
Daily sitting 29

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. Legacy withdraw the term “come clean” in relation to Hon. Mr. Steeves, which he did.

Hon. Mr. Flemming, from the Standing Committee on Law Amendments, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

March 28, 2023

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments begs leave to submit their First Report of the session.

On February 22, 2023, your Committee met and had under consideration the subject matter of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*.

Your Committee heard from representatives of Service New Brunswick regarding the modernization of the *Business Corporations Act* as proposed in Bill 24. Service New Brunswick recommended that certain amendments be made to the Bill, which it outlined as follows:

- adding references to an exchange for maintenance of a share register;
- changes relating to corporations that are “continued”;
- the application of solvency tests for reductions in stated capital amounts;
- clarifying the applicability of cumulative voting provisions;
- the amalgamation of subsidiary corporations; and
- corrections to several section references.

Following this presentation, your Committee agreed to report that it supports the intent of Bill 24 and recommends as follows:

THAT Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, not be passed in its current form until the government considers the amendments recommended by Service New Brunswick.

Your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd. :) Hon. Hugh J. Flemming, K.C., 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.

Hon. Mr. Flemming, from the Standing Committee on Law Amendments, presented the Second Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

March 28, 2023

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments begs leave to submit their Second Report of the session.

On February 23, 2023, your Committee met and had under consideration the subject matter of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

Your Committee heard from representatives of the following organizations: New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice; New Brunswick Federation of Labour; Canadian Cancer Society; New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity; Better Way Alliance; Decent Work and Health Network; Fredericton Chamber of Commerce; and Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

In addition, your Committee heard from staff of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.

Following these presentations, your Committee agreed to make the following recommendations:

1. **THAT Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, not be proceeded with in its current form.**
2. **THAT the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour undertake a review of the issue of paid sick days and report back to the House.**

Your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd. :) Hon. Hugh J. Flemming, K.C., 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 Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Carr,

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety.*

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act.*

By Hon. Mr. G. Savoie,

Bill 36, *An Act Respecting the Proposed Electoral District of Tantramar.*

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 36 be ordered for second reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a second time:

Bill 36, *An Act Respecting the Proposed Electoral District of Tantramar.*

It was agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with committee consideration of Bill 36 and order the Bill for third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 36, *An Act Respecting the Proposed Electoral District of Tantramar.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. McKee: (Motion 33)

WHEREAS for Muslims around the world, this week marks the beginning of Ramadan, which ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr in April;

WHEREAS the observance of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islamic Faith;

WHEREAS over one billion people from around the world observe the holy month of Ramadan by fasting - a practice intended to encourage Muslims to reflect on their daily habits and spirituality through piety and self-discipline;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick recognize Ramadan and the importance of this time of the year for many New Brunswickers and wish all those who celebrate it a Happy Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr ahead.

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

Hon. Mr. Holland requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 34)

WHEREAS Atlantic Premiers continue to work diligently with the Government of Canada on shared goals to reduce greenhouse emissions;

WHEREAS as a region we are ambitiously investing in low-emitting energy and innovative green technologies;

WHEREAS this advancement is strategically important to economic development and decarbonization objectives that all provinces in the region share;

WHEREAS “The Clean Fuel Regulations” come into force in July 2023, and will increase costs for Atlantic Canada reaching at least 13 cents per litre for gasoline and 16 cents per litre for diesel by 2030;

WHEREAS the demographic characteristics of the Atlantic region’s significantly rural based population, without strong public transit, are unique;

WHEREAS we are deeply concerned about these affordability impacts and their impact on inflationary pressures for households in our regions, and the CFR’s negative impact on GDP will be felt disproportionately in our region;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the federal Government of Canada to consider the disproportionately negative impact of the Clean Fuel Standard on Atlantic Canada, by both delaying its implementation and considering measures to directly compensate the individuals and families who will be so negatively impacted.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 34 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Mr. Arseneau requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton: (Motion 35)

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, the Rogersville Cooperative was informed that it would lose its agency contract with the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation, as a Crown corporation, has a social responsibility toward the common good in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the profits generated by the agency contract with the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation amount to 25% of the income of the Rogersville Cooperative, the loss of which represents a real threat for the survival of the Cooperative;

WHEREAS the loss of the only grocery store in the Nouvelle-Arcadie municipality would create a food desert, since the closest grocery stores would be 45 km away from the community;

WHEREAS the Nouvelle-Arcadie municipality, the Comité de bénévolat de Rogersville, the food bank, the 875 signatories to a petition, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and a number of other organizations have expressed serious concerns regarding the situation;

WHEREAS the Rogersville Cooperative and its 1,500 members have been reinvesting their profits and those of the community lottery, amounting to over \$80,000 per year, in the community for over 15 years, including providing premises for the Rogersville Public Library and directly supporting organizations in the region to improve the lives of the residents of Nouvelle-Arcadie;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation to review its selection criteria for agency contracts to include social criteria, including the effects on essential services provided in the community, such as grocery stores, the social responsibility of the bidding business, and the effects of a policy to reinvest profits in the community that supports the business;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government and the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation to cancel any contracts signed after December 19, 2022, and to extend current contracts until a new tendering process that includes social criteria is established.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 35 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Hon. Mr. Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
March 28, 2023.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Supplementary Estimates 2021-2022, Volume I*, of the sums required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 2022, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Brenda L. Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, Bills 33, 34 and 35 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 29, 30, 31 and 32 be called for second reading until 4 p.m.; at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 29 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection 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 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 30 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners 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 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for second reading had expired.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 23),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

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

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.