

JOURNALS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE
PROVINCE
OF
NEW BRUNSWICK

From the 25th day of October to the 4th day of November, 2022
From the 15th day of November to the 25th day of November, 2022
From the 6th day of December to the 16th day of December, 2022
From the 21st day of March to the 31st day of March, 2023
From the 9th day of May to the 19th day of May, 2023
From the 6th day of June to the 16th day of June, 2023
The 17th day of October, 2023

Being the
Second Session of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly



Fredericton, N.B.

2022-2023

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Second Session of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly

Speaker: the Honourable Bill Oliver

Constituency	Member	Residence
Albert	Hon. Mike Holland	Riverview
Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint Isidore*	Susan Holt	Fredericton
Bathurst West-Beresford	René Legacy	Bathurst
Campbellton-Dalhousie	Guy Arseneault	Dalhousie
Caraquet	Isabelle Thériault	Caraquet
Carleton	Hon. Bill Hogan	Woodstock
Carleton-Victoria	Hon. Margaret Johnson	Florenceville-Bristol
Carleton-York	Richard Ames	Mactaquac
Dieppe**	Richard Losier	Dieppe
Edmundston-Madawaska Centre	Jean-Claude (JC) D'Amours	Edmundston
Fredericton-Grand Lake	Hon. Kris Austin	Minto
Fredericton North	Hon. Jill Green	Fredericton
Fredericton South	David Coon	Fredericton
Fredericton West-Hanwell	Dominic Cardy	Fredericton
Fredericton-York	Ryan P. Cullins	Fredericton
Fundy-The Isles-Saint John West	Andrea Anderson-Mason, K.C.	St. George
Gagetown-Petitcodiac	Ross Wetmore	Gagetown
Hampton	Hon. Gary Crossman	Hampton
Kent North	Kevin Arseneau	Nouvelle-Arcadie
Kent South	Benoît Bourque	Bouctouche
Kings Centre	Hon. William (Bill) Oliver	Keirsteadville
Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston	Francine Landry	Edmundston
Memramcook-Tantramar	Megan Mitton	Sackville
Miramichi	Michelle Conroy	Napan
Miramichi Bay-Neguac	Hon. Réjean Savoie	Neguac
Moncton Centre	Robert McKee	Moncton
Moncton East	Hon. Daniel Allain	Moncton
Moncton Northwest	Hon. Ernie Steeves	Upper Coverdale
Moncton South	Greg Turner	Moncton
Moncton Southwest	Sherry Wilson	Wheaton Settlement
New Maryland-Sunbury	Hon. Jeff Carr	Geary
Oromocto-Lincoln-Fredericton	Mary E. Wilson	Oromocto
Portland-Simonds	Hon. Trevor A. Holder	Saint John
Quispamsis	Hon. Blaine Higgs	Quispamsis
Restigouche-Chaleur***	Marco LeBlanc	Belle-Baie
Restigouche West	Gilles LePage	Charlo
Riverview	Hon. Bruce Fitch	Riverview
Rothsay	Hon. Hugh J.A. Flemming, K.C.	Rothsay
Saint Croix	Kathy Bockus	Leverville
Saint John East	Hon. Glen Savoie	Garnett Settlement
Saint John Harbour	Hon. Arlene Dunn	Willow Grove
Saint John Lancaster	Hon. K. Dorothy Shephard	Saint John
Shediac Bay-Dieppe	Robert Gauvin	Shippagan
Shediac-Beaubassin-Cap-Pelé	Jacques LeBlanc	Shediac
Shippagan-Lamèque-Miscou	Eric Mallet	Shippagan
Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin	Mike Dawson	South Nelson
Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins	Hon. Tammy Scott-Wallace	Smiths Creek
Tracadie-Sheila	Keith Chiasson	Rivière-à-la-Truite
Victoria-La Vallée	Chuck Chiasson	Grand Falls

OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Shayne Davies, Clerk

John-Patrick McCleave, Clerk Assistant

Gilles Côté, Sergeant-at-Arms

Patrick Dunn, Law Clerk

* By-election April 24, 2023, vice Denis Landry resigned November 30, 2022.

** By-election April 24, 2023, vice Roger Melanson resigned October 21, 2022.

*** By-election April 24, 2023, vice Daniel Guitar resigned November 30, 2022.

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PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTIETH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2022-2023**

**THE HONOURABLE BRENDA MURPHY,
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR**

Fredericton, N.B.
Tuesday, October 25, 2022

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS I have proclaimed that the first session of the sixtieth Legislative Assembly of this Province be prorogued on the twenty-fifth day of October, 2022 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon;

AND WHEREAS I have thought fit to call the second session of the sixtieth Legislative Assembly of this Province into session, I hereby issue a Proclamation that the same be called to meet on the twenty-fifth day of October, 2022 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Province at Fredericton this 6th day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two, and in the seventy-first year of Her Majesty's Reign.

BY COMMAND OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Hugh J. Flemming, Q.C.
Attorney General.

Brenda L. Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

This being the day appointed for the opening of the Second Session of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick for the dispatch of business pursuant to the proclamation hereinbefore annexed, and the Members being present:

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was announced and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne and was pleased to open the session with the following speech from the Throne:

Opening Remarks

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, invited guests, and the people of New Brunswick, welcome to the Second Session of the 60th Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick.

We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati people. We strive for respectful relations with all the people of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

Mr. Speaker, this session begins at a time of renewal for our province, as we emerge from the pandemic stronger and more confident in our ability to overcome challenges by working together. Despite immense upheaval and uncertainty in recent years, the people of this province have shown the resilience, conviction and innovation to aim higher, reimagine old processes and practices, and seize new opportunities. Increasingly, on the national stage, we are becoming known as a place of growth and prosperity.

The progress being made is a credit to every New Brunswicker whose creativity, inclusive spirit and drive for excellence is making our province stronger over the long term. We begin, Mr. Speaker, with recognition of the many inspirational individuals whose positive impact is felt near and far.

Congratulations / Recognition

A number of New Brunswickers have had noteworthy recognition and achievements over the past year.

We congratulate renowned Acadian author and playwright Antonine Maillet, who was promoted to the rank of commander of the Legion of Honour by the president of France, Emmanuel Macron. This is among the country's most esteemed honours that can be awarded to a person outside France.

Thirteen lawyers were appointed to the King's counsel, including Ferne Ashford of Fredericton, David Bartlett of Saint Andrews, Nathan Gorham of Saint John, Matthew Hayes of Saint John, Lucie LaBoissonnière of Moncton, Joshua McElman of Saint John, Brenda McMullen Brown of Moncton, Joël Michaud of Fredericton, Carley Parish of Hampton, Justin Robichaud of Moncton, Carole Sirois-Paquette of Caraquet, Daniel Surette of Moncton, and Corry Toole of Saint John.

We extend congratulations to the New Brunswick athletes, coaches and officials who represented Team Canada at the 2022 winter Olympics in Beijing, China, including: Courtney Sarault from Moncton; Serge LeBlanc from Sainte-Marie-de-Kent; Ryan Hamilton from New Maryland; Betty Dermer-Norris from Fredericton; Nicole LeBlanc-Richard from Dieppe; and Cynthia Benson from Saint John. As well, we would like to recognize Brendan Corey, who grew up in Fredericton and competed for Australia at the games, and Stephen Gough, formerly of New Maryland, a coach with Team USA.

Congratulations to the New Brunswick athletes, coaches and officials who represented Team Canada at the 2022 winter Paralympics in Beijing, China, including Mark Fawcett from Saint John and Mitchell Furlotte from Bathurst.

Five New Brunswickers were recognized as part of the second annual Minister's Awards for Excellence in Championing Gender Equality. VIVE awards were presented to: Youth Champion – Vera Chen of New Maryland; Community Champion – Lyne Chantal Boudreau of Moncton; Business Champion – Cathy Simpson of Rothesay; Everyday Champion – Rev. Elizabeth Stevenson of Kingston; and Government Champion – Michele Cronin of New Maryland.

We want to recognize Bob Stranach, the Council of the Federation Literacy Award winner for New Brunswick for 2021.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Disability Awareness Week Awards, including: Clarence Bastarache of Bathurst, winner of the Honourable Andy Scott Award; Dixie Lee in Shediac, winner of the Employer Award; and Ability New Brunswick, winner of the Provincial Award.

Dr. Donald Joseph Savoie of Moncton was named a Companion to the Order of Canada for his seminal contributions to the advancement of public policy administration and economic governance principles on the national and international levels.

Five New Brunswickers were appointed as Members of the Order of Canada. They are: Louis-Philippe J. Léo Albert of Fredericton for his long-standing commitment to his community, notably through his advocacy of French-language services and within the agriculture industry; Hereditary Chief Stephen Joseph Augustine for advancing Mi'kmaq studies, and for sharing his scholarly expertise and traditional knowledge with private and public organizations across Canada; Euclide Patrice Chiasson of Dieppe for his continued dedication to the cultural and educational development of the Acadian people, and for his leadership in the co-operative sector; and Elder David Gerard Perley and Elder Imelda Mary Perley from Tobique First Nation for their work as renowned educators and knowledge keepers who have contributed to the academic and cultural landscapes of their province.

Congratulations to the 10 new recipients named to the Order of New Brunswick. The 2022 inductees include: Jean-Claude Basque from Moncton; Cecile Cassista from Riverview; Randy Dickinson from Fredericton; Penny Ericson from Fredericton; Aurèle Ferlatte (posthumous) from Dalhousie; Lucinda Flemer from Saint Andrews; Sandra L. Irving from Saint John; Larry Nelson from Moncton; Valois Robichaud from Baie du Petit Pokemouche; and Robert (Bobby) Sylliboy from Esqumôyet First Nation. They will be invested into the Order of New Brunswick on November 2.

We congratulate the Saint John Sea Dogs, who were crowned Champions of the 2022 Memorial Cup, and the City of Saint John for putting on a successful tournament.

Your government is pleased for the cities of Moncton and Halifax to be hosting the World Junior Hockey Championship this coming December. We look forward to the arrival of Team Canada and believe the message of change and respect has been heard. We will stay firm ensuring a culture of respect permeates all sports.

We congratulate the 346 athletes, 80 coaches, managers and technical staff, and 20 mission team members who represented New Brunswick at the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ont., in August. Team New Brunswick returned home with 19 medals.

Condolences

We also pause to remember those we have lost in the past year.

Last month, we lost Queen Elizabeth II. She will be fondly remembered for the close and lasting relationship she forged with our country and our province. She was a symbol of strength and resolve, a guiding light in turbulent times, and a figure of stability. Her passing was a loss to her family, to the Commonwealth and its people.

We honour Noel Mullins of Keltic Transportation, known as much for his unfailing generosity and support of many charitable organizations and sports teams as he was for his entrepreneurial spirit.

We remember Lynn Thornton, a true ambassador for New Brunswick. She spent 34 years working to promote Kings Landing and then another 20 years working for the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Former MLA and senator Mabel DeWare will be remembered as a trailblazer in politics. She was elected to the legislative assembly for two consecutive terms in 1978 and 1982 and became the first female minister of labour in 1978. She was appointed to the Senate in 1990 and, in 1999, she became the first woman to be appointed Opposition whip. She remained in this position until her retirement in 2001.

We honour former MP Claudette Bradshaw, a tireless advocate for our province. She dedicated her life to helping others as a member of the federal government from 1997 to 2006, representing the riding of Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, and through her work in her community addressing the issues of homelessness, mental health, and at-risk children and youth.

David Peterson, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick from 1978-1993, will be remembered for his many professional and personal accomplishments. A dedicated family man and multi-sport athlete, he was passionate about learning and the law. He was a teacher before returning to school and becoming a lawyer. He served as Fredericton city councillor from 1974-1980 and as a special prosecutor and a deputy judge.

Multi-sport athlete and former firefighter Phil Doiron will be remembered for his dedication to his family and community, as well as his achievements in baseball, softball and hockey.

We honour Adair Losier for his talent for baseball, playing with both the intermediate and senior Les Aigles team of Tracadie, as well as for his tireless dedication to making our province a better place. He loved his family and his community, and he showed it by giving back as a coach and parent-volunteer, as well as through politics and his volunteer work with non-profit organizations.

In recognition of Brenda Robertson and her tremendous impact as the founder of the extra mural program in this province, and with particular recognition of her accomplishments as the first elected woman to this legislature and the first woman appointed to serve as a minister of the Crown, your government will be formally recognizing her legacy in this legislative session.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, as we begin this new session, we do so at a historic time for our province. New Brunswick is seeing growth levels it has not witnessed since joining confederation in 1867. This pace is expected to continue as we welcome newcomers from across Canada and the world who seek out our province for the promise of a better life.

In addition to record population growth, for the first time since 1961, New Brunswick has seen the median age decline by six months. This is a clear sign that people are bringing families to our province with the confidence they can put down roots, raise children, and enjoy rewarding careers.

For the first time ever, net interprovincial migration exceeded 10,000. In the last year, 60 per cent of those coming to New Brunswick from other provinces were between 20-54 years old with families, while those under 20 years old represented 20 per cent. Mr. Speaker, these statistics bode well for the future sustainability of our province with more employees and students to support our growing economy and the continued transformation of our social services like health care and education.

Your government recognizes the importance of New Brunswick as Canada's only officially bilingual province. Over the past several months your government has been reviewing the recommendations that have been submitted by the two Commissioners regarding the *Official Languages Act*. The review has been comprehensive with recommendations that impact the day-to-day lives of New Brunswickers in workplaces, schools and municipal operations. Your government will advance a response during this session.

Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick is stronger for the rich diversity of our people and their generosity of spirit. Your government thanks the thousands of residents across the province who opened their hearts and homes earlier this year to refugees fleeing a brutal and unjust war in the Ukraine. We extend a warm welcome to our new Ukrainian neighbours and thank New Brunswickers everywhere whose generosity will never be forgotten.

We also saw record levels of international immigration, with nearly 13,000 people from around the world coming to New Brunswick to live, work and study.

As this session opens, your government is embracing a new day for New Brunswick. It's a day of growth. Managing growth is not something New Brunswick has needed to grapple with in decades. While it is clearly the right path for progress and the long-term financial health of New Brunswick, it presents near-term challenges with housing shortages, affordability, and access to government services.

Your government remains committed to ensuring that as we navigate these challenges we maintain strong, prudent fiscal management by putting the long-term health of the province first in every decision made. Responsible management means spending wisely and making choices about where to invest, as was demonstrated in the last budget through increased levels of funding to health care, nursing homes, women's shelters, housing, crime reduction, and economic stimulus strategies like tourism.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of those who work across government and every New Brunswicker who stepped forward to lead in recent times, New Brunswick is now being recognized as one of the most stable jurisdictions to invest and has recently been named by the CD Howe Institute as one of the most fiscally transparent governments in the country. In August, Mr. Speaker, our strong fiscal management led Moody's Investors Service to upgrade New Brunswick's credit outlook from stable to positive and reaffirmed our credit rating at Aa2. As well, in their latest reports, DBRS Morningstar and S&P Global Ratings reconfirmed their ratings at A(high) and A+ respectively, with stable outlooks. Mr. Speaker, the days of troubling predictions that the province is teetering on the cliff of bankruptcy are over.

Mr. Speaker, with the province's debt now lowered to \$12.4 billion, the cost of servicing its debt is taking up a smaller share of our revenues, which places us in a healthier position as the world enters a period of rising interest rates and related pressures.

While managing debt levels responsibly, your government has also been focused on annual budgetary discipline. In doing so, the Government of New Brunswick has delivered five consecutive surpluses, which provides flexibility to pursue additional tax reduction measures and help New Brunswickers with inflationary pressures.

These facts, Mr. Speaker, underscore your government's unwavering focus on securing the financial future of our beautiful province and ensuring sufficient means to provide New Brunswickers with the quality services they deserve and good value for their tax dollars.

This philosophy extends to NB Power, which is burdened with high levels of debt and continues to be challenged with cost of service delivery - which is only being exacerbated this year by sky-rocketing global energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, over the last year your government has continued to support NB Power and its board of directors and management team as it seeks to modernize its operations. Your government looks forward to the strategic review that is currently underway and applauds the organization's recent announcement of a \$50 million cost cutting initiative, particularly in the face of rate increases.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that New Brunswickers are challenged with affordability concerns, recently your government, in partnership with NB Power, launched a program to help residents who need it most to control their energy costs.

Every New Brunswick household with under \$70,000 in annual income relying on inefficient baseboard heating will qualify for a free energy assessment that may include free insulation, air sealing and heat pump. This program is funded through a \$30 million investment from your government and will not only help New Brunswickers manage their energy costs, but will modernize thousands of homes across our province with more efficient technology as we continue on our path toward being net-zero by 2050.

To provide further stability for residents, in this session government will bring forth amendments to the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act* to provide the Energy and Utilities Board authority to use discretion to ensure that the regulated maximum prices provide stable and effective pricing in volatile conditions and to provide consistency with the Maritime region.

Addressing our collective issues in meaningful and lasting ways requires reinvention and a constant challenging of the status quo. This is necessary, Mr. Speaker, to improve many of the ways government operates and to re-establish New Brunswick as a credible and confident province that is capable of attracting investment and talent. We have pressing issues and traditional approaches will not solve them. Every day your government stays focused on its strategic priorities and asks of itself and its residents - *How will this project improve the life of New Brunswickers? Will this initiative get real results? Will this investment improve our province and the quality of life for our children in the decades to come?*

Government Priorities

Your government has been and continues to be focused on key priorities, and advancing them through an affordable, responsive, and high-performing government:

- Energizing the Private Sector;
- Vibrant and Sustainable Communities;
- Dependable Public Health Care;
- World-Class Education;
- Environment.

Energizing the Private Sector

Mr. Speaker, energizing our private sector has been a constant goal of your government. The economic development strategy launched in 2018, *Closing the Gap in One Generation*, focused efforts on closing the prosperity gap between New Brunswick and the rest of Canada. By many measures, the province is well on its way.

Mr. Speaker, your government's pro-growth strategy is delivering. The province's economy has quickly surpassed pre-pandemic levels. More people are working than ever before in New Brunswick. In September the province set a record with 373,100 people working. It is notable that this result beat the previous record set five months earlier. By comparison Mr. Speaker, it took approximately a decade to recover the jobs lost during the financial crisis of 2008.

Along with job and employment growth, wages are rising. New Brunswick is leading the country in the growth in average weekly wages with an increase of 5.8 per cent so far this year, higher than the national growth rate of 3.0 per cent.

A key pillar of closing the prosperity gap is population growth, which is essential to addressing future workforce needs and fueling our economy with skilled labour. There are now 812,000 people living in New Brunswick, with nearly a 10,000 increase between April and July, and more growth every week. The 2021 Census shows Moncton and Fredericton saw stronger growth in their under-15 population than centres such as Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto.

In the last year, both goods- and services-producing industries registered increased economic activity, up by 6.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively.

As well Mr. Speaker, 17 out of 20 major industries reported a rise in their economic activity in 2021, led by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; public administration; real estate and rental and leasing; and manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, your government is ensuring it does its part to support New Brunswick businesses. By overhauling the government procurement processes to give local enterprises more opportunity to be considered for government business, \$90 million more was kept in New Brunswick over the last year. This is money that fueled employment and contributed to keeping local businesses healthy and strong.

As we look ahead, New Brunswick's total public and private capital investment is anticipated to grow by 7.2 per cent in 2022 and total investment is predicted to reach almost \$4.2 billion.

Non-residential capital construction is expected to increase by approximately \$280 million, a gain of 12.2 per cent from 2021, following a modest increase of 1.9 per cent in 2021. Mr. Speaker, this is a true sign of renewed confidence in New Brunswick and that we are emerging from the pandemic stronger.

