
Daily sitting 18

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 19 that on Thursday, December 15, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Legacy:

WHEREAS, as of the end of November 2021, there have been 609 deaths in New Brunswick from COVID-19, with additional deaths being reported each week;

WHEREAS, in addition to COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus infections in New Brunswick are up 800% over the previous year;

WHEREAS, unlike in some other provinces, RSV infections are not monitored or communicated to the public as a reportable disease under the *Public Health Act*;

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the public to provide up-to-date information and public advice on viral infections and the best means to prevent widespread infection;

WHEREAS there do not appear to be established criteria that would dictate when tracking and reporting of viruses and other illnesses should occur;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend the *Public Health Act* and regulations to include RSV as a notifiable disease;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that the Office of Public Health provides regular public updates, advice, and recommendations to keep New Brunswickers safe, and releases a comprehensive public health strategy to prevent and reduce an escalation of viral infections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that the Office of Public Health adopts specific policies and protocols to determine when a virus or other serious illnesses should be tracked, reported, and communicated to the public.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, December 15, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, in 2021, New Brunswick rent increases were the highest in Canada;

WHEREAS 36% of New Brunswickers are currently living in unaffordable housing;

WHEREAS, in 2021, the vacancy rate for housing dropped from 3.1% to 1.7%;

WHEREAS the government refused to renew the rent cap, which will likely result in many significant rent increases and an increase in the number of New Brunswickers who don't have access to affordable housing;

WHEREAS more than 8,100 households are on a waiting list for public housing;

WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing is an immediate crisis that must be addressed with a sense of urgency;

WHEREAS there are many not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, and co-operatives that are interested in entering into partnerships with government to help address the housing crisis;

WHEREAS concerned community leaders like Marcel LeBrun are doing their part through innovative solutions like the 12Neighbours project of tiny housing;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions have looked to innovative solutions like design innovations, increased building productivity, modular construction, and community land trusts;

WHEREAS there are many other innovative housing solutions that should be considered to encourage and support the development of affordable housing, including enhanced and targeted tax incentives, removing regulatory barriers, and reducing red tape around permitting and approvals;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately develop an affordable housing strategy that will look at innovative housing solutions, community partnerships, incentives, and other creative ideas to help address the significant challenge of a lack of affordable housing.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 21 that on Thursday, December 15, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Legacy:

WHEREAS, in the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 2, Performance Audit 2022, there were significant concerns identified with respect to the oversight and management of the Environmental Trust Fund;

WHEREAS, as a result of those concerns, the Auditor General made several recommendations to the Department of Environment and Local Government related to clarifying roles and responsibilities, the need for improved planning, project and performance evaluation, evidence-based decision-making, and reporting;

WHEREAS these recommendations were aimed at improving the management, accountability, and transparency of the department in relation to the Environmental Trust Fund;

WHEREAS, in its response to the Auditor General's recommendations, the Department of Environment and Local Government indicated it would only "consider" implementing the recommendations relating to summarizing and reporting of all projects funded through the Environmental Trust Fund and expanding reporting to include geographical information on the supported projects;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that all the recommendations of the Auditor General related to the Environmental Trust Fund are implemented.

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 22 that on Thursday, December 15, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS governments across the globe are dealing with the reality of climate change and the need to look at transformative change to address its environmental, economic, and social impact;

WHEREAS the development of a clear energy policy is crucial for looking at key issues like energy development, energy conservation, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government is making erratic decisions related to energy development without the benefit of a comprehensive energy plan that should serve as a guide for policy decision-making that looks to a sustainable future;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately develop a strategic energy policy that looks at green energy, renewables, greenhouse gas reductions, climate change mitigation, and energy efficiency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put all major energy development decisions related to fossil fuels on hold until the policy is developed and they can be properly evaluated in the context of the policy.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, December 8, 2022, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 3 and 12; Third Party item.

