

---

Daily sitting 23

Thursday, December 15, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. C. Chiasson welcomed to the House Andrew Harvey, former Liberal MLA for Carleton-Victoria (2014-2020).

---

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. Bourque withdraw the words “bull crap”, which he did.

---

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

December 15, 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 seventh report.

Your Committee met on December 14, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations 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.

---

At the request of Mr. Arseneault, it was agreed by unanimous consent that Opposition Members' business be considered in the following order: Bill 27, Motion 10 and 20.

---

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 11, 13, 15, 19, 3, 21, 25, 10 and, with leave, 23 be called for third reading.

---

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers*.  
Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*.  
Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing*.  
Bill 19, *Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

On the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, be now read a third time, moved by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon, on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, Mr. Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was resolved in the negative.

And the question being put that Bill 3 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

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

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

Accordingly, Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon, 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:

---

the House decline to give third reading to Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, as it undermines the principle of the progressive taxation system in New Brunswick and in Canada.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative.

And the question being put that Bill 10 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, was read a third time and passed.

---

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 23 be called for third reading forthwith.

---

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some 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:

the House decline to give third reading to Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*, as this legislation will increase the number of strikes and lockouts and allows scab labour.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to defer the vote for the third reading of Bill 23 to Friday, December 16, 2022.

---

---

At 2.05 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Holder, seconded by Hon. Ms. Shephard, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word “that” and substituting the following:

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

---

On a point of order taken under advisement on December 13, 2022, Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and requested that Ms. Thériault withdraw the words “it is not true”, which she did.

---

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 10, Ms. Thériault moved, seconded by Mr. Mallet:

WHEREAS New Brunswick does not have a fixed legislative calendar of sitting days;

WHEREAS there are many advantages to the public and elected members associated with having a fixed legislative calendar including those related to predictability, logistical planning and making the Legislature more family-friendly;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers to examine the options for a fixed legislative calendar and return to the Legislative Assembly within two months with recommendations.

---

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 10 be amended by striking out, in the resolution clause, “two” and replacing it with “six”.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 10 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS New Brunswick does not have a fixed legislative calendar of sitting days;

WHEREAS there are many advantages to the public and elected members associated with having a fixed legislative calendar including those related to predictability, logistical planning and making the Legislature more family-friendly;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers to examine the options for a fixed legislative calendar and return to the Legislative Assembly within six months with recommendations.

And the question being put, Motion 10 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

---

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 20, Mr. Bourque moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Ms. Green, seconded by Hon. Mr. Steeves, moved in amendment:

---

AMENDMENT

That Motion 20 be amended by striking out, in the resolution clause, “an affordable housing strategy” and replacing it with “a comprehensive housing strategy for the Province of New Brunswick with a focus on affordable housing”.

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

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 20 as amended as follows:

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 a comprehensive housing strategy for the Province of New Brunswick with a focus on affordable housing 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.

And the question being put, Motion 20 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

---

And then, 5.44 p.m., the House adjourned.