Following a decrease last year, investment in the public sector is expected to increase by 11.9 per cent to \$1.7 billion in 2022 – the highest growth recorded since 2017.

The private sector is also anticipating an increase in investment in 2022, increasing by 4.1 per cent to \$2.4 billion, representing 58.3 per cent of total investment. Mr. Speaker, private investment growth is a strong indicator of our province's ability to close the gap with the rest of Canada as it signals that we are no longer over-relying on the public purse to drive the province's economy.

A good example is the Port of Saint John, which is nearing completion of a \$205 million expansion that will double its annual capacity. With the return of CP Rail, the Port is poised to undertake an enhanced modernization worth \$42 million. With three class one rail lines, our highway system and airport, it has become the best gateway in North America.

Mr. Speaker, our province is also seeing significant private investment in housing. Multi-unit construction set a record in 2020 that had stood since 1972, and then set a new record again last year.

Your government is also tackling productivity rates, a key indicator we lagged on with slow adoption of technology and automation compared to national averages. Labour productivity in New Brunswick is now six per cent higher than it was in 2018. Mr. Speaker, in the last year your government has helped over 55 companies adopt automation, and this year's budget provided \$5 million to help New Brunswick businesses embrace technology for greater productivity and increased outputs.

Digital literacy is also critical to our economic and social progress which is why your government invested \$10 million in the new McKenna Institute at the University of New Brunswick for micro-credentials to help residents boost their skills and find new work after the pandemic. The Institute will double the number of computer science grads and triple the number of graduate students, contributing essential talent to our province with the necessary skills to drive continued adoption of technology for productivity-enhancing processes.

Being connected has never been more important. Your government has launched the Remote Satellite Internet Rebate Program to households and businesses in remote areas. This Internet connectivity will boost productivity for many New Brunswickers.

New Brunswick exports are also doing well. The province saw the second largest increase in exports in the country in 2021 – behind only Alberta. Mr. Speaker, the \$14.7 billion in merchandise exports from New Brunswick in 2021 was the highest level of exports we have had in nearly a decade, and seafood exports reached an all-time high at \$2.2 billion. Your government will continue to work on opening new markets for our world-leading seafood and agriculture sectors.

Mr. Speaker, your government recognizes the importance of our agriculture, aquaculture and fishery industries as economic engines that produce quality, healthy food for our tables. Between now and the end of March, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries will complete federal / provincial / territorial negotiations of the next policy framework: *the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership*. This agreement will provide support to the agricultural industry for the next five years in making New Brunswick a leader in sustainable agriculture and agri-food production.

Mr. Speaker, the historic gains on key indicators of our economic performance are due to an intentional strategy to focus on specific drivers of success.

Given that your government has returned the province to strong financial health, in this session legislative amendments will be brought forth to further reduce personal income tax and property taxes as we continue to advance a pro-growth agenda to attract more investors to New Brunswick and allow residents to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Your government also plans to introduce incentives for builders to create additional housing as we manage the challenges that come with population growth.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, in this session amendments will be introduced to provide further protection for consumers and suppliers, reduce regulatory burdens on businesses, and provide greater efficiencies. These include prompt payment legislation, amendments to the *Business Corporations Act*, *Public Works Act*, *Real Property Tax Act*, as well as a new *Title Protection Act* to create a system and fee structure regulating minimum credentials for financial advisors and planners.

Mr. Speaker, your government has been disciplined in supporting emerging sectors where New Brunswick can show leadership in the decades to come. While forestry, agriculture and aquaculture will always be backbones of our economy, your government is embracing energy innovation as an emerging opportunity, particularly in the face of climate change imperatives.

Thanks to our abundance of resources and unique assets, as well as our strategic position on the coast, your government is building an energy cluster in our province that will position us as an integrated energy provider to assist both nationally and internationally with the climate change crisis. At the same time, New Brunswick will lead as a global emissions reduction leader. To enable this work, your government will launch an Energy Secretariat to coordinate the various stakeholders and opportunities, and to elevate New Brunswick's assets on the national and global stage.

The Port of Belledune in northern New Brunswick has recently announced an agreement in principle with Cross River Infrastructure Partners to build a green hydrogen export facility.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to emerging technologies, New Brunswick is home to Canada's only operational LNG terminal. As our world transitions to alternative sources of energy, like hydrogen, there is a requirement during the transition period for products like LNG globally – and that's where New Brunswick's LNG terminal offers clear advantages. Given the energy crisis that is underway in Europe, our province is ideally positioned to help. New Brunswick is better suited than any jurisdiction to export liquefied natural gas to Europe.

New Brunswick has vast and untapped shale gas resources in the province that if responsibly developed could provide a made-in-New Brunswick supply of natural gas for use in the proposed LNG export facility, or to replace coal used in power generation in Atlantic Canada. Replacing coal with natural gas has been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent or more.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick's natural gas deposits are unique in that they are cleaner when compared with other North American resources because they do not contain carbon dioxide or hydrogen sulphide. As governments seek to transition off coal, our natural gas supply could provide an excellent clean and reliable alternative. Your government is eager to work with Indigenous and other stakeholders to make this a reality.

Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick has also been leading the national conversation on advanced small modular reactors – or SMRs. New Brunswick has been a leader in nuclear energy in Canada for the past 40 years – one of only two provinces in Canada with nuclear operations and expertise. And now as part of the Pan Canadian SMR plan, New Brunswick is leading the development and deployment of the Generation IV SMRs. Inherently safe and scalable, this technology provides clean and base load energy that interacts well with intermittent sources like wind and solar. And since they are modular, they can be designed and built right here in New Brunswick and by taking advantage of our world-class logistic assets like the Port of Saint John, shipped to customers all around the world.

Two SMR developers have their Canadian headquarters in our province – ARC Clean Technology and Moltex. Both have received support from your government.

Mr. Speaker, the interest level is high and the opportunities significant. Between 2020 and 2035, SMRs are expected to bring an average of 1,458 direct and indirect jobs per year, \$2.15 billion in positive impacts on our GDP and an increase of \$198 million in government revenue.

There's no question that we are transforming our economy and we are excited to play a leadership role in energy innovation.

Vibrant and Sustainable Communities

LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

Mr. Speaker, your government had committed to working with communities and stakeholders across the province to set a new course for local governance in New Brunswick. That is precisely what has been achieved as we move from 340 local entities to 89, 77 local governments and 12 Rural Districts on January 1, 2023.

More than 95 per cent of the population will be in a local government, while those in the rural districts will also have democratic representation. To that end, special municipal elections are occurring on November 28 in many areas of the province.

The Regional Service Commissions will be playing an expanded and important role in the areas of regional economic development, tourism promotion, community development, regional transportation and infrastructure cost sharing. This is an important step in ensuring a regional approach that will reduce duplication and help focus decision making.

Your government has put in motion the necessary actions with a number of legislative changes made during the past year, including *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform* and *An Act Respecting Community Funding* that passed this Legislature earlier this month.

During this session, further amendments will be brought forward to the *Regional Service Delivery Act*, and the *Community Planning Act*.

HOUSING

Mr. Speaker, the growth in New Brunswick's population is a testament to the fact that people are coming to the province and they are staying, which presents challenges in terms of ensuring sufficient housing options. Your government is applying a holistic perspective in assessing the housing needs of New Brunswickers, with the minister of Service New Brunswick providing oversight across the entire spectrum.

Rental supply is on the rise in New Brunswick. Since January 2021 there have been more than 2,000 new rental units completed in the province. As of August 2022, there were 3,557 rental units under construction in the province's three largest centres – which is the highest level recorded since 1990.

Residential building permits, which are a good leading indicator of building intentions, are up 23 per cent on a year-to-date basis over 2021 levels. This is higher than the full-year performance seen in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, builders are confident and investing in New Brunswick's cities and communities.

Your government recognizes that affordable housing is an issue for many communities as well. Thanks to multiple efforts over the years, your government has been able to help over 800 at-risk New Brunswickers experiencing homelessness find affordable and stable housing.

Already, the objectives under the 2019-2028 Canada-New Brunswick Bilateral Agreement for the first three years have been exceeded. Originally, this initiative targeted the construction of 151 new affordable housing units in the province from 2019-2022. Instead, 177 new units were created. The second phase of this agreement calls for the creation of an additional 405 units on the market within the next three years. These affordable housing units include the addition of new rent supplements, requiring tenants to allocate 30 per cent of their gross income toward rent, with your government covering the remainder.

Over and above this, Mr. Speaker, to help alleviate a shortage of affordable housing, your government has just announced an investment of \$102.2 million to build a further 380 new public housing units over the next four years and make immediate renovations to 110 vacant units. This important initiative will result in the building of the first government-owned housing units in 38 years.

Partnerships will continue with private and non-profit landlords to develop more affordable housing options for New Brunswickers in need. In September, the provincial government and Elsipogtog First Nation announced a partnership to help Elsipogtog reach its goals of adding up to 25 housing units in their community over the next five years.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Mr. Speaker, a place to live is only one part of making somewhere your home. Residents also need to feel safe. In its latest budget, your government has invested \$3.3 million to reduce crime.

From April 1 to October 7 of this year alone, law enforcement across the province made 130 drug seizures, seized \$734,732 in cash and removed 251 weapons from our streets. Warrants and arrests totaled 338 and show the impacts of these efforts to make our communities safer places to live.

While your government continues to support law enforcement as they apply pressure to drug dealers preying on our most vulnerable, we must also help them address drug-driven crime. Property crime is rising as thieves steal from their neighbours to get money for drugs. We must make it harder for thieves to turn stolen goods, from copper wire to catalytic converters, into cash. During this session, amendments will be introduced to the *Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*, applying best practices from laws across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, your government is also focused on the safety and rights of our seniors, as well as protecting people when online. During this session your government will bring forth amendments to the *Enduring Powers of Attorney Act* and the *Wills Act*. Your government will also bring forth a new Act to replace the *Infirm Persons Act* to support better decision making and representation for laws relating to guardianship. Further, a new Act entitled *Access to Digital Assets by Fiduciaries Act* will be introduced to clarify the role of fiduciaries and the duty of custodians.

Mr. Speaker, the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls recommended that all provincial and territorial governments enact missing persons legislation. Indigenous women represent 10 per cent of the total population of women in Canada missing for at least 30 years. Enacting the new *Missing Persons Act* will ensure police officers have the necessary tools to continue their search efforts and ultimately increase effectiveness.

To further protect women against intimate partner violence, in this session your government will be introducing a *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act (Clare's Law)*.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Mr. Speaker, your government supports inclusive communities and strives to implement improvements in our workplaces. During this session the final report of the systemic racism commissioner will be received.

On September 30th your government recognized the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. All New Brunswickers have an obligation to advance reconciliation and foster a better, more inclusive province, not just on September 30 but every single day.

Mr. Speaker, your government has created a website to support the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and we encourage all residents to visit www.gnb.ca/trc and learn about ways they can support progress.

The legacy of residential and day schools has been deeply traumatic for the survivors, families and communities connected to this tragic era in Canadian history. We must never forget. We all share the responsibility to listen, learn, remember, and above all, take action.

Work is underway or complete for 27 of the 31 Calls to Action under provincial jurisdiction, including waiving fees to make it easier for survivors of residential schools and their family members to reclaim traditional names, curriculum development on the history of residential schools, cultural awareness training for all public servants, and smudging ceremonies being available across the Horizon Health Network.

SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE

Mr. Speaker, artists and artisans play an important role in strengthening New Brunswick's communities and the economy. Last year your government launched *The Report of the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist* which contained several recommendations to improve the socio-economic status of professional artists.

With the last budget, your government doubled its support for the film sector, recognizing the strong potential for film productions to attract investment in the province. Recently, your government signed an agreement with Louisiana to strengthen cultural relations and create opportunities to showcase our rich cultural product. Your government will continue to identify ways to support arts and culture, and to create linkages to our thriving tourism sector as identified in our new tourism strategy, *The Invitation*.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND WAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Speaker not only is your government growing the economy and reducing taxes for New Brunswickers, it is investing to lift up our most vulnerable. A new *Child and Youth Well Being Act* has been introduced to better protect children at risk. Social assistance has been indexed and your government increased rates while reducing harmful claw backs. Mileage reimbursement rates have also been improved for Social Development partners and clients.

To help more New Brunswickers make ends meet, your government made a one-time correction and increased minimum wage by \$2 per hour in 2022, representing a 17 per cent increase and the most significant jump in the rate since 1980. This change positively impacted thousands of residents and moved the province from last in Canada to among the highest in the

region. In 2023, the minimum wage will resume being tied to the consumer price index, a change made by your government in 2019, and based on current trends the increase is anticipated to exceed seven per cent next year which is a significant boost for New Brunswickers particularly during these times when so many are challenged with rising costs.

Government also increased hourly wages for human service workers in community settings and for early childhood educators. Inclusion support workers at early learning and child-care facilities will receive an increase in hourly wages, matching their compensation with early childhood educators. This is in recognition of inclusive learning practices and to support equal opportunities for every child.

To further promote equity and human rights, your government has provided more than \$115,000 to school districts to provide free menstrual hygiene products to students throughout the school year. This program can help reduce the impact on academics and help reduce stigma and social or emotional challenges.

Mr. Speaker, in this session amendments will be brought forward to the *Employment Standards Act* to support persons with disabilities and ensure they are included in workplaces fully and receive fair remuneration. Employers will no longer be able to apply discretion and use sub-minimum wage stipends when employing a person with a disability.

Dependable Public Health Care

Mr. Speaker, a key element of building vibrant and sustainable communities is having a health-care system that can meet the needs of New Brunswickers.

The system we have is not working, and your government has launched a strong plan, built in partnership with health-care professionals across New Brunswick: *Stabilizing Health Care: An Urgent Call to Action*. The plan identifies clear actions and ambitious timelines to evolve our system and deliver improvements that New Brunswickers deserve.

Historic levels of funding have been invested to support this plan, but Mr. Speaker, money alone will not fix this challenge. Every New Brunswicker must be willing to think and behave differently as we continue to expand the variety of providers who can help New Brunswickers with various health-care needs, adopt technology more rapidly, and evolve how we access services across the health system. This will improve access for New Brunswickers and make the system more attractive to the next generation of professionals.

One of the main priorities of the health plan is to give New Brunswickers greater access to primary health-care service. Our new generation of doctors and nurses will not work in single, isolated practices and carry the burden of thousands of patient records. They want to be part of a team, working in a collaborative interdisciplinary clinic where a variety of services are delivered.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that as we evolve the model to more community team-based clinics, we must also empower professionals to work at a broader scope and connect them across the system with new ways to deliver services faster to New Brunswickers.

Your government has made several strides to support this objective:

- Four communities have been identified as sites for integrated community care: Dalhousie, Sussex, Fredericton and Charlotte County. Recruitment is underway for community developers and nurse practitioners in these communities, and community advisory committees are being established.
- Virtual care through eVisitNB is now available at no charge for people with a Medicare card. Consultations can be booked with a doctor or nurse practitioner, either in person or over the phone.
- Pharmacists can now renew many prescriptions and can prescribe for uncomplicated urinary tract infections, shingles and birth control.
- Paramedics can use clinical judgement when responding to 911 calls and will support patients in finding a community care option when appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, in advancing our health strategy to remove patients from the Patient Connect List and provide primary care to all New Brunswickers, your government has found that in one region about one third of those on the wait list were already connected to a doctor or nurse practitioner. In the past, unattached patients' only access points were walk-in clinics or ERs, and the health status of these individuals could sometimes get worse during their wait for a permanent primary care provider.

Going forward, unattached patients who do not have a primary care provider across the province will be offered the opportunity to join NB Health Link. NB Health Link is a new provincial program that will provide a temporary home and improved access to care for these patients while they wait to find a permanent primary care provider. Patients registered with NB Health Link will be provided with regular and consistent access to primary care services through a combination of telephone, virtual or in-person visits with primary care providers associated with the program. In addition, NB Health Link will leverage an electronic health record system to ensure that patients are provided with a high degree of continuity of care while they are in the program, vastly improving on the episodic care that is currently provided through walk-in clinics or ER visits.

Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick is witnessing population growth not seen in many generations, resulting in a significant increase in newcomers registering for Medicare coverage. Your government is taking active steps to eliminate the backlog of requests, better communicate with community partners and manage the increased demand moving forward. Your government has undertaken to simplify the application form, streamline the application process to reduce cycle times and increase staff dedicated to processing new requests by 80 per cent in order to ensure our newcomers are provided with timely access to their Medicare cards. The implementation of these improvement measures will allow for the issuance of Medicare cards within 60 days of receipt of required forms. Your government is targeting to address the current backlog and achieve this timeline by February 2023.

Mr. Speaker, your government is also working to increase access to surgery.

Family doctors and surgeons in the Fredericton and Bathurst regions are being trained to use a new e-referral program that will connect patients to the first available surgeon or patients can choose to wait for a specific surgeon.

The Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program has been launched for colorectal surgery patients at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre, and preparations are underway to launch the program for colorectal surgery patients at the Moncton Hospital and for hip and knee replacement surgery patients at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

And earlier this fall, your government launched a new pilot program in Bathurst to accelerate publicly funded cataract surgeries in private settings.

Mr. Speaker, your government is also increasing access to addiction and mental health services. One at a Time Therapy is now available at 14 community addiction and mental health offices in the province, and this option has reduced wait lists for community mental health services by 62 per cent for the adult population.

Supporting seniors as they age is a key pillar of the health plan. New Brunswickers want to remain living in their homes for as long as possible, but many are unable to do so due to lack of access to services and opportunities for healthy aging. Your government is expanding the Nursing Home Without Walls model to 16 more locations by October 2023 by investing in additional resources for community supports and extending their expertise to help older people in their local communities.

Mr. Speaker, for our health-care system to work better, it must be better connected. Today, silos exist, professionals are fragmented in the ways they deliver care, and residents don't have the information they need to take preventive and corrective steps to proactively manage their health outside of a hospital setting.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, your government has established 415,197 New Brunswickers with MyHealthNB accounts, leveraging technology to put health-care records at the fingertips of residents. These individuals will be first in line to have access to their laboratory and diagnostic test results and their vaccination records when the service is expanded in the coming months.

Perhaps most important of all, Mr. Speaker, are the workers who are needed. New Brunswick is in competition for health-care workers with every jurisdiction experiencing a shortage.

An incentive program was launched earlier this year to attract newly registered nurses for jobs that are hard to fill. More than 266 nurses have been hired within the regional health authorities and Extra-Mural/Ambulance New Brunswick under this program.

Your government signed 10-year performance-based agreements with l'Université de Moncton and the University of New Brunswick to grow the number of nursing graduates by 85 per year. In addition, the master of nursing – nurse practitioner program at the University of New Brunswick will expand from 10 to 20 seats in September 2023. And Mr. Speaker, starting in September 2022, up to 21 UNB nursing students per year will specialize in mental health each year, better preparing them to respond to mental health issues. In addition, your government is bringing 10 medical seats home to New Brunswick from Memorial University in Newfoundland and relocating them at the Dalhousie Medical School at the Saint John UNB Campus. Your government has also added four seats in Moncton in partnership with the Centre de formation médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick (CFMNB) at l'Université de Moncton. In addition, we have recently established a letter of intent with Beal University in Bangor, Maine to advise New Brunswickers who wish to study in the bachelor of nursing program that they have the capacity to enrol at least 100 eligible students for 2023 and will enter into a return of service agreement with those students directly so that they return to New Brunswick and work as a registered nurse for a minimum of one year.

Your government is also taking down barriers for health-care professionals. Students can now take the nursing exam in Quebec, we have a new agreement with France to recognize foreign credentials for nurses, and recently your government launched a new navigator program to help international medical professionals get their credentials recognized.

In this legislative session, your government will be advancing amendments to the *Regional Health Authorities Act* to expand service delivery to community clinics from hospitals, which would improve access to services such as blood sample collection and cataract surgeries.

