
Daily sitting 19

Thursday, December 8, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker interrupted Oral Questions and requested that Mr. Bourque withdraw the words “mislead the House” in reference to Hon. Ms. Green, which he did.

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

December 8, 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 fifth report.

Your Committee met on December 7, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 16, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2*;
Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act*;
Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Richard Ames, 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.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (1)*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bill 28 was ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a second time:

Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (1)*.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (1)*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Hon. Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 23 that on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, December 16, 2022, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, March 21, 2023, provided always 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 the 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 has been duly adjourned to that time, and

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had arrived.

Debate resumed on Motion 3, moved by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Bourque, on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 3 was resolved in the negative on the following recording division:

YEAS - 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 | |

NAYS - 24

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 12, Ms. Thériault moved, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the commissioners appointed to undertake a review of the *Official Languages Act* submitted their report to the Premier on December 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, despite calls by the Official Opposition in April 2021 and the Commissioner of Official Languages in June 2021 for the Premier to respond to the report, the Premier failed to do so;

WHEREAS, by November 15, 2022, almost a year after the report was filed, the Premier had not responded to it;

WHEREAS it was recently revealed that the Premier had secretly appointed the former leader of the anti-bilingual People's Alliance party to an internal committee tasked with looking at revisions to the *Official Languages Act*;

WHEREAS the opinions and biases of the former People's Alliance leader are well known, in that he has called for the elimination of the position of Commissioner of Official

Languages, has called for the merging of the two health authorities, has suggested that language proficiency requirements in the civil service be downgraded, has called for the elimination of the French immersion program, and has voiced numerous other opinions that are contrary to the spirit and intent of the *Official Languages Act*;

WHEREAS the Premier has also voiced his support for policies that would undermine the nature of bilingualism and erode the protections presently provided for under the *Official Languages Act*;

WHEREAS there is a growing concern that the Premier and his government may soon take actions that threaten the protection of minority language rights and hurt our status as Canada's only officially bilingual province;

WHEREAS there is widespread condemnation of the Premier's actions in appointing the Member for Fredericton-Grand Lake to the internal government committee deciding on whether there should be changes to the *Official Languages Act*, announcing plans to eliminate the French immersion program without data to support his decision, and mulling over other changes to official languages that would be a step backwards for the province;

WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly should be provided with an opportunity to discuss the importance of the *Official Languages Act* and the dangers of taking actions to undermine it and the implementation of policies that would do likewise;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately provide a response to the Report on the Review of the *Official Languages Act*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to propose any changes that would diminish the rights and protections afforded to New Brunswickers under the *Official Languages Act*.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 12 be amended as follows:

By deleting all of the whereas clauses;

By deleting “THEREFORE” in the first resolution clause;

By adding the following after the second resolution clause:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to celebrate New Brunswick’s position as Canada’s only officially bilingual province.”

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

At 4.11 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.43 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Ms. Thériault, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 12 be amended as follows:

In the final resolution clause, the word “celebrate” be deleted and replaced with the word “reenforce” and add the following words after the word “province”: “and to improve and strengthen the protections afforded under the *Official Languages Act*”.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and a debate ensued.

At 4.58 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.09 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson took the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the sub-amendment was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 12 as amended as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately provide a response to the Report on the Review of the *Official Languages Act*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to propose any changes that would diminish the rights and protections afforded to New Brunswickers under the *Official Languages Act*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to reinforce New Brunswick's position as Canada's only officially bilingual province and to improve and strengthen the protections afforded under the *Official Languages Act*.

And the question being put, Motion 12 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 35

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| Hon. Mr. Holder | Mr. Turner | Mr. K. Chiasson |
| Hon. Mr. G. Savoie | Ms. M. Wilson | Mr. C. Chiasson |
| Hon. Mr. Steeves | Mr. Cullins | Mr. Coon |
| Hon. Mr. Flemming | Mr. Wetmore | Ms. Mitton |
| Hon. Mr. Fitch | Mr. Ames | Mr. LeBlanc |
| Hon. Mr. Holland | Ms. Bockus | Mr. LePage |
| Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace | Ms. Conroy | Mr. Bourque |
| Hon. Ms. Dunn | Mr. Arseneault | Mr. Mallet |
| Hon. Mr. Crossman | Mr. Gauvin | Mr. D'Amours |
| Hon. Mr. Allain | Mr. McKee | Ms. Landry |
| Hon. Mr. Hogan | Mr. Legacy | Mr. Arseneau |
| Hon. Mr. Austin | Ms. Thériault | |

And then, 6.05 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 2021-2022

Department of Aboriginal Affairs

December 7, 2022

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| Annual Report 2019-2020 New Brunswick Arts Board | December 7, 2022 |
| Annual Report 2020-2021 New Brunswick Arts Board | December 7, 2022 |
| Annual Report 2021-2022 Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture | December 7, 2022 |
| Response to Petitions 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 | December 7, 2022 |