
Daily sitting 16

Friday, November 25, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneau,

Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act.*

Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 17 that on Thursday, December 1, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS the non-profit organization Canadians for Tax Fairness found that, as Canadians struggled under rising costs of living, 123 of Canada's largest corporations avoided paying \$30 billion in taxes in 2021;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Statistics Canada's inter-corporate ownership database reported that the New Brunswick Irving companies were owned under eight offshore holding companies based in Bermuda, a known tax haven with a 0% corporate income tax rate;

WHEREAS the Paradise Papers, leaked documents reviewed by CBC News and Radio-Canada, revealed that the Irving family created at least five previously unknown offshore holding companies that have never appeared in the federal database of Statistics Canada and that have allowed them to move millions of dollars in profits out of Canada and into the tax haven of Bermuda for over four decades;

WHEREAS the Irving family continues to avoid paying taxes in New Brunswick while, at the same time, their companies collect numerous subsidies and grants from both the provincial and federal governments annually;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick loses millions in tax revenue when companies employ this practice of offshore tax avoidance and tax evasion;

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board responded in the Legislative Assembly that he did not know how much tax revenue is being lost from the Irvings' tax havens in Bermuda, nor could he provide a list of businesses who partake in any tax havens;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ban financial assistance to any companies that are known to use tax havens as a means of avoiding paying New Brunswick or Canadian income taxes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly appoint a new standing committee with the mandate to call for persons, papers, and documents to investigate companies that are avoiding or evading paying taxes in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 be called for second reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 6, *An Act Respecting the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act and the Wills Act*.

Bill 17, *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 21 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council 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 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 2 p.m., the House adjourned.