Your government believes in making decisions based on evidence and relevant data, with the goal of increasing the use of data to guide investment decisions and to inform system design decisions. With this goal in mind, your government will be bringing forward amendments to the *New Brunswick Health Council Act* to expand the role of the New Brunswick Health Council in data analysis and reporting to the ministers of Health and Social Development. The legislative changes will also see an increase in public reporting of data about services levels and outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, your government is not doing this alone. Positive change is happening because everyone is willing to work together to improve the system and identify ways to create the dependable health-care services that New Brunswickers need and deserve.

World-class Education

Mr. Speaker, your government is advancing the 10-year education plans, *Succeeding at Home: a green paper on education in New Brunswick* and three government priorities: energizing the private sector by improving workforce participation; creating vibrant and sustainable communities by breaking the cycle of poverty; and establishing a world-class education system by ensuring every child succeeds.

Graduating students who are prepared for the workforce is key to the sustainability of our province. Your government has introduced valuable pre-apprenticeship programs for high-school students interested in skilled trades in New Brunswick to provide work terms and foster connections with employers in the community.

Government is also creating hands-on experiential work opportunities for students who are interested in learning about key sectors. New centres of excellence were launched in entrepreneurship, health care and social work. These add to the first centre of excellence in energy that was launched last year. Students can interact with and learn from experts in their fields, regardless of their location in the province with a combination of panel discussions, site visits, webinars, speaker series, mentorship, coaching, career fairs, industry training, and co-op placements, both virtual and in person.

Your government is focused on ensuring there is a program that will see all of our students learn and graduate with a conversational level of French. We will work to create system-wide changes which allow for a learning environment where teachers can teach and students can learn with minimal disruptions, where streaming is eliminated, and where parents are clear on the programs that exist. Our children are the drivers of our future and they deserve to have all the tools necessary to thrive and contribute to our province. Mr. Speaker, consistency in our education system is important and your government will be working to establish programs that can be delivered in the same way everywhere in our province.

Mr. Speaker, a healthy and strong province begins with healthy and strong children. Your government is working to support students in need across the province.

Earlier this year the government announced up to \$550,000 for Food Depot Alimentaire to expand its existing free breakfast program from 50 schools to 110 schools. The funding will go toward providing foods such as milk and other dairy products; eggs; fruits and vegetables; cereals and grains; supporting the government's Local Food and Beverages Strategy and encouraging people to Grow NB, Buy NB and Feed NB.

Government has invested \$3 million over two years to support the continuation of a Saint John initiative that helps the most vulnerable children succeed in school. The *When Children Succeed* project helps students overcome learning barriers in kindergarten to Grade 2 by providing intensive in-class support designed to close the education achievement gap by the time students complete Grade 3, which research shows significantly boosts their graduation rate.

Giving children a strong early start is critical for their future success, and your government is proud that the early childhood agreement has reduced out-of-pocket fees for families by an average of 50 per cent for pre-school aged children at designated learning centres and homes throughout the province meaning more children can benefit from these programs and more parents can return to the workforce earlier. Mr. Speaker, your government is equally proud that it took the necessary time to create a solution that not only built on our existing and very successful early childcare model, it also protected private business owners, the large majority of which are female entrepreneurs.

Continuity of learning is key for students. This session, amendments will be brought forward to the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* to clarify language around strike votes, strikes, lockouts and designated workers to ensure sufficient notice periods and continuity of critical services. This balance is required for families and New Brunswickers who rely on schools, education and other services.

Mr. Speaker, the green paper highlighted the need for a central function of monitoring and accountability to ensure fair and effective implementation of provincial laws, policies and standards. This session, amendments will be brought forth to the *Education Act* to modernize governance in the anglophone sector. Your government will review any required changes to the francophone sector in the year ahead.

Environment

Mr. Speaker, protecting New Brunswick's vast natural spaces for future generations remains a key priority. Your government released a renewed Climate Change Action Plan: *Our Pathway Towards Decarbonization and Resilience* that will help the province adapt to climate change while steering New Brunswick toward a low-carbon future. While progress has been made, as witnessed with Hurricane Fiona, the province is already experiencing the effects of climate change and there is more work to do.

Your government has been working diligently to help residents in the eastern part of the province recover and clean up from the hurricane, and going forward, careful consideration must be given to how to rebuild those areas, always placing a priority on the safety of residents. With that in mind, your government has committed to undertaking several changes to improve land use planning and promote more responsible and managed development of land. As a first step, government will introduce statements of public interest that will focus on climate change, flood hazard areas, settlement patterns, agriculture and natural resources. This will be done with full alignment to the renewed Climate Change Action Plan.

With 30 measurable actions and clear deliverables, the new action plan commits to continuing to support communities in developing adaptation plans to prepare for the impacts of climate change with a goal of having 100 per cent of communities with plans by 2030. Currently, 55 per cent of New Brunswick's municipalities have completed adaptation plans, including all cities and highest risk coastal municipalities, as well as eight municipalities located within the lower St. John River floodplain.

More than \$47 million is allocated in the 2022-23 budget to support 83 climate-change related projects. The investment, which comes from the Carbon Tax, is directed towards initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, foster educational opportunities, and build resiliency to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030 and put New Brunswick on a path to being net-zero by 2050.

Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick has proposed a provincial carbon pricing system that reflects the economic realities and competitiveness concerns of the province. Maintaining provincial control of carbon pricing is critical to ensure that revenue is recycled in a way that provides the best outcomes for residents.

Mr. Speaker, as part of overall climate change goals, your government's vision is to reduce the amount of solid waste being disposed of in New Brunswick and to create opportunities to transform it into materials for tomorrow. We will continue to modernize, expand and establish new waste diversion programs, using an extended producer responsibility approach, an example of which was approved by your government for packaging and printed paper and which positions New Brunswick as a

leader in Atlantic Canada. Two pilot programs have resulted in a total of 101 tonnes of glass containers diverted from landfills in 2021-22 and in the coming months government is proposing to modernize the 30-year-old Beverage Container Program.

Diverting waste is critical to keep our natural spaces clean, healthy and thriving with biodiversity. Your government is well on its way to more than double the amount of conserved and protected areas in New Brunswick from 4.6 per cent to 10 per cent, which represents the most significant conservation gain in the history of our province.

Healthy and productive forests are synonymous with our beautiful province. In this session, new legislation will be introduced that creates a new fund for private woodlot sustainability specifically designed to support private woodlot owners in implementing improved management, silviculture and protection of forests for the long term. This legislation will re-invigorate private woodlot owners in the province and set a new long-term path of sustainable management on small private woodlots.

We will also be making great gains in transparency and oversight of Crown lands and forest management by establishing the Crown Lands and Forest Advisory Board. We will soon be advertising for positions on this advisory board and look forward to start working with them to ensure diverse management of one of the greatest assets and to further solidify the commitment that our forests are for everyone.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, your government has set New Brunswick on a new course of prosperity and long-term sustainability. Through careful planning, regular consultation and intentional actions that strive for meaningful outcomes, the province is seeing historic levels of growth.

Your government will continue to encourage New Brunswickers everywhere to challenge old thinking that is no longer serving our province or its people. In doing so, we have several examples of how New Brunswick has been reinvented both economically and socially. Progress is happening, and its tangible progress people can see and feel as they go about their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, your government's work is far from over. There is much more we aim to achieve, particularly in health care, education, and creating vibrant and sustainable communities that include every New Brunswicker and help them reach their fullest potential.

Together, we must seize opportunities and continue to build growth and prosperity for the people of our province.

We are on our way and stronger than ever before.

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Ordered that the Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier, have leave to introduce a Bill entitled *An Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right*. (Bill 1)

He accordingly presented the Bill to the House and the same was received and read the first time.

Mr. Speaker then informed the House that in order to prevent mistakes he had obtained a copy of Her Honour's speech, which he offered to read. (Reading dispensed.)

On motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson,

RESOLVED, that the speech of Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be forthwith taken into consideration.

Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, a Member for the electoral district of Miramichi Bay-Neguac, proposed an Address to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to the speech, which he read in his place, and being seconded by Mr. Dawson, a Member for the electoral district of Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin, it was handed to the Chair where it was again read and is as follows:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And a debate arising thereon, after some time, it was on motion of Mr. McKee, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for the electoral district of Moncton Centre, adjourned over.

And then, 2.59 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 2

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that the Member's Statement delivered by Mr. Arseneau was out of order as it was a personal attack on the character of the Premier. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and requested that the Member withdraw the unparliamentary remarks. Mr. Arseneau refused and withdrew from the Chamber.

During Statements by Ministers, Mr. Speaker recognized Mr. Arseneau following his return to the Chamber and requested that he withdraw the term "madman" from his Member's Statement, which he did.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker cautioned Members against using the term "ass".

Mr. Speaker introduced the new pages for the session: Peyton Carmichael, Margaree Valley, Nova Scotia; Jillian Coggan, Hampton; Seiku Diakite, Kumasi, Ghana; Olivia Elliott, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador; Andrea Escobar, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Sunaa Hansen, Bear Island; Warren Peters, Ottawa, Ontario; Keira Vnuk, Quispamsis.

The returning pages were: Bradley Doucet, Dieppe; Maggie Jardine, Blackville; Brock Johnson, Fredericton; Head Page Rosalind Keyes, Rothesay.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Fitch,

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities.*

By Hon. Mr. Carr,

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

Bill 5, *Missing Persons Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.,

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

Hon. Mr. Holland, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development, 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.
October 26, 2022.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits a Bill entitled *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*, and having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends the same to the House.

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

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Holland,
Bill 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*.
By Mr. McKee,
Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, Bills 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 would be called for second reading.

And then, 11.45 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 3

Thursday, October 27, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Order of the Day being read that the House proceed to take into further consideration the proposed Address in answer to Her Honour's speech at the opening of the session,

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.

October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And the debate continuing,

On motion of Mr. Coon, the further consideration thereof was adjourned over.

And then, 10.46 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 4

Friday, October 28, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LeBlanc, Member for Shediac-Beaubassin-Cap-Pelé, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to review rental property tax assessments and maintain the rent cap. (Petition 1)

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS the Auditor General has cautioned against moving too quickly to implement changes in French language instruction;

WHEREAS, in the *2021 Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Report on second language learning*, the commissioners expressed concern that “[d]ecades of constantly changing plans and strategies have created significant instability in the system” and suggested making changes to the French immersion program in a strategic manner that is supportive rather than disruptive;

WHEREAS the commissioners also suggested that the approach be strengthening rather than dismantling;

WHEREAS data on the existing programs, confirmed by provincial assessments, indicate that over 90% of students who complete the French immersion program achieve at least an intermediate level of French or conversational level of proficiency;

WHEREAS the Commissioner of Official Languages suggests enhancing French language instruction, but warns about “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals believes that the French immersion program should co-exist with a new base-level program but should not be eliminated;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick chapter of Canadian Parents for French has expressed the same concerns;

WHEREAS there have been significant disruptions in learning over the past two years and there is a need to focus on a plan to ensure students who have fallen behind receive the support they need;

WHEREAS teachers are focused on trying to ensure the educational needs of all children are being met, and a major change to educational programming may have serious impacts on learning;

WHEREAS there is grave concern that there would not be enough teachers with a background in French language instruction to implement the educational program changes proposed by government;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Teachers' Association has announced that it has withdrawn from French as a second language consultations because of the government's unreasonable timeline for implementing changes, saying that it will destabilize the education system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to eliminate the French immersion program, but rather to enhance it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, prior to moving forward with major changes to the education system to provide for additional French language learning opportunities for students who have not opted for French immersion, the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare a detailed implementation plan with realistic timelines for implementation, adequate funding, and a recognition of the supports that must be in place to support these changes.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the province has reached a crisis situation with respect to the lack of affordable housing in many areas of the province;

WHEREAS this crisis has deepened because rents in many existing housing units have increased dramatically, beyond affordability for many tenants;

WHEREAS the temporary rent cap is set to expire;

WHEREAS there is not enough subsidized housing to meet the demand and many units that should be housing low-income tenants are awaiting repairs which the government has not undertaken;

WHEREAS cold weather is upon us and there are people who have been sleeping in cars and tents and unheated trailers as they have no place to live;

WHEREAS, although the government made an announcement in support of affordable housing, it was inadequate to address the need and failed to provide a framework for partnerships with not-for-profits, municipalities and co-operatives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to immediately make significant investments in affordable housing and to fund a comprehensive affordable housing plan in the upcoming budget;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to extend the rent cap.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS, as a result of educational disruptions caused by COVID-19 over the past two years, many parents are concerned that their children have fallen behind with respect to their education and learning;

WHEREAS the last two years have been stressful for teachers and students alike;

WHEREAS there is uncertainty as to whether there may be new instructional disruptions if there are further significant outbreaks of COVID-19 in the future;

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that New Brunswick schoolchildren do not fall behind educationally as a result of learning disruptions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to assess the educational impact of learning disruption, bring forward a comprehensive and detailed plan to address educational “catch-up”, and provide sufficient resources to implement it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a plan to address any future disruptions in learning so that students are not educationally disadvantaged should this occur again.

Mr. Coon requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton: (Motion 4)

THAT the Legislative Assembly recognizes that fracking and burning natural gas releases gases into the air, mainly carbon dioxide and methane, which exacerbates the climate crisis.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 4 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, November 3, 2022.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 5)

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship be amended by substituting Mr. Ames for Ms. Bockus, Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Carr, Mr. Dawson for Ms. Conroy, Mr. LePage for Ms. Landry and Mr. Arseneault for Mr. LeBlanc;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be amended by substituting Ms. Conroy for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Mr. Cullins, Mr. Dawson for Hon. Mr. Austin, Mr. D'Amours for Mr. LePage, Mr. Bourque for Mr. K. Chiasson and Mr. Legacy for Mr. LeBlanc;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy be amended by substituting Mr. Cullins for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Conroy for Ms. Bockus, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Hon. Mr. Austin and Mr. C. Chiasson for Mr. Bourque;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. M. Wilson for Ms. S. Wilson and Mr. Mallet for Mr. Legacy;

THAT the membership of the Legislative Administration Committee be amended by substituting Mr. Wetmore for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Mr. McKee for Mr. Melanson and Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. Arseneault;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Turner for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. Conroy for Hon. Mr. Austin, Mr. Gauvin for Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. Arseneault for Mr. Guitard and Mr. Arseneau for Ms. Mitton;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Mr. Turner and Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. Arseneault;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus for Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Dawson for Mr. Ames, Mr. Cullins for Ms. Conroy, Mr. LeBlanc for Mr. Legacy and Mr. Bourque for Mr. McKee;

THAT the membership of the Standing Committee on Social Policy be amended by substituting Mr. Dawson for Mr. Wetmore, Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. S. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Carr, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Mr. Turner, Mr. LeBlanc for Mr. Guitard and Ms. Thériault for Mr. K. Chiasson;

THAT the membership of the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick be amended by substituting Mr. Turner for Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Dawson for Hon. Mr. Fitch and Ms. Landry for Ms. Thériault; and

THAT the membership of the Select Committee on Public Universities be amended by substituting Ms. M. Wilson for Hon. Mr. Hogan, Ms. Anderson-Mason for Mr. Ames, Mr. Dawson for Ms. Conroy, Mr. K. Chiasson for Mr. C. Chiasson and Ms. Landry for Mr. Legacy.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

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

And then, 1.50 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 5

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Holder welcomed to the House Jody Carr, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Oromocto-Gagetown (1999-2006), Oromocto (2006-2014) and Oromocto-Lincoln (2014-2018).

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 2)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act.*

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Holder,

Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers.*

Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Green,

Bill 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act.*

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, Bills 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 be called for second reading until 4 p.m., at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 2 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax 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 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, a debate arose thereon.

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

Accordingly, Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, 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 5, *Missing Persons 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 time allotted for second reading had expired.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

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

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

And then, 6 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:

Rapport annuel 2021-2022	
Collège communautaire du	
Nouveau-Brunswick	October 27, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022	
New Brunswick Community College	October 31, 2022

Daily sitting 6

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 3)

Mr. Guitard, Acting Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, November 3, 2022, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 1 and 3; Bill 8.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 5, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 be called for second reading until 4.30 p.m., at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

On the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 5, *Missing Persons Act*, be now read a second time, the question was put and resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 5, *Missing Persons 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 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 4 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works 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 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 7 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability 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 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 9 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax 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 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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 allotted for second reading had expired.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

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.

Daily sitting 7

Thursday, November 3, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Landry welcomed to the House Chris Collins, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Liberal MLA for Moncton East (2007-2014) and Moncton Centre (2014-2018).

Ms. M. Wilson welcomed to the House Max White, former Confederation of Regions MLA for Sunbury (1991-1995).

Mr. Bourque offered condolences to the family of the late Conrad Landry, former Liberal MLA for Kent North (1982-1995).

Mr. Arseneault, Member for Campbellton-Dalhousie, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to safeguard services offered at the Campbellton Regional Hospital. (Petition 4)

Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 5)

Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to safeguard services offered at the Campbellton Regional Hospital. (Petition 6)

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Thursday, November 10, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS the government cancelled the Free Tuition Program and the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program that provided many students with the opportunity to enroll in a post-secondary institution;

WHEREAS the province decided to cancel the NB-EI Connect Program that helped students pay for their food and lodging as they pursued their studies;

WHEREAS the program brought forward by the government for interest relief on the provincial portion of student loans does not support access to post-secondary education;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a comprehensive assistance program to support access to post-secondary education.

Mr. Legacy gave Notice of Motion 7 that on Thursday, November 10, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson:

WHEREAS the reduction in personal income tax benefits those with higher incomes but ignores people struggling to make ends meet;

WHEREAS the rising cost of living for necessities including rent, fuel, and groceries is forcing people to make difficult choices;

WHEREAS the government cancelled the Home Energy Assistance Program, which helped over 33,000 New Brunswickers with their energy costs;

WHEREAS the government brags about its record of service but is doing little to help those in need;

WHEREAS the heat pump program will not be rolled out in time for this winter to help many New Brunswickers reduce their heating costs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reinstate and enhance the Home Energy Assistance Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the HST from heating fuels.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House consider an adjournment motion; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, with the lunch hour extended to 1.30 p.m.; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, November 4, 2022, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1.32 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate continuing, after some time it was on motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, on behalf of the Honourable the Premier, adjourned over.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Ms. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS the Auditor General has cautioned against moving too quickly to implement changes in French language instruction;

WHEREAS, in the *2021 Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Report on second language learning*, the commissioners expressed concern that “[d]ecades of constantly changing plans and strategies have created significant instability in the system” and suggested making changes to the French immersion program in a strategic manner that is supportive rather than disruptive;

WHEREAS the commissioners also suggested that the approach be strengthening rather than dismantling;

WHEREAS data on the existing programs, confirmed by provincial assessments, indicate that over 90% of students who complete the French immersion program achieve at least an intermediate level of French or conversational level of proficiency;

WHEREAS the Commissioner of Official Languages suggests enhancing French language instruction, but warns about “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals believes that the French immersion program should co-exist with a new base-level program but should not be eliminated;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick chapter of Canadian Parents for French has expressed the same concerns;

WHEREAS there have been significant disruptions in learning over the past two years and there is a need to focus on a plan to ensure students who have fallen behind receive the support they need;

WHEREAS teachers are focused on trying to ensure the educational needs of all children are being met, and a major change to educational programming may have serious impacts on learning;

WHEREAS there is grave concern that there would not be enough teachers with a background in French language instruction to implement the educational program changes proposed by government;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Teachers’ Association has announced that it has withdrawn from French as a second language consultations because of the government’s unreasonable timeline for implementing changes, saying that it will destabilize the education system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to eliminate the French immersion program, but rather to enhance it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, prior to moving forward with major changes to the education system to provide for additional French language learning opportunities for students who have not opted for French immersion, the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare a detailed implementation plan with realistic timelines for implementation, adequate funding, and a recognition of the supports that must be in place to support these changes.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 1 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

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

NAYS - 21

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Ms. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS, as a result of educational disruptions caused by COVID-19 over the past two years, many parents are concerned that their children have fallen behind with respect to their education and learning;

WHEREAS the last two years have been stressful for teachers and students alike;

WHEREAS there is uncertainty as to whether there may be new instructional disruptions if there are further significant outbreaks of COVID-19 in the future;

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that New Brunswick schoolchildren do not fall behind educationally as a result of learning disruptions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to assess the educational impact of learning disruption, bring forward a comprehensive and detailed plan to address educational “catch-up”, and provide sufficient resources to implement it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a plan to address any future disruptions in learning so that students are not educationally disadvantaged should this occur again.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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.

