *An Act to Amend the Highway Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 105 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 105, *An Act to Amend the Highway Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 106, *An Act to Amend the Marshland Infrastructure Maintenance Act*.

Bill 110, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022*.

Bill 113, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 114, *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*, be now read a second time, moved by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Mr. McKee, on May 19, 2022.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

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Mr. Arseneault	Ms. Mitton	Mr. D'Amours
Mr. McKee	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Landry	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Guitard	Mr. LePage	Mr. Landry
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	
Mr. Coon	Mr. Legacy	

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Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Austin	
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Bockus	

And the question being put that Bill 114 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 114, *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 10.52 a.m., the House adjourned.