Mr. Arseneau gave notice that the Third Party item would be Bill 27.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20 and 21 be called for third reading; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Capital Estimates of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Supplementary Estimates 2022-2023, Volume I; following which Bill 25 would be called for a second reading.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, 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, Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for third reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, be not now read a third time but that the bill be read a third time this day six months hence.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and it was resolved in the negative.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved the adjournment of the debate.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 12 and 20 be called for third reading.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 12 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 20, *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

At 11.59 a.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed with Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, be now read a third time.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved the adjournment of the debate.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 25

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Hon. Mr. Holder | Hon. Mr. Crossman | Mr. Cullins |
| Hon. Mr. G. Savoie | Hon. Ms. Johnson | Ms. Anderson-Mason |
| Hon. Ms. Shephard | Hon. Mr. Allain | Mr. Wetmore |
| Hon. Mr. Flemming | Hon. Mr. Hogan | Mr. Ames |
| Hon. Mr. Fitch | Hon. Mr. Austin | Mr. Dawson |
| Hon. Mr. Holland | Hon. Mr. Carr | Ms. Bockus |
| Hon. Mr. R. Savoie | Mr. Turner | Ms. Conroy |
| Hon. Ms. Green | Ms. S. Wilson | |
| Hon. Ms. Dunn | Ms. M. Wilson | |

NAYS - 16

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

Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie deferred third reading of Bills 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19 and 21 to Thursday, December 15, 2022.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Ms. Anderson-Mason in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, had passed several items, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, 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 are the items reported:

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2022-2023, VOLUME I

RESOLVED, that there be granted to His Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2023:

| ORDINARY ACCOUNT | Voted (\$) |
|--|------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT | |
| Corporate and Other Education Services | 4,450,000 |
| School Districts | 10,870,000 |
| Voted..... | 15,320,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT | |
| Authorizations and Compliance..... | 1,200,000 |
| Corporate Services and Community Funding | 550,000 |
| Environmental Science and Protection | 100,000 |
| Policy, Public Education and Engagement | 150,000 |
| Voted..... | 2,000,000 |
| EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE | |
| Women's Equality Branch..... | 480,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | |
| Part III Health Services | 81,000,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY | |
| Community Safety Division | 16,817,000 |
| Security and Emergencies Division | 1,800,000 |
| Office of the Attorney General | 500,000 |
| Justice Services Division | 350,000 |
| Voted..... | 19,467,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT | |
| Natural Resources | 6,600,000 |
| Energy and Mines | 40,000,000 |
| Land Management | 400,000 |
| Voted..... | 47,000,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR | |
| Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification | 2,400,000 |
| Post-Secondary Affairs | 27,000,000 |
| WorkingNB..... | 27,600,000 |
| Voted..... | 57,000,000 |

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|--|------------|
| Child Welfare and Youth Services | 12,100,000 |
| Income Security | 11,200,000 |
| Housing Services | 15,300,000 |
| Voted..... | 38,600,000 |

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Parks and Trails | 681,000 |
| Culture, Heritage and Sport | 215,000 |
| Tourism..... | 2,120,000 |
| Voted..... | 3,016,000 |

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Maintenance..... | 15,935,000 |
|------------------|------------|

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|--|------------|
| Nursing Home Services - Capital Improvements | 11,700,000 |
| Public Housing - Capital Construction | 1,000,000 |
| Voted..... | 12,700,000 |

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Capital Improvements..... | 295,000 |
| Strategic Infrastructure | 3,216,000 |
| Voted..... | 3,511,000 |

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

| | |
|--|------------|
| Highways | 38,000,000 |
| Municipal Designated Highway Program..... | 3,600,000 |
| Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Program | 19,500,000 |
| Public Works and Infrastructure | 16,000,000 |
| Voted..... | 77,100,000 |

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 25 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 3.03 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:

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|---|------------------|
| Annual Report 2021-2022 | |
| Department of Environment and Local Government | December 5, 2022 |
| Response to Petition 8 | December 5, 2022 |
| Annual Report 2021-2022 | |
| Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries | December 6, 2022 |
| Annual Report 2021-2022 | |
| Department of Transportation and Infrastructure | December 6, 2022 |
| Annual Report 2021-2022 | |
| Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development | December 6, 2022 |