Daily sitting 8

Friday, November 4, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Order of the Day being read that the House proceed to take into further consideration the proposed Address in answer to Her Honour's speech at the opening of the session,

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. R. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Dawson:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
October 25, 2022.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Brenda Murphy,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And the debate continuing,

And the debate being ended and the question being put thereon, it was agreed to without amendment on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	

NAYS - 18

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

On motion of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by Hon. Mr. Steeves,

RESOLVED, that the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker, and presented to Her Honour by a Committee of the House.

Ordered that the Honourable the Premier, Hon. Mr. R. Savoie and Mr. Dawson be the Committee to Wait upon Her Honour with the Address and present the same.

And then, 9.31 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 9

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and reminded Mr. Arseneau that remarks are not to be political during Introduction of Guests.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Guitard rose on a point of order and submitted that the Premier used unparliamentary language when he accused the Leader of the Opposition of telling “not quite the truth”. Mr. Speaker cautioned the Premier against the use of such language.

Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 7)

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to revoke the operating permit of Coastal Shell Products in Richibucto. (Petition 8)

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

November 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 first report.

Your Committee met on November 8 and 9, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 5, *Missing Persons Act*;
Bill 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*;
Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*;
Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

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 Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Holland,

Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing*.

By Hon. Mr. Allain,

Bill 16, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2*.

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

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

By Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace,

Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act*.

Hon. Mr. Holder gave notice that on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, Bills 15, 16, 17 and 18 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 11, 12, 14 and 10 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 11 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers*, 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 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 second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards 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 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 14 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 6 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

Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne November 7, 2022

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, By-Elections

– Miramichi Bay-Neguac and
Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin,

June 20, 2022 November 7, 2022

Annual Report 2020-2021

New Brunswick Forest Products Commission November 8, 2022

Daily sitting 10

Wednesday, November 16, 2022
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 9)

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, November 17, 2022, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 7, Bill 8 and Motion 2.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 10, 15, 16, 17 and 18 be called for second reading until 3 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Notices of Motions.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS Efficiency Canada identified that, in 2021, 37% of New Brunswick households, or 114,790 households, were living in energy poverty, defined as spending over 6% of after-tax income on home energy costs;

WHEREAS NB Power's Enhanced Energy Savings Program is assisting low-income homeowners in New Brunswick to reduce their energy consumption and energy costs by offering a free mini-split heat pump and upgraded insulation to those who qualify to the program;

WHEREAS only homeowners who use electric baseboard heating and have a combined gross household income under \$70,000 are eligible to receive a free mini-split heat pump offered by the Enhanced Energy Savings Program;

WHEREAS heat pumps are more efficient than oil furnaces;

WHEREAS oil and gas heat results in carbon emissions, while heat pumps are emissions-free;

WHEREAS Canadians for Affordable Energy estimated that over 46,200 New Brunswick households relied on furnace oil to heat their homes in 2019;

WHEREAS New Brunswick households dependent on furnace oil are struggling to pay their heating bills due to the recent spike in furnace oil prices over the last months;

WHEREAS the demand for heating oil and gas will continue to increase as temperatures drop during winter months;

WHEREAS a provincial program providing free heat pumps to reduce energy consumption and energy costs is needed for households dependent on furnace oil to heat their homes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge NB Power to expand the eligibility of its Enhanced Energy Savings Program to include central or ductless heat pumps for New Brunswick households that use oil or gas to heat their homes.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*.

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act*.

Bill 5, *Missing Persons Act*.

Bill 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*, the motion for third reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 33

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. McKee
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Legacy
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Mr. Turner	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Cullins	Mr. Guitard
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. LeBlanc
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Ames	Mr. LePage
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Dawson	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Bockus	Ms. Landry
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Landry
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Cardy

NAYS - 3

Mr. Coon

Ms. Mitton

Mr. Arseneau

Accordingly, Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*, was read a third time and passed.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, be now read a second time.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed with Mr. Speaker in the chair.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Holder, debate on Bill 10 was adjourned.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And then, 3 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 11

Thursday, November 17, 2022

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 9 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers are struggling with an escalating affordability crisis that has seen skyrocketing prices for essentials including housing, groceries, heating oil and gasoline;

WHEREAS, in the first nine months of 2022, Imperial Oil, CNR, Cenovus and Suncor posted combined profits of almost \$30 billion, triple their profits for the same period in 2021;

WHEREAS, according to Bloomberg, Irving Oil CEO Arthur Irving's net worth has increased by \$1.16 billion in 2022;

WHEREAS, while oil and gas companies are exponentially increasing their profits, the public is paying the price to fill their gas and oil heating tanks;

WHEREAS, in response to this crisis, other countries, including the European Union and the United Kingdom, have pursued levying taxes on windfall profits, while the United States is considering levying taxes on windfall profits;

WHEREAS, in September, UN Secretary General António Guterres called on world leaders to tax fossil fuel companies that are "feasting on hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies and windfall profits while household budgets shrink and our planet burns";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to call for the Prime Minister to initiate a windfall oil profit tax in Canada, with the revenues returned to Canadians who need the help the most.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 10, 15, 16, 17 and 18 be called for second reading until 2.30 p.m.; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 10 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson	

NAYS - 17

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

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 15 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing*, 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 16, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 16 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 16, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2*, 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 17, *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 17 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 17, *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence 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 18, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 18 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 2.15 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed with Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, in the chair.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 7, Mr. Legacy moved, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson:

WHEREAS the reduction in personal income tax benefits those with higher incomes but ignores people struggling to make ends meet;

WHEREAS the rising cost of living for necessities including rent, fuel, and groceries is forcing people to make difficult choices;

WHEREAS the government cancelled the Home Energy Assistance Program, which helped over 33,000 New Brunswickers with their energy costs;

WHEREAS the government brags about its record of service but is doing little to help those in need;

WHEREAS the heat pump program will not be rolled out in time for this winter to help many New Brunswickers reduce their heating costs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reinstate and enhance the Home Energy Assistance Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the HST from heating fuels.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 7 be amended by adding after the last resolution clause the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge NB Power to expand the eligibility of its heat pump program to include central or ductless heat pumps for New Brunswick households that use oil or gas to heat their homes.”

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 defeated on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 17

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

NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. M. Wilson	

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members,

The amendment proposed by the Member for Fredericton South is almost identical to the resolution clause in Notice of Motion 8, currently on the Order and Notice Paper by the said Member. As the House has now made a decision on the proposed amendment, Notice of Motion 8 will be deemed withdrawn and removed from the Order and Notice Paper.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 7 and it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 17

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

 NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. M. Wilson	

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 8 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 35

Hon. Mr. Holder	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Coon
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Mr. Cullins	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Ms. Anderson-Mason	Mr. Guitard
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Ames	Mr. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Dawson	Mr. LePage
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Bockus	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Conroy	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Arseneault	Ms. Landry
Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Arseneau
Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. McKee	Mr. Landry
Mr. Turner	Mr. K. Chiasson	

Accordingly, Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petition 1

November 16, 2022

Daily sitting 12

Friday, November 18, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. R. Savoie's Minister's Statement on official languages was out of order as he was not the Minister responsible for Official Languages. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.,

Bill 19, *Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act*.

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

Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 10 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, she would move the following resolution, 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.

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 11 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers throughout the province are worried about the difficulty they and their family members are having in obtaining crucial health services in a timely manner;

WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that a severe shortage of health care professionals and health support workers has left our New Brunswick health care system in crisis;

WHEREAS this challenge must be recognized as a top priority that we must tackle without delay;

WHEREAS many frontline health care workers and professional health organizations have offered their insights and advice on how these challenges in our health care system can best be addressed;

WHEREAS it is in everyone's interest to heed this advice and move forward with a comprehensive health action plan;

WHEREAS Liberal Leader Susan Holt has outlined a plan to improve health care delivery and tackle our health care crisis;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take the following actions:

1. address the challenges that have led to emergency room service reductions and closures through the establishment of multidisciplinary care centres staffed by a mixed team of health professionals; provide additional funding for after hours community care and for training and hiring of allied health workers;
2. treat health care workers with respect, provide competitive wages, create incentives for retaining and attracting health care professionals and ensure a positive working environment that recognizes work-life balance;
3. develop an aggressive, focussed recruitment strategy that targets new graduates and promises them permanent, full-time jobs; provide targeted tuition relief and educational incentives for new entrants into programs that provide training to address health labour shortages;
4. collaborate with post-secondary training institutions and professional associations to provide enhanced training opportunities and effective recruitment programs;
5. work in tandem with communities on health care recruitment strategies and programs;
6. create a results-oriented office of health staff recruitment with laser focus, targeted objectives, and accountability.

Ms.Thériault gave Notice of Motion 12 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, she would move the following resolution, 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*.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 13 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS New Brunswick adopted the *Official Languages Act* in 1969, even before Canada had adopted an official languages act;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada;

WHEREAS the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada both have standing committees on official languages;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick *Official Languages Act* contains a requirement that it be reviewed every 10 years;

WHEREAS the government has received the Report of the 2021 Review of the *Official Language Act* of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Official Opposition accepts all recommendations included in the commissioners' report;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a department of official languages.

Mr. C. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 14 that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS every Member of the Legislative Assembly should have the opportunity to participate fully in the business of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS parliamentary bodies including the New Brunswick Legislature adapted to the reality of COVID-19 and modified the rules for participation by elected members in the affairs of parliaments and legislative assemblies and adopted technologies that provided for virtual participation;

WHEREAS, once the emergency order was lifted, the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly removed the option for members to participate in the business of the Legislative Assembly using virtual technology;

WHEREAS there are many compelling reasons to permit participation through the use of remote technology in certain circumstances, including the risks associated with travelling long distances in inclement weather, illness, and the difficulty faced by mothers with newborns and primary caregivers with children who require child care that may not be available outside the home;

WHEREAS women are underrepresented in politics and the lack of options for participating in the Legislative Assembly including virtual participation can be a barrier to participation and discourage women from offering as candidates for the Legislative Assembly, which is not considered a “family friendly” institution;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers to look at modifications to the Standing Rules that would permit participation in the Legislative Assembly through the use of virtual technology and report back to the Legislative Assembly within two months with recommendations for changes.

Hon. Mr. Holder gave notice that on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, Bills 19 and 20 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 6 be called for second reading; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 8.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 6, *An Act Respecting the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act and the Wills Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 6 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 6, *An Act Respecting the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act and the Wills Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Ms. S. Wilson in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Ms. S. Wilson, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that she report the following Bill as agreed to as amended:

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

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.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bill 8 be ordered for third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

And then, 10.54 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 13

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Fitch,

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

Hon. Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 15 that on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

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

Mr. Coon requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau: (Motion 16)

THAT the Legislative Assembly recognize that affordable housing is a human right.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 16 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, December 1, 2022.

Hon. Mr. Holder gave notice that on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, Bill 21 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Holder, Acting Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 19 and 20 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 19, *Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 19 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 19, *Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets 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 20, *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 20 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 20, *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 2.31 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 14

Wednesday, November 23, 2022
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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

November 23, 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 second report.

Your Committee met on November 16, 18 and 22, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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. Ms. Shephard,
Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 2, 11 and 3.

Mr. Speaker recognized Mr. Guitard to make a farewell speech in the House.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Thursday, November 24, 2022, Bill 22 would be called for second reading.

And then, 11.33 a.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2021-2022
New Brunswick Research and
Productivity Council

November 22, 2022

Daily sitting 15

Thursday, November 24, 2022
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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

November 24, 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 third report.

Your Committee met on November 23, 2022, and had under consideration:

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*;

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 Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Holder,
Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*.
By Hon. Ms. Green,
Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*.
Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, November 25, 2022, Bills 23, 24 and 25 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 13, 21 and 22 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, November 25, 2022, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Mr. Speaker recognized Mr. Landry to make a farewell speech in the House.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At 11.57 a.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 13 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 1.24 p.m. the House recessed. At 1.27 p.m. the House resumed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Bourque moved, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the province has reached a crisis situation with respect to the lack of affordable housing in many areas of the province;

WHEREAS this crisis has deepened because rents in many existing housing units have increased dramatically, beyond affordability for many tenants;

WHEREAS the temporary rent cap is set to expire;

WHEREAS there is not enough subsidized housing to meet the demand and many units that should be housing low-income tenants are awaiting repairs which the government has not undertaken;

WHEREAS cold weather is upon us and there are people who have been sleeping in cars and tents and unheated trailers as they have no place to live;

WHEREAS, although the government made an announcement in support of affordable housing, it was inadequate to address the need and failed to provide a framework for partnerships with not-for-profits, municipalities and co-operatives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to immediately make significant investments in affordable housing and to fund a comprehensive affordable housing plan in the upcoming budget;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to extend the rent cap.

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, Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 2 be amended by adding after the last resolution clause the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recognize that affordable housing is a human right.”

Madam Deputy 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 defeated on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 12

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Coon	Ms. Landry
Mr. McKee	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Landry

NAYS - 25

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

Madam Deputy Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

Members,

The amendment proposed by the Member for Fredericton South is identical to the resolution clause in Notice of Motion 16, currently on the Order and Notice Paper by the said Member. As the House has now made a decision on the proposed amendment, Notice of Motion 16 will be deemed withdrawn and removed from the Order and Notice Paper.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 2 and it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 14

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. C. Chiasson	Ms. Landry
Mr. McKee	Mr. Coon	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Legacy	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Landry
Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque	

NAYS - 24

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 11, Mr. McKee moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers throughout the province are worried about the difficulty they and their family members are having in obtaining crucial health services in a timely manner;

WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that a severe shortage of health care professionals and health support workers has left our New Brunswick health care system in crisis;

WHEREAS this challenge must be recognized as a top priority that we must tackle without delay;

WHEREAS many frontline health care workers and professional health organizations have offered their insights and advice on how these challenges in our health care system can best be addressed;

WHEREAS it is in everyone's interest to heed this advice and move forward with a comprehensive health action plan;

WHEREAS Liberal Leader Susan Holt has outlined a plan to improve health care delivery and tackle our health care crisis;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take the following actions:

1. address the challenges that have led to emergency room service reductions and closures through the establishment of multidisciplinary care centres staffed by a mixed team of health professionals; provide additional funding for after hours community care and for training and hiring of allied health workers;
2. treat health care workers with respect, provide competitive wages, create incentives for retaining and attracting health care professionals and ensure a positive working environment that recognizes work-life balance;
3. develop an aggressive, focussed recruitment strategy that targets new graduates and promises them permanent, full-time jobs; provide targeted tuition relief and educational incentives for new entrants into programs that provide training to address health labour shortages;
4. collaborate with post-secondary training institutions and professional associations to provide enhanced training opportunities and effective recruitment programs;
5. work in tandem with communities on health care recruitment strategies and programs;
6. create a results-oriented office of health staff recruitment with laser focus, targeted objectives, and accountability.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Fitch, seconded by Hon. Mr. Crossman, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 11 be amended in the resolution clause by striking out “urge the government to take” and substituting “acknowledge the government and Regional Health Authorities for taking”.

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

At 5.40 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.55 p.m. the House 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.

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.

Daily sitting 17

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

December 6, 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 fourth report.

Your Committee met on November 30, and December 1 and 2, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*;
Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*;
Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers*;
Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*;
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*;
Bill 20, *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act*;
Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also 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*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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 Mr. Coon,

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act.*

Mr. Ames gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Friday, December 9, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Bockus:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 12 hours allocated for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bills 16, 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25 which shall include the hours spent considering said Bills from December 6, 2022, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 12 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in committee and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills; and where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day;

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 12 hours, there shall be, if necessary, 20 minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of any of the said Bills, if requested by the Government House Leader.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Motion 18 was out of order as it was introduced by a Private Member which would reduce the opportunity for debate and further submitted that such a motion should not be introduced by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy. Mr. Arseneault rose and further submitted that the motion was not in order as work on the bills could continue into the new year. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

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.
December 6, 2022.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Capital Estimates* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, and the *Supplementary Estimates 2022-2023, Volume I*, required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 15, Hon. Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

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

And the question being put, Hon. Mr. Steeves proceeded to deliver the 2023-2024 capital budget speech.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to be granted to His Majesty forthwith.

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 proceeding in the matter under consideration, had passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Supply be granted to His Majesty.

And she was directed to ask leave to sit again.

Ms. Anderson-Mason moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT the House does concur with the Committee of Supply in its report and agrees in its resolution that Supply be granted to His Majesty.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT consideration of estimates in Committee of Supply be added to the Orders of the Day until such time as they are dispatched.

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

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

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*, be now read a second time.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, 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 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services 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.”

Madam Deputy 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 22 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services 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 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, 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 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations 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.”

Madam Deputy 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.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the question being put that Bill 23 be now read a second time, 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 - 15

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

Accordingly, Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations 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 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon, 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 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations 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.

At 5.09 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.15 p.m. the House resumed.

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*, a debate arose thereon.

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.

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:

Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume II, Performance Audit, 2022	November 29, 2022
Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume III, Financial Audit, 2022	November 29, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 Opportunities NB	November 29, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 Service New Brunswick	December 1, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 Finance and Treasury Board	December 2, 2022

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 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

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:

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 Natural Resources and Energy Development	December 6, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	December 6, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

Daily sitting 20

Friday, December 9, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 16, 18 and 22 be called for third reading.

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

The following Bills were read a third time:

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.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

And then, 10.05 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 21

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Ms. Thériault used unparliamentary language when she used the term “it is not true”. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

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

December 13, 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 sixth report.

Your Committee met on December 9, 2022, and had under consideration:

Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*;

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.

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 24 that on Thursday, December 22, 2022, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

WHEREAS tuition costs for post-secondary education programs in New Brunswick are among the highest in the country;

WHEREAS the provincial government cancelled the NB-EI Connect program that helped many students cover costs related to pursuing their post-secondary studies;

WHEREAS the increased cost of living is making it difficult for many students to afford to pursue post-secondary education in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick has labour shortages in Parts I, II and III of the public service, which include line departments (the civil service), the public school system and the health care system, respectively;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick public service would benefit by offering student intern positions in areas where there are existing labour shortages and where future labour shortages are projected;

WHEREAS many businesses in the private sector are taking on student interns through co-operative training programs as a means of addressing their future labour needs;

WHEREAS student internships would also help provide students with much-needed financial support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a comprehensive targeted public service student internship program for students pursuing studies in nursing, education, social work, and other programs that are training students to meet the present and future labour needs of the public service.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19 and 21 be called for third reading; following which the House would consider Motion 18.

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, 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 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities*, as unamended, it opens the door to the corporatization of surgical services in New Brunswick’s public healthcare system.”

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

And the debate being ended on the amendment, and the question being put, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 15

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

NAYS - 26

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie requested the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Notices of Motions, and unanimous consent was denied.

And after some time, Ms. Mitton, 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 order for third 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 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.

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 Social Development	December 12, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 New Brunswick Forest Products Commission	December 12, 2022
Annual Report 2021-2022 Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages	December 12, 2022
Preliminary Report, Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission	December 12, 2022

Daily sitting 22

Wednesday, December 14, 2022
10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Bockus gave Notice of Motion 25 that on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Turner:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 5 hours allocated for the order for third reading and passage of Bills 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19 and 21, which shall include the hours spent considering said Bills from December 13, 2022, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 5 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for third reading and passage of said Bills.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Motion 25 was out of order as the Standing Rules do not address time allocation motions and that such a motion should not have been introduced by a Private Member. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, December 15, 2022, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Third Party Item; Motion 20 and 10.

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 the House take into consideration Motion 18; following which Bill 25 would be called for third reading until 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members,

I wish to rule on the point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader on December 6 with respect to Notice of Motion 18, which is a time allocation motion. I have ruled on the acceptability of time allocation motions twice already. In December of 2021 and in October of 2022.

The wording of Notice of Motion 18, introduced by the Member for Carleton-York, is almost identical to the wording of previous time allocation motions, ruled to be in order by me and previous Speakers.

Regarding the Opposition House Leader's point that the motion should not have been introduced by a Private Member, this is the practice that has been accepted in our House for over 15 years, as it limits the debate on the motion to two hours. If the House wishes to change this practice, and require a member of the Executive to move such a motion, it can certainly do so through changes to the Standing Rules.

The Opposition House Leader also suggested it was inappropriate for the Member for Carleton-York to introduce the motion, as he is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy and the motion may limit debate in that Committee. I understand the argument, and would caution the government to consider whether it is advisable to have a Chair of a Committee move a motion in the House to limit debate in his own Committee.

That said, there have never been any restrictions in this House on which Private Member may introduce a time allocation motion, and I see no reason to do so now in these circumstances. As I would note that the Member for Carleton-York is also the Government Whip, and a motion of this nature could reasonably fall under his responsibilities in that position.

With respect to the point raised by the Member for Kent North, that the time allocation motion is not in order as there are additional days the House could sit in 2022 and in early 2023, it is not for the Speaker to determine when or how long the House will sit, or how much debate is necessary or appropriate for the Bills under consideration. That is a decision for the House to make.

This will be the fifth ruling in nine years related to these types of motions, and the previous rulings have all found that the use of time allocation motions, in this manner, is acceptable and not contrary to the practices, conventions and Standing Rules of this House.

Hopefully, this ruling today will finally resolve the issue. As has been said before, if the House wishes to change or clarify how time allocation is applied to Bills, it should do so by amending the Standing Rules. Until then, this is the practice that has developed and been accepted in our House.

To conclude, I find Notice of Motion 18 to be in order and will allow it to proceed to debate.

At the request of Mr. Ames, it was agreed by unanimous consent to remove Bill 24 from Notice of Motion 18.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 18, Mr. Ames moved, seconded by Ms. Bockus:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 12 hours allocated for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bills 16, 18, 22, 23 and 25 which shall include the hours spent considering said Bills from December 6, 2022, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 12 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in committee and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills; and where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day;

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 12 hours, there shall be, if necessary, 20 minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of any of the said Bills, if requested by the Government House Leader.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 18 was resolved in the affirmative.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And then, 2.30 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

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 Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau, 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 on 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.

Daily sitting 24

Friday, December 16, 2022

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Ms. Bockus, from the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick, presented the Interim Report of the Committee which was read and is as follows:

December 16, 2022

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

Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present herewith the Interim Report of the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick entitled “Nothing About Us, Without Us: Moving Together Towards an Accessible New Brunswick.” Your Committee was tasked with conducting consultations with community stakeholders as well as government departments involved with the disability community and reporting to the House with recommendations.

This interim report represents the results of your Committee’s engagements and deliberations on what accessibility legislation should look like in New Brunswick. The Committee reserves its final report to respond to draft accessibility legislation.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the presenters, government departments, and members of the public who appeared before the Committee and those who submitted written briefs. Everyone generously gave of their time to share with the Committee their lived and learned experiences and proposed innovative and unique perspectives to remove existing barriers and prevent new ones. All participants and Committee members share the same goal: that every person, regardless of ability, may live fully with dignity and enjoy their right to self-determination in New Brunswick.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Committee for their valuable contributions in exercising our mandate and to the various legislative staff who participated in the process and provided valuable and appreciated support to our work.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd. :) Kathy Bockus, M.L.A.
Chair

The full report of the Committee as presented follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to communicate what the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick heard during its consultations in 2021 and 2022 and to highlight the key barriers to inclusion that were identified by persons with disabilities in the province.

Based on these consultations, the Committee concluded that members of the disability community strongly support the development of accessibility legislation and the Committee agrees that this is the correct first step toward creating an accessible province. Once legislation has been drafted, consultation with members of the disability community will again be required to ensure that it is reflective of the disability community and its needs. Following the adoption of legislation, accessibility standards should be developed using the legislation as a framework and informed by continuous consultation with people with disabilities.

During the consultation process, three key principles emerged to guide legislative drafters forward: ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’, which refers to persons with disabilities being directly involved in the development of legislation and accessibility standards; taking a person-centered approach, which refers to an acknowledgement that a ‘one size fits all’ model does not provide the best level of service and care for citizens in the province; and intersectionality, which refers to the need to consider how intersecting identities are influenced by ableism when creating legislation.

The consultations revealed seven key components that should be contained in New Brunswick’s accessibility legislation:

1. An explicitly stated goal of affirming New Brunswick’s commitment to the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities with timelines and clear targets;
2. Clear definitions to standardize acceptable language, including ‘disability’, ‘barrier’, ‘accommodation’, and definitions should consider Indigenous perspectives;
3. Broad application that regulates public and private entities without deteriorating existing protections;
4. Clear identification of who is responsible for the implementation and administration of accessibility legislation and that certain entities be mandated to develop and implement accessibility plans;
5. A framework outlining the following accessibility standards: government service delivery, housing, transportation, education, employment, the built environment, information and communication, the administration of justice, and sport and recreation;
6. The establishment of evaluation metrics and monitoring efforts that are adequately resourced and significant corrective compliance and enforcement measures;
7. A review of other provincial legislation, regulations, and policies to avoid legal inconsistencies where people with disabilities may be discriminated against and clearly outline the duties and obligations of the person responsible for the administration of the legislation in order to hold them accountable.

The Committee wishes to extend their deep gratitude to everyone who took time to share their ideas, passions, and commitment to making New Brunswick more accessible.

SECTION I: Introduction and Legislative Consultation Process

Introduction

Having a disability should never impact a person's ability to fully participate in society. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states that all levels of Canadian governments have an obligation to respect, protect, and promote the rights of persons with a disability, and to address long-standing barriers to full participation, inclusion and citizenship. In its agreement to be accountable and compliant with Canada's international human rights obligations, including the UNCRPD, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick carried Motion 78 on June 9, 2021, which created the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick (Appendix A). The mandate of the Committee is to conduct consultations with community stakeholders and government departments involved with the disability community, and report to the House with recommendations.

The purpose of this report is to communicate what the Committee heard during its consultations in 2021 and 2022 and to highlight the key barriers to inclusion that were identified by persons with disabilities in the province.

Based on these consultations, the Committee concluded that the need for accessibility legislation is urgent and should come before all other recommendations. Once legislation has been drafted, consultation with members of the disability community will again be required to ensure that it is reflective of the disability community and its needs. Following the adoption of legislation, accessibility standards should be developed using the legislation as a framework and informed by continuous consultation with people with disabilities.

Legislative Consultation Process

The Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick held public consultations in October 2021, and in March and October 2022. Participants represented a broad range of disability communities: mobility, intellectual, learning, and developmental disabilities; mental health disorders; those who are deaf or hard of hearing; and those who have blindness or vision loss. The Committee also heard from provincial government departments, agencies, commissions, and councils; a legislative officer; Indigenous representatives; disability advocacy and support groups; research organizations; an employee union; a federal program administrator; and people with lived experience. In November 2021, the Committee reached out to the public and received feedback in the form of written briefs. In total, the Committee heard from 24 presenters and received 29 written submissions. A full list of participants can be found in Appendix B.

Throughout the consultation process, the Committee gained an understanding of how disabilities impact the lives of many New Brunswickers. According to the most recent Statistics Canada data available (2017), 40% of people in New Brunswick over the age of 65 live with a disability, and for all ages, the province has the second highest rate of disability in Canada at 26.7% compared to the national average of 22%, a figure which is unlikely to change given the province's aging population.

Disabilities often present challenges in many aspects of daily living, from how people navigate public spaces to how they access important information and services. Persons with disabilities also face long-standing and pervasive attitudinal barriers in the form of discrimination, ableism, and exclusion. The Committee was also informed on how the government can improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through its delivery of services; housing, transportation, education, and employment policies; how it regulates the built environment and information and communication services; its administration of justice, and its innovations within the recreational realm.

The Committee learned that New Brunswick is making great strides in certain sectors. For example, Autism Connections Fredericton is known for its world-class early intervention programs for children aged 0 to 5; New Brunswick Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services is renowned across Canada for its leadership in service delivery and collaboration; and that the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Centre of Excellence's Dreamcatcher service delivery model is nationally recognized for its greater access to interventions and support in Indigenous communities and fewer duplication of government services.

While it is important to celebrate successes, it was clear from the consultations that the government needs to make greater strides toward ensuring that all persons living with a disability in all regions of New Brunswick can thrive as equal citizens. A few alarming facts highlight that the need for change is crucial. At the present time, persons with one or more disabilities receive just \$9,564 per year if they are disability program recipients. This figure represents approximately 50% of the Market Basket Measure, a tool used by Statistics Canada to measure low income. According to this tool, low income is between \$17,747 and \$19,619. In fact, they are among the most impoverished segment of New Brunswick's population with only 55% of persons with a disability employed in New Brunswick in 2017 compared to 77% of people without a disability. In addition to financial constraints, many persons with a disability face a lack of social supports to develop friendships or assistance with the management of daily living, and this in turn impacts self-esteem, self-worth, and mental health. All of these issues are exacerbated further by a social framework that perceives disability as a problem that needs to be fixed rather than a circumstance requiring accommodation.

It is clear from these and other examples that persons with disabilities experience inequality and discrimination in New Brunswick and this will continue to be the case until accessibility legislation is created and enforced. The Committee is dedicated to the improvement of the lives of people with disabilities in New Brunswick by recommending the creation and passage of accessibility legislation using the consultation results in this report.

SECTION II: Development of Accessibility Legislation

At the present time, most Canadian provinces have accessibility legislation that can serve as examples for New Brunswick to follow. The Committee heard that while provincial accessibility legislation should align with the *Accessible Canada Act* and the UNCRPD, legislative drafters can identify best practices that have been established in other regions and fine tune them to the specific needs identified by people with disabilities in this province.

Principles

During the consultation process, three key principles emerged to guide legislative drafters forward:

1. ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’

Repeated numerous times by a variety of participants, the phrase ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’ refers to persons with disabilities being directly involved in government decisions that affect them. This includes their direct involvement in the development of legislation and accessibility standards for the province.

After legislation is enacted, members of the disability community demand continued collaboration on accessibility governance issues. They emphasized that their lived experience should be a resource for the government to better understand the evolving needs of disability communities and to ensure that unintentional barriers are avoided. It is only by following this principle, which includes the provision of appropriate accommodations to allow their participation, that the provincial government can communicate its respect for persons with disabilities.

2. Taking a Person-Centered Approach

The percentage of people in the province with three or more chronic health conditions has been on the rise for the past 50 years and each person experiences these conditions in a unique way. For example, in addition to impacting a person’s mobility, neuromuscular disorders may also affect hearing, speech, and vision capabilities. Likewise, people with invisible disabilities like Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), learning disabilities, and mental illness may be more likely to encounter discrimination when requesting accommodations for service delivery because they look like their able-bodied peers.

In addition to vast differences in the presentation of disabilities, the services required in different geographic areas of the province vary greatly; this diversity should be factored into how decisions are made about government programs, service delivery, and funding. The consultation process revealed that the ‘one size fits all’ model does not provide the best level of service and care for citizens in the province.

By taking a person-centered approach when drafting accessibility legislation, the government will enable program administrators to better identify target subgroups, which would lead to better service provision, more client satisfaction, and a more appropriate distribution of funds.

3. Intersectionality

The consultation process highlighted the importance of understanding that many people who have disabilities face intersecting challenges, which deepens the discriminations they face. Examples include the 60% of Canadian women living with a disability whose barriers are compounded by experiencing violence over the course of their lives, or Indigenous individuals with a disability who may be impacted by poverty and systemic trauma in addition to their disability.

The government is urged to consider how intersecting identities such as race, gender, class, and sexuality are influenced by ableism when creating legislation by conducting an intersectional analysis as part of the drafting process in order to avoid legislative and policy gaps.

Contents

Although most of the consultation discussions focused on the need to address specific barriers through the development of accessibility standards, some participants addressed seven key components that should be contained in New Brunswick’s accessibility legislation.

1. Goal, Purpose, and Vision

Overall, the Committee heard that accessibility legislation should outline a vision for a more accessible and inclusive New Brunswick and that this could be best achieved by taking a human rights-based approach (HRBA). From this perspective, the legislation would affirm New Brunswick’s commitment to the goals set forth in the UNCRPD and a timeline with clear targets to achieve a fully accessible province.

In the same vein, legislation should explicitly acknowledge the dignity of persons with disabilities by committing to a duty to consult and hold authentic and good faith engagement with both community stakeholders involved with the disability community and people who have lived experience of disability.

Legislation should clearly express its purpose to identify and remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in the labor force, from community activities and opportunities, and from having the equal right to make their own decisions.

2. Definitions

Including a section with clear modern definitions will ensure that all disability groups are protected under the law and will prevent the emergence of new barriers and opportunities for discrimination. These definitions will also standardize acceptable language at the legislative, regulatory, and policy levels.

The Committee heard that the definition of disability should be based on the one used by the United Nations. This would ensure the inclusion of invisible disabilities. It was also suggested that ‘barrier’ be broadly and inclusively defined to incorporate anything that hinders or challenges the full societal participation of persons with a disability and that ‘accommodation’ be defined as ‘a reasonable adjustment or change to the environment or processes which allows the individual with a disability to participate in education and employment, access to programs or services, or participate in decision-making on an equal basis with those without a disability.’ The Committee also heard that definitions should include Indigenous perspectives on disability in recognition that Indigenous peoples may experience disability differently.

The Committee also heard that the legislation may require standardization on how people with disabilities are referred to: the use of person-first language versus identity-first language is a continued conversation that has roots in the medical model of disability, which the Committee heard is to be avoided.

3. Application

The Committee heard that accessibility legislation should have a broad application. That is, the legislation should apply to all provincial executive entities, including its departments, agencies, councils, health authorities, educational institutions, as well as the legislative and judicial branches. In addition, accessibility legislation should apply to the private sector with a view of establishing acceptable levels of barrier-free standards.

It is important to note that in its application, the Committee heard that accessibility legislation should not give rise to a deterioration of protections nor financial supports such as the ineligibility to collect assistance from social assistance or income programs issued by various levels of government.

4. Governance and Accessibility Plans

Participants suggested that the person responsible for the administration of accessibility legislation and accessibility standards be clearly outlined in the legislation itself, that this person (for example, a Minister) be guided by an accessibility directorate, and that the directorate be informed by advisory committees composed of people with lived experience. The Committee heard that it is important to have a legislated clear understanding of who is responsible for the implementation and administration of the legislation as a fundamental measure of accountability.

The Committee also heard that accessibility legislation should require certain entities, as identified through further consultation, to develop and implement accessibility plans. It was suggested that New Brunswick look to Nova Scotia, where certain public entities like municipalities and universities have been mandated to ‘identify, remove, and prevent barriers in policies, programs, practices, and services.’

5. Framework for Standards Development

The Committee heard during its consultations that the level of accessibility accommodation currently varies greatly across the province. Therefore, a central objective of the legislation must be to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive equitable accommodations in every region. The legislation must also outline the method for how province-wide standards will be proposed; how older standards will be revised; and list which public and private entities must adhere to these standards. Areas identified as priorities for standards development will be discussed more thoroughly in the next section.

6. Monitoring, Compliance, and Enforcement

The success of provincial accessibility legislation will hinge on its monitoring, compliance, and enforcement measures. The Committee heard that legislation should ‘include provisions related to conducting necessary inspections, issuing orders of compliance with [accessibility legislation]’ and accessibility standards, and that monitoring efforts be well-resourced. It was also suggested that data collection requirements and the establishment of evaluation metrics be explicitly prescribed in the legislation to ensure that decisions affecting people with disabilities use current information.

Compliance requirements and enforcement measures should be clearly stated and include significant corrective measures and monetary penalties to deter entities who do not act in accordance with them.

7. Review and Accountability

The Committee heard that creating accessibility legislation will necessitate a review of other legislation, regulations, and policies to avoid any legal inconsistencies where people with disabilities may be discriminated against.

As part of the accountability process, it was suggested that legislation list the requirement of the use of the Disability Lens Analysis Tool for the development of all new government policies and programs, and for the review of existing ones. This tool, developed by the New Brunswick Disability Executives' Network, places persons with disabilities at the centre of analysis and recognizes that disability is often a missing perspective.

Legislation should also clearly outline the duties and obligations of the person responsible for the administration of the legislation and their office in order to hold them accountable. Similarly, clear timelines for implementation of accessibility standards and plans, as well as clearly identifying reporting and accountability procedures are necessary.

SECTION III: Development of Accessibility Standards

Once legislation is enacted, the government can then develop accessibility standards in collaboration with persons with disabilities, advocacy groups, Indigenous communities, other provinces, and national organizations.

The consultation process revealed that in New Brunswick, persons with disabilities regularly face barriers in the following nine key areas. What follows is an explanation of the need for accessibility standards in these specific areas. Please note that this information is intended to give a broad overview of some of the issues impacting persons with disabilities in the province and is not meant to be exhaustive.

1. Government Service Delivery

Persons who have disabilities are high users of government services like social assistance and health care. However, they regularly encounter barriers in service delivery, a fact that was made even more apparent during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consultations revealed that better healthcare services are available in urban areas, with care gaps occurring more frequently in rural locations. This trend points toward the need for new policies and programs that ensure the same level of care throughout the province. For example, it was suggested that in rural areas, where professional caregivers need to travel greater distances, alternative funding policies could enable family members to care for relatives who have disabilities instead. Other areas of concern in the health sector include the reliance on a medical model of service delivery, which does not take individual client needs into account; staff who lack training to accommodate a variety of disabilities; and the need for increased access to primary healthcare, mental health services, specialized care, and diagnostic services.

The Committee heard that there is currently a critical lack of access to mental health services for people with disabilities due to policy barriers present within the healthcare system. To support their call for better mental health services, participants pointed to research conducted by the Canadian Mental Health Association that found the presence of suicidal thoughts for every one in seven people with a disability, and one in five people who already had mental health issues to support the need for increased access. The Committee also heard that CNIB research has shown that when compared to people who are sighted, individuals with impacted sight are three times more likely to experience clinical depression. Finally, an Ability New Brunswick survey revealed that many of their respondents who have a mobility disability are struggling with their emotional and psychological well-being with 63% reporting it as either fair or poor.

The Department of Social Development currently assists persons with disabilities through the Disability Support Program. This program provides income assistance and facilitates access to housing, special care homes, employment, and assistive technologies. For many people, the income they receive through this program has a major impact on quality of life. However, the consultation process drew attention to concerns with both the administration of social assistance for persons with disabilities, as well as the funding structure itself. The Committee heard that government should consider the adoption of a model of guaranteed basic income; review policies like the Household Income Policy through the Disability Lens Analysis Tool; and create a separate stream of income assistance for persons with disabilities, as they have needs that vary significantly from other clients of the Department of Social Development.

It was also suggested that the Departments of Health and Social Development collaborate on creating a single pathway for people with disabilities to access public supports and programs to minimize administrative service gaps and that program delivery be overseen by one primary contact person to streamline the process.

2. Housing

Having safe and affordable housing is a basic need for all persons. However, as the Committee learned, barrier-free housing and affordable housing do not always go hand in hand. Homes that offer disability accommodations are often newer and priced out of range for those who need them most. This discrepancy leads to persons with disabilities being at greater risk of homelessness, unnecessarily extended hospital stays, and unnecessary and costly group home or nursing home placements. The consultation process also revealed that the current model of accessible housing isolates people based on fixed earnings. It would therefore be beneficial to broaden the definition of 'accessible housing' to include mixed-use facilities that encourage informal community supports, which could provide increased opportunities for community engagement. This could include transitional housing for young adults to develop the necessary skills to live independently and housing that targets individuals who have co-occurring disability concerns.

3. Transportation

Transportation is a vital resource for accessing employment, education, medical care, and a social life. Regarding public transportation, the Committee learned that like healthcare services, there is a lot of variability between rural and urban areas. To ensure that all people have access to the same or comparable public transportation, the Committee heard that it would be beneficial for the government to collaborate with municipalities and regional service commissions to create accessible transportation strategies. There are also opportunities to develop community-based transportation and to offer more options for public transit including improved routes, stops and safety features, and accessibility training for drivers.

For those who drive, there is a need to modernize the vehicle retrofit program to ensure that it is consistent with current costs of equipment and installation. There are also opportunities to improve fueling accessibility and the design of parking spaces.

4. Education

In accordance with the UNCRDP, people with disabilities have the right to an education without discrimination in recognition of the development ‘of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential’. The New Brunswick school system is founded on the principle of inclusion for all pupils and despite being internationally recognized as a leader in this regard, many children with disabilities continue to face barriers within the system.

To ensure that persons with disabilities have the same quality of education across the province, the Committee heard that disability awareness training should be improved and standardized for teachers; resource staff should have access to better diagnostic tools; more support staff should be available across all school districts; and access to modern assistive technologies needs to be improved.

In addition, the consultation process revealed that once students graduate high school, they are less likely to participate in post-secondary education than their peers. The need to have transitional support systems in place for students as they move from public school to post-secondary education and from post-secondary education to employment will be a fundamental feature in ensuring their success.

5. Employment

Respecting the dignity of labour should extend to people with disabilities in their opportunities for employment and in accommodations while employed. However, among working age people, those with a disability are employed significantly less than those without a disability and this discrepancy explains why they are represented in greater numbers among those living in poverty. Data provided to the Committee suggests that, with proper accommodations, supports, and time, persons with a disability could demonstrate labour market dynamics similar to those demonstrated by persons without disabilities. If targeted for recruitment and support, these individuals could fill some of the 120,000 forecasted job openings that are expected in New Brunswick through 2027.

As the largest employer in the province, the Government of New Brunswick is uniquely positioned to set an example for other employers to integrate a greater diversity of people with disabilities in the workforce. The Committee heard that the Treasury Board has established human resources policies and practices that address inclusion; however, these policies focus more on gender and sexual orientation diversity, origin, and visible minorities. There are currently no comprehensive guidelines for opening the doors of the public service to people with intellectual or sensory disabilities when gaps in various areas of activity could be filled by employees from this important population.

Presenters urged the government to set goals for increasing the workforce participation of persons with disabilities, to create education and awareness training programs for able-bodied employers and employees, and to hold accountable employers who discriminate against employees with disabilities.

6. The Built Environment

Physical spaces should be usable by people with the widest possible range of abilities, operating within the widest possible range of situations, whether a person has a disability or not. To achieve this, universal design should be the standard when evaluating the built environment. Although there have been many advances in inclusive design over the past several years, persons with disabilities of all ranges continue to encounter barriers in the built environment.

The Committee learned that in many cases, clear accessibility standards and regulations for the design of buildings, sidewalks, and shared spaces already exist. Addressing barriers in these spaces may simply be a matter of strengthening implementation strategies, respecting existing regulations, and enhancing enforcement measures. There was also a call for entities to be incentivized to conduct accessibility audits, review regulations, strengthen partnerships with non-governmental advocacy groups, and equip municipalities and regional service commissions with adequate funding to conduct proactive inspections.

7. Information and Communication

When receiving goods and services, all persons have the right to receive the same information and to communicate their needs and decisions in return. For some persons with disabilities, this need could be met by having access to assistive technologies. In other cases, individuals may need accommodations in order to make decisions for themselves or as a last resort, require a designated support person to advocate on their behalf. While information and communication options need to be improved in all sectors, the consultation process revealed a particular need to have all government information available in accessible formats. As examples, all webpages should be fully accessible; health forms should be available in different formats, including plain text; and government broadcasts should provide simultaneous closed captioning.

In the private sector, participants identified a need for the Government of New Brunswick to create new customer service standards, which could include sensitivity training for employees, education about different types of disabilities, and incentives to help ensure that businesses comply with newly developed standards.

8. Administration of Justice

Some individuals who have invisible disabilities have varied information processing capabilities. As such, people with invisible disabilities may face additional barriers as they navigate certain government services because they are not immediately recognized as having a disability.

This can be especially problematic in the criminal justice system. For example, people with invisible disabilities like Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder have difficulty regulating their behaviors and learning from mistakes. Such individuals may need extra supports in court, in correctional facilities, and in any other venue dealing with the administration of justice. The Committee heard that a more informed justice system that considers individual limitations and provides accommodations would be beneficial to persons with these types of disabilities. Increased diagnostic programming and culturally relevant interventions could also help prevent some persons with disabilities from being caught in a cycle of being in and out of the penal system.

9. Sport and Recreation

Having accessible recreational facilities in the community makes a big difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. Regular access to recreation and active living opportunities encourages socialization and improved physical and mental well-being, especially for children with disabilities. Participants urged provincial collaboration with municipalities and regional service commissions to consider their capacity for accessible recreation, sport, and leisure activities with the intention of setting goals to ensure consistency across New Brunswick so

that any person with a disability can participate in recreation and sport. The Committee also heard that there may be opportunities for disability tourism in the province by increasing accessible recreational spaces and increasing funds for accessible sporting and leisure equipment.

SECTION IV: Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Motion 78 created the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick, which is mandated to conduct consultations with community stakeholders and government departments involved with the disability community in the province then report its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. As the Committee exercised its mandate, it has learned about the vast range of disabilities that affect New Brunswickers and the challenges and barriers that they face every day.

The Committee heard that members of the disability community strongly support the development of accessibility legislation and the Committee agrees that this is the correct first step toward creating an accessible province. Once legislation is enacted, work should then begin on the development of accessibility standards. The current climate is ripe for collaboration at all stages, with the disability community eager to participate in a wide variety of partnership opportunities available at every level of government and with private entities across Canada.

The Committee wishes to extend their deep gratitude to everyone who took time to share their ideas, passions, and commitment to making New Brunswick more accessible. It is the Committee's hope that the consultation process and the goals that lie ahead are steps forward in removing practical and attitudinal barriers that will ultimately lead to lasting changes in the culture of how people who have disabilities live and interact in New Brunswick.

The Committee acknowledges that more work needs to be done to move toward a province that is inclusive of all people and as such, it remains committed to consulting with persons with disabilities and honouring the principle of 'Nothing About Us Without Us' at every stage moving forward.

Recommendations

The Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick strongly supports people with disabilities and is in agreement with people who have participated in its consultation exercise that it is important for New Brunswickers with disabilities to enjoy full and dignified participation.

Accordingly, the Committee makes the following five initial recommendations:

1. THAT the Government of New Brunswick prepare accessibility legislation that honours the issues and concerns outlined in this report, and that people with disabilities and community stakeholders involved with the disability community be invited to provide their feedback on the draft legislation to ensure that it reflects the legislative consultations and respects the right of people with disabilities to self-determination.
2. THAT the Government of New Brunswick have draft accessibility legislation prepared by the end of May 2023.
3. THAT the Government of New Brunswick create and agree to a memorandum of understanding with Accessibility Standards Canada for the purpose of ensuring that provincial accessibility standards be based on national benchmarks.
4. THAT the Government of New Brunswick take bold actions to strengthen its efforts to hire people with disabilities.
5. THAT the Government of New Brunswick prioritize the development of household income support programs specifically tailored for people with disabilities.

Ordered that the report be received, and leave granted.

With leave of the House, Mr. Coon moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Dunn: (Motion 26)

WHEREAS the United Nations declared 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages;

WHEREAS the International Decade of Indigenous Languages aims to draw global attention to the critical situation of many Indigenous languages and to mobilize relevant stakeholders for the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of these languages;

WHEREAS Wolastoqey, Passamaquoddy and Mi'kmaq languages are the first languages of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there are only approximately 100 fluent Wolastoqey speakers left in New Brunswick, while there are 8,900 Mi'kmaq speakers throughout Atlantic Canada and parts of Quebec;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recognize the International Decade of Indigenous Languages in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a plan with Indigenous leaders to support them in preserving and revitalizing their languages.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that the House consider an adjournment motion; following which Royal Assent would take place.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*, the motion for third reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson	

NAYS - 15

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

Accordingly, Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act*, was read a third time and passed.

Debate resumed on the adjournment motion, moved by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier, on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

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

AMENDMENT

That the motion be amended by deleting “March 21, 2023” and substituting “January 10, 2023”.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 15

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

NAYS - 25

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. S. Wilson	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. M. Wilson	

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

Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker addressed Her Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick has passed several Bills at the present sittings of the Legislature to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Law Clerk then read the titles of the Bills as follows:

- Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act.*
Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities.*
Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Public Works Act.*
Bill 5, *Missing Persons Act.*
Bill 6, *An Act Respecting the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act and the Wills Act.*
Bill 7, *Private Woodlot Sustainability Act.*
Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act.*
Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act.*
Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act.*
Bill 11, *An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers.*
Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act.*
Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act.*
Bill 14, *An Act Respecting the Assessment Act.*
Bill 15, *An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing.*
Bill 16, *An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2.*
Bill 17, *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act.*
Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act.*
Bill 19, *Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act.*
Bill 20, *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act.*
Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act.*
Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*
Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act.*
Bill 25, *An Act Respecting Residential Tenancies.*
Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (1).*

Her Honour signified Her Assent as follows:

It is the King's wish. Le roi le veut.

To these Bills, Her Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:

In His Majesty's name, Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor assents to these Bills, enacting the same and ordering them to be enrolled.

Her Honour then retired and Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And then, 10.52 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 25

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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 21, 2023.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Main Estimates* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, which include the estimates of the sums required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 2024, 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. Steeves laid upon the table of the House documents entitled *2023-2024 Economic Outlook* and *2023-2024 Budget, Growth and Opportunity: Delivering for New Brunswickers*.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Steeves, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that the portion of the Speech of Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which refers to the Public Accounts, Estimates and Expenditures be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 23, Hon. Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

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

And the question being put, Hon. Mr. Steeves proceeded to deliver the Budget Speech.

On motion of Mr. Legacy, the further consideration thereof was adjourned over.

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

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that consideration of the motion on the budgetary policy of the government be resumed on Thursday next and then be added to the Orders of the Day until such time as it is dispatched.

And then, 1.58 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 Reports

2021-2022 New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission	December 16, 2022
2019-2020 New Brunswick Farm Products Commission	December 20, 2022
2020-2021 New Brunswick Farm Products Commission	December 20, 2022
2021-2022 New Brunswick Farm Products Commission	December 20, 2022
2021-2022 Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour	December 23, 2022
2021-2022 Ombud for New Brunswick	December 27, 2022
2021-2022 Labour and Employment Board	January 4, 2023
2021-2022 Department of Health	January 11, 2023
2021-2022 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	January 16, 2023
2023 Report on Fees, Department of Finance and Treasury Board	January 26, 2023
2021-2022 New Brunswick Human Rights Commission	February 3, 2023
2021-2022 Department of Justice and Public Safety	February 7, 2023
2021 Legislative Activities	February 8, 2023
2021 Office of the Chief Coroner	February 9, 2023
2021-2022 Premier's Council on Disabilities	March 7, 2023
2022 New Brunswick Insurance Board	March 7, 2023
2022 Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	March 14, 2023

Others

Air Quality Monitoring Results, 2021, Department of Environment and Local Government	December 16, 2022
Under the provisions of the <i>Fees Act</i> , information regarding fee changes for campsites, vehicle entrance and beach maintenance fees at provincial parks	December 20, 2022
Public Accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022, Volume 2, Supplementary Information	December 21, 2022
Members' Public Disclosure Statements 2020	February 14, 2023
Final Report, Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission	March 13, 2023

Petitions

Response to Petitions 4, 6	January 20, 2023
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Daily sitting 26

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier 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.
February 23, 2023.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I thank you for your Address and beg to assure you that I entertain the fullest confidence that in all your deliberations you will be guided by a most earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this province.

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

Hon. Mr. R. Savoie offered condolences to the family of the late Viola Léger, former Liberal Senator for New Brunswick (2001-2005) and awarded and honoured Acadian actress and ambassador best known for her portrayal of La Sagouine, in the play by Acadian author Antonine Maillet. Mr. Gauvin joined in this regard.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

Mr. Arseneau rose on a point of order and submitted that the paper copies of the Statements by Ministers were not provided to the Opposition parties. Mr. Arseneault spoke on the point of order. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie advised the House that the matter would be remedied. Mr. Speaker ruled that the current practice of providing the paper copies was a courtesy and not a requirement, but that it did help with the efficiency of the proceedings of the House and encouraged the practice to continue.

Mr. LeBlanc, Member for Shediac-Beaubassin-Cap-Pelé, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission to reverse the decision to remove certain communities from his riding. (Petition 10)

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to keep the NB Liquor agency store in the Rogersville Co-op. (Petition 11)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Austin,
Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Shephard,
Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Holland,
Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board.*

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Coon: (Motion 27)

WHEREAS in December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming 2015 – 2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”;

WHEREAS on January 30th, 2018, the Government of Canada announced that it would officially recognize the International Decade for People of African Descent and committed to learning more about issues affecting Black Canadians;

WHEREAS in proclaiming this Decade, the international community recognized people of African descent, for the first time, as a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected, and also recognized the extent of anti-Black racism in Canadian society;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick hired Canada’s first Commissioner on Systemic Racism to conduct a public consultation to gather views and information about the nature and impact of systemic racism in the Province of New Brunswick and to engage with government institutions, including health, social development and justice;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick mandated the province's Commissioner on Systemic Racism to conduct a comprehensive review about the extent and scope of systemic racism in New Brunswick, including the government's role in eliminating systemic racism both within provincial institutions and agencies and in the province generally;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick tasked the Commissioner on Systemic Racism with providing quantitative and qualitative evidence about the nature and impacts of systemic racism and recommendations for government on the development of a provincial strategy and action plan to address systemic racism in the Province of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS in June 2022, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick declared August 1 of every year as Emancipation Day in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS recognizing the International Decade for People of African Descent in New Brunswick will strengthen opportunities for government to interact with civil society, citizens, and the media and through the combined efforts of all, build a more diverse and prosperous New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick declare 2015 to 2024 "The International Decade for People of African Descent in New Brunswick".

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

Ms. Mitton requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon: (Motion 28)

WHEREAS human-caused climate breakdown is accelerating the toll of extreme weather across the planet;

WHEREAS people across Canada and around the world are losing their lives and livelihoods due to more deadly and more frequent heatwaves, floods, wildfires, and droughts triggered by the climate crisis;

WHEREAS global heating is warming the oceans and carbon pollution is acidifying ocean waters with catastrophic consequences for marine ecosystems and commercial fisheries;

WHEREAS more frequent and intense storm surges, combined with rising sea levels, are eroding our coastlines, undermining homes, roads, and other infrastructure;

WHEREAS a climate emergency declaration carries with it significant meaning, signaling to the public the province's acknowledgment of the seriousness of the climate crisis and the urgent need to implement policies, regulations, and funded programs to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this declaration, the use of the word "emergency" is to reinforce the critical seriousness of acting to avoid climate breakdown, and therefore does not imply or trigger a "state of emergency," which has its own legal definition;

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick is in the midst of implementing its third climate change action plan, forming a critical foundation for action to respond to the climate crisis;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly declare a climate emergency.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 28 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, March 30, 2023.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 29 that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Commissioner on Systemic Racism identified that there is ample evidence that systemic and overt racism are problems in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Commissioner on Systemic Racism also found that 54% of New Brunswick residents feel that the provincial government is not doing enough to address racism in the province;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is among the three provinces that currently do not have a permanent provincial body empowered to oversee the dismantling of systemic racism;

WHEREAS many New Brunswick residents and organizations fighting systemic and overt racism actively support a permanent provincial body to advocate for the fight against racism;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission plays a significant role in promoting equity and anti-discrimination, but the current institutional arrangement that embeds it within the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour undermines its independence and ability to meet its objectives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create a permanent provincial body and lead person, at a commissioner or deputy minister level, to oversee the dismantling of systemic racism;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission as a stand-alone body reporting to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, March 24, 2023, Bills 29, 30, 31 and 32 would be called for second reading.

And then, 11.59 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 27

Thursday, March 23, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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, on motion of Mr. Coon, the further consideration thereof was adjourned over.

And then, 10.43 a.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 2023, <i>Statute Repeal Act</i>	March 22, 2023
Strategic Plan 2023-2028, Auditor General of New Brunswick	March 21, 2023

Daily sitting 28

Friday, March 24, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 30 that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS NB Power will be raising electricity rates this year and will likely request significant increases in coming years;

WHEREAS those increases in rates will also increase tax revenue at a time when the government is declaring historic surpluses;

WHEREAS the tax applied to electricity rates disproportionately impacts low-income individuals and families who spend a larger percentage of their income on basic necessities of life;

WHEREAS the rising cost of living for necessities including rent, fuel, and groceries is forcing people to make difficult choices;

WHEREAS home heating is a basic necessity of life in New Brunswick and 45% of New Brunswickers rely on electricity as their primary source for home heating;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the provincial portion of the HST from residential electricity bills.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 31 that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are facing many challenges related to rapidly rising rents and housing affordability;

WHEREAS the government lifted the rent cap without putting a comprehensive housing plan in place;

WHEREAS there may be a perceived or real inequality of power that favours the landlord over a tenant in a rent increase dispute where the onus is on the tenant to prove that the rent increase is unreasonable;

WHEREAS the definition of unreasonable is vague and arbitrary in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there is a backlog of reviews at the Residential Tenancies Tribunal, causing undue hardship for New Brunswickers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare guidelines to better define reasonable increases and possible reasons for permitting increases in excess of the guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend *The Residential Tenancies Act* to require that the burden of proof be placed on any landlord applying for an increase in excess of the established guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide a mechanism and support whereby the rent increase applications may be adjudicated on a regional basis.

Mr. Arseneau requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Legacy: (Motion 32)

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy has the responsibility to review expenditure plans of provincial departments and agencies;

WHEREAS the Main Estimates for 2023-24 tabled in the Legislature do not contain the detailed expenditure plans for each provincial department and agency;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board to table detailed expenditure plans for each provincial department and agency for 2023-24.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 32 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, March 30, 2023.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

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, 2 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Business Plan 2023-2024, Auditor General of
New Brunswick

March 23, 2023

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.

Daily sitting 30

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 37, An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 36 that on Thursday, April 6, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Landry:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic brought home the reality that if we do not improve air quality systems in government buildings like schools, hospitals, and institutions, we increase the risk of the spread of airborne illnesses;

WHEREAS air quality in these buildings must be improved for the safety and well-being of patients, healthcare workers, students, educators, employees, and all who enter these buildings;

WHEREAS, while other Maritime Provinces like PEI and Nova Scotia are making strategic investments in systems that improve air quality and ventilation through programs like the federal COVID-19 resilience fund, New Brunswick has not yet made these investments a priority;

WHEREAS there are many regions of the province where air quality is diminished due to airborne pollutants, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents;

WHEREAS reducing pollutants and improving air quality and thus improving community and environmental health should be a priority of government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to modernize New Brunswick's air quality laws and standards with a goal of bringing forward a strengthened *Clean Air Act* and modernized regulations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report, and improve air quality systems in public buildings like hospitals, schools, and government buildings to mitigate the risks associated with the transfer of airborne illnesses, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 37 that on Thursday, April 6, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS, as of 2021, the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program had provided subsidies worth over \$101 million to New Brunswick pulp mills to ensure they paid the average industrial rate for electricity in Canada;

WHEREAS NB Power paid out \$9.7 million in rate subsidies to its industrial customers under the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program in the fiscal year 2020-21;

WHEREAS NB Power is expected to provide the six pulp mills with subsidies worth \$14.7 million this year;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development to immediately end the Large Industrial Renewable Energy Purchase Program.

With leave of the House, Mr. Cardy moved, seconded by Mr. Bourque: (Motion 38)

WHEREAS the year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish State of Israel;

WHEREAS officially declared an independent nation on May 14, 1948, Israel plans a series of events throughout the year to celebrate its 75th anniversary;

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly would like to reaffirm the bonds of friendship, cooperation, and collaboration between New Brunswick and Israel;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick recognize the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel; extend the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future; and transmit a copy of this resolution to Israeli Ambassador H.E. Dr. Ronen Hoffman.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 38 was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 30 and 6.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Thursday, March 30, 2023, Bill 37 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House consider an adjournment motion; following which Bills 31 and 32 would be called for second reading; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, March 31, 2023, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 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.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, be now read a second time.

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

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 31 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

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 resumed the chair.

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

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

And then, 5.58 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2021-2022
Kings Landing Corporation

March 27, 2023

Daily sitting 31

Thursday, March 30, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Allain used unparliamentary language when he used the term “crazy” in reference to Mr. Bourque. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie and Mr. Arseneau spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 39 that on Thursday, April 6, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS the purpose of New Brunswick’s Local Food and Beverages Strategy is to strengthen New Brunswick’s food system and improve food self-sufficiency;

WHEREAS New Brunswick’s Local Food and Beverages Strategy was supposed to identify opportunities for government institutions to increase their purchase of New Brunswick local food and beverages in 2021;

WHEREAS New Brunswick’s Local Food and Beverages Strategy did not set any targets for New Brunswick’s public institutions;

WHEREAS, in 2020, about 45% of food purchased by Quebec’s public institutions was produced in Quebec, with the goal to increase it to 60% by 2025;

WHEREAS Quebec’s strategy for the purchase of Quebec food in institutions also sets local food supply targets, requiring 85% of public institutions in Quebec to set local supply targets by 2023 and 100% of them by 2025;

WHEREAS setting targets for New Brunswick institutions will not only help schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, among others, serve healthier, local, and environmentally responsible food, but will also increase the capacity of producers to be resilient;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to set targets for New Brunswick public institutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expand the support and resources in its Local Food and Beverages Strategy to guarantee its success.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the Budget until 1 p.m., at which time Royal Assent would take place; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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.

Hon. Mr. Allain rose and withdrew the unparliamentary language used during Oral Questions.

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

Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker addressed Her Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick has passed a Bill at the present sittings of the Legislature to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Clerk Assistant then read the title of the Bill as follows:

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

Her Honour signified Her Assent as follows:

It is the King's wish. Le roi le veut.

To this Bill, Her Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:

In His Majesty's name, Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor assents to this Bill, enacting the same and ordering it to be enrolled.

Her Honour then retired and Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Debate resumed on Motion 23.

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

And the debate continuing, after some time it was on motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, on behalf of the Honourable the Premier, adjourned over.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 30, Mr. K. Chiasson moved, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS NB Power will be raising electricity rates this year and will likely request significant increases in coming years;

WHEREAS those increases in rates will also increase tax revenue at a time when the government is declaring historic surpluses;

WHEREAS the tax applied to electricity rates disproportionately impacts low-income individuals and families who spend a larger percentage of their income on basic necessities of life;

WHEREAS the rising cost of living for necessities including rent, fuel, and groceries is forcing people to make difficult choices;

WHEREAS home heating is a basic necessity of life in New Brunswick and 45% of New Brunswickers rely on electricity as their primary source for home heating;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the provincial portion of the HST from residential electricity bills.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 30 be amended in the resolution clause by deleting “remove” and substituting “study the possibility of removing”.

At 3.10 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.18 p.m. the House resumed.

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

And the debate being ended, Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 30 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS NB Power will be raising electricity rates this year and will likely request significant increases in coming years;

WHEREAS those increases in rates will also increase tax revenue at a time when the government is declaring historic surpluses;

WHEREAS the tax applied to electricity rates disproportionately impacts low-income individuals and families who spend a larger percentage of their income on basic necessities of life;

WHEREAS the rising cost of living for necessities including rent, fuel, and groceries is forcing people to make difficult choices;

WHEREAS home heating is a basic necessity of life in New Brunswick and 45% of New Brunswickers rely on electricity as their primary source for home heating;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to study the possibility of removing the provincial portion of the HST from residential electricity bills.

And the question being put, Motion 30 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 6, Mr. K. Chiasson moved, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS the government cancelled the Free Tuition Program and the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program that provided many students with the opportunity to enroll in a post-secondary institution;

WHEREAS the province decided to cancel the NB-EI Connect Program that helped students pay for their food and lodging as they pursued their studies;

WHEREAS the program brought forward by the government for interest relief on the provincial portion of student loans does not support access to post-secondary education;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a comprehensive assistance program to support access to post-secondary education.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

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

Daily sitting 32

Friday, March 31, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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 the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 23 was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 28

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

NAYS - 16

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

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, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to be granted to Her Majesty forthwith.

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 proceeding in the matter under consideration, had passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

And she was directed to ask leave to sit again.

Ms. Anderson-Mason moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT the House does concur with the Committee of Supply in its report and agrees in its resolution that Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT consideration of estimates in Committee of Supply be added to the Orders of the Day until such time as they are dispatched.

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

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

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 109, the *Main Estimates 2023-2024*, the *Capital Estimates 2023-2024*, and the *Supplementary Estimates 2021-2022, Volume I*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy.

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

And then, 9.43 a.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 Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission	March 29, 2023
Annual Report 2021-2022 Executive Council Office	March 30, 2023

Daily sitting 33

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Elections Act*, Mr. Speaker laid upon the table of the House the returns of votes polled in the electoral districts of Restigouche-Chaleur, Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore and Dieppe in the by-election held April 24, 2023.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Holder, on behalf of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie,

RESOLVED, that the returns be entered in the Journals of the House.

And it is as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNS OF THE BY-ELECTION FOR
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON
THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2023

Subsection 96(5) of the *Elections Act*

RESTIGOUCHE-CHALEUR # 3

Marco LeBlanc	L	2462 E
Rachel Boudreau	PVNBGP	1541
Anne Bard-Lavigne	PC	771
Alex Gagne	NBNDP	95
Nancy Jubinville-Guerette Returning Officer		

BATHURST EAST-NEPISIGUIT-SAINT-ISIDORE # 5

Susan Holt	L	2343 E
Serge Brideau	PVNBGP	1411
Alex White	NBNDP	227
Mark Guindon Returning Officer		

DIEPPE # 17

Richard Losier	L	2424 E
Chantal Landry	PVNBGP	651
Dean Léonard	PC	298
Cyprien Okana	NBNDP	96
Paul-Émile Mallet Returning Officer		

Ms. Holt, member-elect for the electoral district of Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore, Mr. Losier, member elect for the electoral district of Dieppe and Mr. M. LeBlanc, member-elect for the electoral district of Restigouche-Chaleur, having previously taken the oath and signed the Roll, were introduced by Mr. McKee and took their seats in the House.

Ms. Thériault welcomed to the House Daniel Guitard, former Liberal MLA for Restigouche-Chaleur (2014-2022), Denis Landry, former Liberal MLA for Centre-Péninsule (1995-1999, 2003-2006), Centre-Péninsule-Saint-Sauveur (2006-2014) and Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore (2014-2022) and Monique LeBlanc, former Liberal MLA for Moncton East (2014-2020).

Ms. Landry welcomed to the House Aldéa Landry, K.C., former Liberal MLA for Shippagan-les-Îles (1987-1991).

Mr. Speaker recognized Hon. Mr. Holder, Ms. Holt and Mr. Coon for statements regarding the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Mr. Turner, from the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

May 9, 2023

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

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

Your Committee met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 and 27, to consider the estimates referred to your Committee by resolution of the House adopted March 31, 2023.

Your Committee wishes to report that they have passed all estimates referred to them and outlined in this report. Your Committee recommends that these estimates be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd. :) Greg Turner, M.L.A.
Chair

The following are the items that were passed by the Committee:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2023-2024

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, 2024:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	48,876,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	48,822,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services	94,211,000
School Districts	1,356,719,000
Early Childhood Development	269,644,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	1,720,520,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Corporate Services and Community Funding	2,864,000
Policy, Public Education and Engagement	1,313,000
Local Government and Local Governance Reform	110,374,000
Assessment and Planning Appeal Board	335,000
Authorizations and Compliance.....	8,167,000
Environmental Science and Protection	4,845,000
Climate Change Secretariat.....	1,652,000
Less amounts authorized by law	108,000
Voted.....	129,442,000
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE	
Office of the Clerk, Chief Operating Officer and Head of the Public Service and Executive Council Secretariat ...	3,677,000
Corporate Communications	7,427,000
Office of the Lieutenant-Governor	567,000
Voted.....	11,671,000

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD	
Budget and Financial Management	907,000
Corporate Services	6,039,000
Treasury Management and Fiscal Policy	2,865,000
Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer.....	5,040,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	8,168,000
Office of the Comptroller.....	3,237,000
Revenue Administration	5,719,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	31,921,000
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Aboriginal Affairs.....	7,420,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	7,366,000
Commissions Paid to Collectors of Pari-Mutuel Taxes	455,000
Enterprise Resource Planning	40,959,000
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	688,000
Intergovernmental Affairs.....	8,850,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	8,796,000
Legislated Pension Plans, Benefit Accruals, Subsidies, and Supplementary Allowances	90,034,000
Less amounts authorized by law	184,000
Voted.....	89,850,000
Natural Gas Distribution Program	3,000,000
New Brunswick Advantage Savings Fund	13,000,000
New Brunswick Housing Corporation.....	2,000,000
Pension and Employee Benefits Plan	362,524,000
Less amounts authorized by law	2,000
Voted.....	362,522,000
Provision for Losses.....	14,200,000
Revenue Sharing Agreements with First Nations	33,405,000
Service New Brunswick.....	225,948,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	225,894,000
Supplementary Funding Provision.....	237,687,000
Women's Equality	6,380,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	220,009,000
Medicare	823,931,000

Drug Programs	264,772,000
Part III Health Services	2,221,788,000
Provincial Health Plan	53,596,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	3,584,042,000
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY	
Technical Safety and Corporate Services Division.....	20,256,000
Community Safety Division	234,477,000
Security and Emergencies Division	42,464,000
Office of the Attorney General	28,796,000
Justice Services Division	27,739,000
Legal Aid	12,986,000
Less amounts authorized by law	108,000
Voted.....	366,610,000
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations.....	10,797,000
Less amounts authorized by law	4,357,000
Voted.....	6,440,000
Office of the Legislative Assembly	4,333,000
Office of the Auditor General	3,628,000
Offices of Leaders and Members of Registered Political Parties.....	2,045,000
Less amounts authorized by law	77,000
Voted.....	1,968,000
Elections New Brunswick.....	5,867,000
Office of the Ombud	2,841,000
Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate.....	1,685,000
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.....	837,000
Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	678,000
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	351,000
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Administration	9,006,000
Natural Resources	93,091,000
Energy and Mines	17,476,000
Land Management	3,157,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	122,676,000
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER	
Administration	1,727,000
Less amounts authorized by law	81,000
Voted.....	1,646,000

OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Administration and Business Development Services	21,173,000
Financial Assistance	25,000,000
Immigration Related Financial Support.....	5,925,000
Strategic Investments - Productivity /	
Global Competitiveness	5,000,000
Voted.....	57,098,000
OTHER AGENCIES	
Consolidated Entities	416,192,000
Less amounts authorized by law	416,192,000
Voted.....	0
Council of Atlantic Premiers	642,000
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	2,834,000
Labour and Employment Board.....	691,000
New Brunswick Police Commission	687,000
New Brunswick Women's Council	484,000
Premier's Council on Disabilities	335,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Labour and Strategic Services	12,791,000
Post-Secondary Affairs	505,865,000
WorkingNB.....	122,668,000
New Brunswick Public Library Service	18,778,000
Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification.....	8,849,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	668,897,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Development Projects and Operations.....	50,841,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	50,787,000
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT	
Service of the Public Debt	627,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	622,300,000
Voted.....	4,700,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Services	13,010,000
Seniors and Long Term Care	1,004,864,000
Child Welfare and Youth Services	165,708,000
Income Security	268,906,000
Housing Services	128,781,000
Other Benefits	52,434,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	1,633,649,000

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Administration	3,280,000
Provincial Parks	14,203,000
Culture, Archaeology, Heritage and Sport.....	37,503,000
Tourism.....	20,143,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	75,075,000

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Administration	20,059,000
Policy and Legislative Affairs, Strategic Partnerships and Trade Corridors.....	1,832,000
Maintenance.....	104,343,000
Winter Maintenance.....	78,252,000
Bridge and Highway Construction.....	3,443,000
Buildings Group.....	143,797,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation.....	27,185,000
Less amounts authorized by law	27,056,000
Voted.....	351,855,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Capital Equipment	65,000
Strategic Infrastructure	400,000
Voted.....	465,000

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools - Capital Equipment	893,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Rural Districts	1,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment.....	39,137,000

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Mine Reclamation.....	250,000
Musquash Watershed Infrastructure - Capital Improvements	791,000
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	4,930,000
Voted.....	5,971,000

DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Deferred Maintenance Program.....	2,200,000

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Canada - New Brunswick Integrated Bilateral Agreement...	49,500,000
Strategic Infrastructure Initiative	8,000,000
Voted.....	57,500,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Nursing Home Services - Capital Improvements	9,000,000
Nursing Home Services - Capital Maintenance	3,000,000
Public Housing - Capital Construction	33,000,000
Public Housing - Capital Maintenance.	5,000,000
Voted.....	50,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Capital Improvements.....	5,167,000
Strategic Infrastructure	4,347,000
Voted.....	9,514,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Bridges	84,520,000
Highways	278,650,000
Municipal Designated Highway Program.....	20,000,000
Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Program	94,240,000
Vehicle Management Agency.....	30,000,000
Public Works and Infrastructure	342,951,000
Less amounts authorized by law	71,420,000
Voted.....	778,941,000
LOANS AND ADVANCES	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000
Loan Programs	7,000,000
Voted.....	8,600,000
OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Financial Assistance to Industry	50,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Student Loan Advances	90,500,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Financial assistance under the Development Loans Program	5,000,000
Financial assistance under the New Brunswick Small Business Emergency Working Capital Loan Program.....	0
Voted.....	5,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Housing.....	3,224,000

 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2021-2022, 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, 2022:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services	5,440,542.12
COVID-19 Pandemic.....	5,921,293.64
Voted.....	11,361,835.76
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Aboriginal Affairs.....	70,000.00
Provision for Losses.....	461,858.81
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
COVID-19 Pandemic	20,680,200.39
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Energy and Mines	2,557,667.37

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment.....	2,554,957.77

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 Bills were introduced and read a first time:

- By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act.*
- By Hon. Mr. Fitch,
Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities.*
Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act.*
- By Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.,
Bill 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts.*
Bill 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act.*
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act.*
Bill 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown.*
- By Hon. Mr. Allain,
Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Hogan,
Bill 46, *Education Act*.

By Hon. Ms. Johnson,
Bill 47, *Livestock Health Act*.

By Hon. Mr. G. Savoie,
Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, 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.
May 9, 2023.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits a Bill entitled *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*, and having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends the same to the House.

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

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. G. Savoie,
Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,
Bill 50, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2021-2022 (1)*.
Bill 51, *Appropriations Act 2023-2024*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bills 50 and 51 were ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bills were read a second time:

Bill 50, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2021-2022 (1)*.
Bill 51, *Appropriations Act 2023-2024*.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 50, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2021-2022 (1)*.
Bill 51, *Appropriations Act 2023-2024*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Bills 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 33, 34, 35 and 24 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 33 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle 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 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 34 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety*, 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 35, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 35 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 3.18 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:

Response to Petition 10	March 31, 2023
Review of the <i>Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> , Minister's Report, Department of Finance and Treasury Board	March 31, 2023
Annual Report 2021-2022	
Elections New Brunswick	April 4, 2023
Response to Petition 11	April 5, 2023
Under the provisions of the <i>Fees Act</i> , information regarding fee changes for Crown Timber Royalty Rates under the <i>Crown Lands and Forests Act</i>	April 6, 2023
Report of the 2020-2024 New Brunswick Judicial Remuneration Commission	April 11, 2023
Under the provisions of the <i>Fees Act</i> , information regarding fee changes for Crown Timber Royalty Adjustment Rates under the <i>Private Woodlot Sustainability Act</i>	April 17, 2023
Strategic Plan 2.0, 2018-2027,	
Elections New Brunswick	April 20, 2023
Amended Final Report, Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission	April 24, 2023

Daily sitting 34

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker reminded Members to not refer to their fellow Members by name.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the Minister's Statement by Hon. Mr. Fitch was argumentative and lengthy. Mr. Speaker ruled the first point well taken, but advised that statements under five minutes were not considered lengthy.

Mr. Bourque, Member for Kent South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to upgrade Cails Mills and Emerson Roads. (Petition 12)

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

May 10, 2023

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 eighth report.

Your Committee met on May 9, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection 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 Mr. D'Amours,
Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 11, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Bill 52; Motion 19 and 22.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 38, 41, 43, 44, 47, 49, 39, 40, 42, 45, 46 and 48 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 38 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax 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 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 41 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts*, 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 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 43 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly 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 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 44 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown*, 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 47, *Livestock Health Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 47 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 47, *Livestock Health 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 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 49 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly 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 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, a debate arose thereon.

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

Hon. Mr. Hogan rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. McKee used unparliamentary language when he used the term “fudging the numbers”. Madam Deputy Speaker ruled the point well taken. Mr. McKee withdrew the remark.

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

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

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

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Under the provisions of the *Fees Act*, information
regarding fee changes under the *General
Regulation – Beverage Containers Act*

May 8, 2023

Daily sitting 35

Thursday, May 11, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. Green,

Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation.*

Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act.*

Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act.*

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, May 12, 2023, Bills 53, 54 and 55 would be called for second reading.

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, May 19, 2023, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 39, 40, 42, 45, 46 and 48 be called for second reading until noon; following which the House would recess until 2.30 p.m., at which time Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection Act.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, be now read a second time.

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

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 52 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*, was read a second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.2(6) Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 19, Mr. McKee moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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.

Daily sitting 36

Friday, May 12, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LePage offered condolences to the family of the late Jean-Paul Savoie, former Liberal MLA for Restigouche West (1987-1999).

Mr. Wetmore, from the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

May 12, 2023

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

Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present herewith the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers.

Your Committee's Report contains recommendations for the implementation of a legislative calendar by Special Order and for amendments to the Standing Rules governing sitting hours of the House and Routine Proceedings.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd. :) Ross Wetmore, M.L.A.
Chair

The full report of the Committee as presented follows:

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers begs leave to submit their First Report of the session. Your Committee met on January 10, February 21, March 23, April 28 and May 11 to consider Motion 10 and certain amendments to the Standing Rules.

Motion 10 was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on December 15, 2022, and directs your Committee to examine the options for a fixed legislative calendar and report back to the House with recommendations.

Your Committee recommends the implementation of a legislative calendar by Special Order, as outlined in this report, to allow the House the flexibility to modify and improve the calendar mechanism, if needed, before deciding on its adoption into the Standing Rules.

In addition, pursuant to its permanent order of reference, your Committee recommends amendments to the Standing Rules to modify the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the House on Thursdays and Fridays, and to add statements of condolence and congratulation as an item of business under Routine Proceedings, consistent with the practice in recent sessions, rather than at the end of the sitting day.

SPECIAL ORDER

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following Special Order:

THAT, notwithstanding any Standing Rule, Special Order, or usual practice of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following Special Order:

- (1) During each session, the House shall meet:
 - (a) in the Fall period from the third Tuesday in October to no later than the second Friday in December, excluding constituency and committee weeks, for a minimum of 24 sitting days, except when a provincial general election is held pursuant to subsection 3(4) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*; and
 - (b) in the Spring period from the third Tuesday in March to no later than the second Friday in June, excluding constituency and committee weeks, for a minimum of 24 sitting days.
- (2) The House and its Committees shall not meet during constituency weeks, which shall include:
 - (a) the week of Remembrance Day or the week preceding if it falls on a Saturday or Sunday;
 - (b) the first week of January;
 - (c) the week of Spring vacation as established by the regulations under the *Education Act*;
 - (d) the week following Spring vacation.
- (3) During any period of adjournment, including constituency and committee weeks, if the Government advises the Speaker that the public interest requires the House to meet on an earlier day, and the Speaker is so satisfied, the Speaker may give notice that the House shall meet and in such notice shall state a day on which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet on the day so stated to transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that day.

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- (4) Before the House adjourns for the Summer recess, the Government House Leader shall move a sessional calendar motion, without notice, that indicates the days on which the House shall meet in the Fall period in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order and said motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.
- (5) Before the House adjourns for the Winter recess, the Government House Leader shall move a sessional calendar motion, without notice, that indicates the days on which the House shall meet in the Spring period in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order and said motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.
- (6) The House shall meet and adjourn on the days so stated in the motions moved and decided pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Special Order subject to any subsequent amendments adopted in accordance with paragraph (7).
- (7) Despite paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Special Order, on motion of the Government House Leader, with notice, the House may amend a sessional calendar adopted pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5), to meet on a day or days the House was not scheduled to meet, or to not meet on a day or days the House was scheduled to meet, and said motion shall be decided without amendment and any debate shall be limited to one hour in duration and no Member shall speak for longer than ten minutes.
- (8) This Special Order shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 60th Legislature unless adopted as an amendment to the Standing Rules by motion of the House, with the necessary modifications.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING RULES

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following amendments to the Standing Rules:

1. Standing Rule 29 is repealed and the following is substituted:

29 Unless otherwise provided by Standing or Special Order of the House, the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly shall be as follows:

Tuesday	1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Thursday	1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Friday	9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
2. In Standing Rule 30, subrules (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3) are repealed.

3. Standing Rule 35 is amended by adding “Statements of Condolence and Congratulation.” after “Introduction of Guests.”
4. The Standing Rules are amended by adding after Standing Rule 35.3 the following:
 - 35.4(1) A maximum of ten minutes shall be allocated to the item of routine business “Statements of Condolence and Congratulation”.
 - 35.4(2) A Member making a statement of condolence or a statement of congratulation shall speak for no more than sixty seconds.
5. In Standing Rule 44, subrule (1) is repealed and the following is substituted:
 - 44(1) The first Order of the Day commencing on the second Thursday of the session shall be “Opposition Members’ Business” which shall have precedence over all other business of the House except the ordinary daily routine of business.
6. In Standing Rule 105,
 - a. subrule (1) is amended by striking out “six” and substituting “five”;
 - b. subrule (3) is amended by striking out “sixth” and substituting “fifth”.
7. In Standing Rule 106,
 - a. subrule (3) is amended by striking out “six” and substituting “five”;
 - b. subrule (4) is amended by striking out “sixth” and substituting “fifth”.

Ordered that the report be received, and leave granted.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,
*Bill 56, An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and
Drilling.*

Hon. Mr. Holland gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ames:

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station has been operational since 1983, making nuclear energy a fundamental part of New Brunswick’s energy mix for the last 40 years;

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station underwent a refurbishment to extend its life to continue to provide clean electricity for 30 more years;

WHEREAS the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station contributes significantly to the New Brunswick economy, providing 2 700 direct and indirect jobs, \$287 million in provincial GDP, and \$29 million in provincial revenue;

WHEREAS the province has supported the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) in New Brunswick since 2018, under two different governments;

WHEREAS the province has invested significantly in two advanced small modular reactor vendors, ARC Clean Technology and Moltex Energy, to support the development of the technology in the province, including research capabilities at the University of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS advanced small modular reactors have the potential to revitalize New Brunswick's nuclear supply chain, support local industries across the province, and provide significant economic benefits;

WHEREAS nuclear energy can play a crucial role in helping the province achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS the province is committed to a clean electricity grid by 2035, with already 80% of in-province electricity coming from clean sources, including wind, hydro, and nuclear;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick commit to the long-term support of the nuclear sector in New Brunswick and the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support the development of advanced small modular reactors in New Brunswick.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mallet:

WHEREAS the housing crisis is one of the biggest issues currently looming over the province, threatening to cripple New Brunswick's growth and impair the quality of life of its residents;

WHEREAS households are struggling to make ends meet with the cost-of-living pressures on individuals and families at an all-time high;

WHEREAS housing prices in New Brunswick have risen faster than virtually any other province in the country;

WHEREAS the lack of access to appropriate housing has a significant impact on overall well-being, leading to significant impacts on health, education, population growth, and economic development;

WHEREAS the number of people waiting for NB Housing assistance is increasing steadily;

WHEREAS the state of NB Housing units is declining across the province because of the lack of maintenance;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase the existing subsidy programs for public, private, and not-for-profit developments through NB Housing to better reflect the rising cost of living and market conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase the number of provincially subsidized housing units across the province by 500 units each year, starting this year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish an inspection and enforcement process for the maintenance of provincially subsidized housing to ensure New Brunswickers are living in healthy and habitable conditions.

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the housing crisis is one of the biggest issues currently looming over the province, threatening to cripple New Brunswick's growth and the quality of life of its residents;

WHEREAS the provincial government owns various types of properties, such as vacant lots, unused buildings, and other real estate assets, and such Crown properties can play a significant role in addressing the housing crisis in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS municipalities and nonprofits see the opportunity to leverage these Crown properties and have expressed serious interest in repurposing them to develop affordable housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to evaluate surplus Crown properties for sale or development as affordable housing as a priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to review policies, funding programs, and the public engagement process to assess opportunities to leverage surplus Crown properties by partnering with municipalities, nonprofits, and private developers to create additional affordability stock;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to engage municipalities for the repurposing of structures at least a year before they are vacated in order to navigate the long acquisition and conversion process.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie requested the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Statements by Ministers, and unanimous consent was denied.

And then, 10.14 a.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 37

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

May 16, 2023

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 ninth report.

Your Committee met on May 12, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*;
Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety*;
Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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 Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Ames,
Bill 57, *An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the Cosmetology Association of New Brunswick*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Ms. Mitton requested leave of the House to move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon: (Motion 43)

WHEREAS Policy 713, introduced in 2020, lays out the minimum requirements for schools to create a safe, welcoming learning environment for all students, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity;

WHEREAS the provisions of Policy 713 are aligned with fundamental rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the New Brunswick *Human Rights Act*;

WHEREAS the Department of Education has confirmed that Policy 713 is under review;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly express support for Policy 713;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government not to weaken Policy 713.

Leave to dispense with notice of Motion 43 was denied. Accordingly, notice was given for Thursday, May 25, 2023.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 39, 32, 40, 42, 45, 46, 48, 53, 54 and 55 be called for second reading until 4 p.m.; following which the House would adjourn.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, be now read a second time.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker introduced the summer tour guides: Lily Collier, Micheline Desaulniers and Maxim Marmen.

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

And then, 4.01 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2021
Supervisor of Political Financing

May 12, 2023

Daily sitting 38

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

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

May 17, 2023

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 tenth report.

Your Committee met on May 16, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

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.

Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 44 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, information, memos, records, and correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including e-mails, mobile-to-mobile device communication, PINs, and text messages that have led to the review of Policy 713.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 31; Third Party item.

Mr. Arseneau gave notice that the Third Party item would be Bill 56.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, deferred third reading of Bill 30 to Thursday, June 15, 2023, and announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 39, 32, 40, 42, 45, 46, 48, 53, 54 and 55 be called for second reading.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety*.

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

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, be now read a second time.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 39 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 24

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

NAYS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Bourque
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Losier
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry

Accordingly, Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, 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 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton, 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 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*, 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 negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 3

Mr. Coon

Ms. Mitton

Mr. Arseneau

NAYS - 38

Hon. Mr. Holder

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie

Hon. Ms. Shephard

Hon. Mr. Flemming

Hon. Mr. Fitch

Hon. Mr. Holland

Hon. Mr. R. Savoie

Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace

Hon. Ms. Dunn

Hon. Mr. Crossman

Hon. Ms. Johnson

Hon. Mr. Allain

Hon. Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. Austin

Mr. Turner

Ms. S. Wilson

Ms. M. Wilson

Mr. Cullins

Ms. Anderson-Mason

Mr. Wetmore

Mr. Ames

Mr. Dawson

Ms. Bockus

Ms. Conroy

Mr. Arseneault

Mr. Legacy

Mr. McKee

Mr. Gauvin

Mr. C. Chiasson

Mr. J. LeBlanc

Mr. K. Chiasson

Mr. D'Amours

Mr. LePage

Mr. Bourque

Mr. Mallet

Mr. Losier

Mr. M. LeBlanc

Ms. Landry

And the question being put that Bill 32 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*, 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 40, *Health Facilities Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 40 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Turner	

NAYS - 16

Mr. Arseneault	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Legacy	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	
Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet	

Accordingly, Bill 40, *Health Facilities 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 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 42 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication 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 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 45 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 5.56 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:

Report of the Municipal Electoral Officer, Local Government Elections, November 28, 2022, Elections New Brunswick	May 15, 2023
Findings and Recommendations, Results of the Advocate's Investigation into Decisions of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to Place Policy 713 Under Review, Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate	May 16, 2023

Daily sitting 39

Thursday, May 18, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 45 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS, through a partnership between Hunters Helping the Hungry and Feed Nova Scotia, hunters in Nova Scotia have been able to supply hundreds of kilograms of deer and moose meat to food banks and meal programs across Nova Scotia since 2006;

WHEREAS, under this program, hunters can bring harvested deer and moose to a participating licensed meat cutter and Feed Nova Scotia will pick up and distribute the meat;

WHEREAS British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan all have programs that support the supply of wild meat to food banks;

WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Brunswick Department of Health launched a pilot project in Saint Andrews to permit the harvesting of deer meat under Department of Health protocols for distribution to local food banks;

WHEREAS the program was a collaborative effort between the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, and the Town of Saint Andrews;

WHEREAS, if it were expanded, such a program could be invaluable in helping supply food banks across the province with much-needed protein;

WHEREAS the inflation on costs of food, and particularly healthy food, has impacted the buying power of New Brunswickers, and Statistics Canada indicates that the yearly inflation rate for New Brunswick in 2022 was 7.4%;

WHEREAS food banks in New Brunswick have seen their number of clients rise drastically - on average, over 30% in 2022 - according to Stephane Sirois, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Food Depot;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to work with communities and community organizations to assist in expanding this wild game distribution program throughout the province by the fall of 2023.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 48, 53, 54, 55 and 46 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 48 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick 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 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 53 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*, 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 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 54 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment 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 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 31, Mr. Bourque moved, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are facing many challenges related to rapidly rising rents and housing affordability;

WHEREAS the government lifted the rent cap without putting a comprehensive housing plan in place;

WHEREAS there may be a perceived or real inequality of power that favours the landlord over a tenant in a rent increase dispute where the onus is on the tenant to prove that the rent increase is unreasonable;

WHEREAS the definition of unreasonable is vague and arbitrary in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS there is a backlog of reviews at the Residential Tenancies Tribunal, causing undue hardship for New Brunswickers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to prepare guidelines to better define reasonable increases and possible reasons for permitting increases in excess of the guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend *The Residential Tenancies Act* to require that the burden of proof be placed on any landlord applying for an increase in excess of the established guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide a mechanism and support whereby the rent increase applications may be adjudicated on a regional basis.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 31 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

Mr. Legacy	Mr. Coon	Mr. Bourque
Ms. Holt	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Mallet
Mr. McKee	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Losier
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. LePage	Ms. Landry

NAYS - 24

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 56, *An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason took the chair.

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

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

Daily sitting 40

Friday, May 19, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Fitch,

Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

Mr. K. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 46 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the opportunity to be an environmental leader powered by affordable clean energy that will be sustainable for future generations;

WHEREAS New Brunswick must continue to reduce our carbon footprint to achieve net zero/carbon neutrality by adopting blue, green, and clean technologies, modernizing infrastructure, and electrifying transportation;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's demand for clean, reliable, efficient, and affordable energy is currently straining resources and will continue to grow into the future;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a range of energy generating infrastructure at various stages of lifecycle; including the Mactaquac hydro facility, the NB Power Belledune Generating Station, and the Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has shared plans to deliver a clean electricity strategy by 2025;

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship adopted on February 17, 2023, a motion to hold public hearings on a clean energy strategy, whose conclusions must be finalized by the committee by October 1, 2023;

WHEREAS a comprehensive energy strategy in 2023 would provide a roadmap for optimizing energy production, promoting energy efficiency, and integrating renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS there are current opportunities for New Brunswick to play a role in the clean energy economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expedite the development of a comprehensive energy strategy that recognizes the need for reliable baseline power and focuses on increased renewable energy sources encompassing the following key elements:

- a. a full inventory of current generating infrastructure including current production capacity and current and projected gaps in demand;
- b. the identification and evaluation of our region's renewable energy potential, including wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal resources and other energy sources including nuclear;
- c. a commitment to stop further development of fossil fuels, including those from fracking and drilling;
- d. a plan for the electrification of New Brunswick, including the development of a smart grid that will allow for and incentivize the adoption of community-level power production;
- e. the fostering of partnerships with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders, and industry experts to ensure inclusivity and maximize collaboration;
- f. a plan to increase public awareness, engagement, and education through targeted communication campaigns and community outreach programs;
- g. a review and update of existing energy-related legislation to align with the goals of the comprehensive strategy in order to attract private investment in clean energy projects and take advantage of economic opportunities related to clean energy and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the strategy.

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 47 that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson:

WHEREAS it is crucial that our education system provide the best education possible to provide students with the knowledge and abilities that position them for future success;

WHEREAS educational experts agree that decisions related to changes to educational programming and curriculum should be based on educational expertise, evaluations, assessments, and data, as opposed to political considerations that often involve personal biases and other inappropriate considerations;

WHEREAS the Auditor General found that the education system was suffering from instability caused by frequent changes to educational strategy, which shifts the focus away from educating students;

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate criticized the government for its political interference in Policy 713;

WHEREAS a former Deputy Minister of Education echoed the concerns expressed by the Auditor General and noted that there have been 37 major changes to our education system in the last 35 years and expressed an opinion that changes to education should be well thought out, researched, planned, and properly implemented, rather than sparked by political motives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put the proper safeguards in place that would prevent decisions being made by this government and successive governments based on political considerations as opposed to evidence and expertise.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Presentations of Petitions.

Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 13)

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, Bill 58 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 37, 55 and 46 be called for second reading.

At 10.24 a.m. the House recessed. At 10.28 a.m. the House resumed.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 37 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 55 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies 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 46, *Education Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

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

Daily sitting 41

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

June 6, 2023

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 eleventh report.

Your Committee met on May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*;
Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*;
Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*;
Bill 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts*;
Bill 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act*;
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*;
Bill 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown*;
Bill 47, *Livestock Health Act*;
Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*;
Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*;
Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*;
Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*;
Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*;
Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 48 that on Thursday, June 15, 2023, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a copy of the agreement between the Province of New Brunswick and the Comité pour l'égalité en santé that established that each regional health authority would have eight elected board members and seven board members appointed by the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 58 and 46 be called for second reading until 3 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 58 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, 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 46, *Education 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 after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of adjournment had arrived.

And then, 3 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petition 12

May 26, 2023

Daily sitting 42

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to revoke the operating permit of Coastal Shell Products in Richibucto. (Petition 14)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,

Bill 59, An Act to Amend the Electricity Act.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, June 8, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Third Party item; Motion 36 and 46.

Mr. Arseneau gave notice that the Third Party item would be Bill 56.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 46 be called for second reading until 12 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 31 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Cardy
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson	
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Cullins	

NAYS - 17

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Mr. Coon	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.
Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.
Bill 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts*.
Bill 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act*.
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*.
Bill 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown*.
Bill 47, *Livestock Health Act*.
Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act*.
Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*.
Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation*.
Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 55 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, was read a third time and passed.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time, moved by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, on June 6, 2023.

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

And then, 12 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 43

Thursday, June 8, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Statements by Ministers, Mr. Arseneau rose on a point of order and submitted that government announcements on policy and matters of public interest should be made in the House. Mr. Arseneault and Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and advised that as a sign of respect for the institution, Ministers should deliver important announcements in the House if it is sitting that day.

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

June 8, 2023

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 twelfth report.

Your Committee met on June 6 and 7, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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 Mr. C. Chiasson,
Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House recess until 2.30 p.m.; at which time Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

At 11.23 a.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 56, *An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling*, be now read a second time.

At 3 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.09 p.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 56 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 36, Mr. D'Amours moved, on behalf of Mr. LePage, seconded by Ms. Landry:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic brought home the reality that if we do not improve air quality systems in government buildings like schools, hospitals, and institutions, we increase the risk of the spread of airborne illnesses;

WHEREAS air quality in these buildings must be improved for the safety and well-being of patients, healthcare workers, students, educators, employees, and all who enter these buildings;

WHEREAS, while other Maritime Provinces like PEI and Nova Scotia are making strategic investments in systems that improve air quality and ventilation through programs like the federal COVID-19 resilience fund, New Brunswick has not yet made these investments a priority;

WHEREAS there are many regions of the province where air quality is diminished due to airborne pollutants, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents;

WHEREAS reducing pollutants and improving air quality and thus improving community and environmental health should be a priority of government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to modernize New Brunswick's air quality laws and standards with a goal of bringing forward a strengthened *Clean Air Act* and modernized regulations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report, and improve air quality systems in public buildings like hospitals, schools, and government buildings to mitigate the risks associated with the transfer of airborne illnesses, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Turner, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 36 be amended by deleting the third whereas clause.

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

At 4.05 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.18 p.m. the House resumed.

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

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 36 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic brought home the reality that if we do not improve air quality systems in government buildings like schools, hospitals, and institutions, we increase the risk of the spread of airborne illnesses;

WHEREAS air quality in these buildings must be improved for the safety and well-being of patients, healthcare workers, students, educators, employees, and all who enter these buildings;

WHEREAS there are many regions of the province where air quality is diminished due to airborne pollutants, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents;

WHEREAS reducing pollutants and improving air quality and thus improving community and environmental health should be a priority of government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to modernize New Brunswick's air quality laws and standards with a goal of bringing forward a strengthened *Clean Air Act* and modernized regulations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report, and improve air quality systems in public buildings like hospitals, schools, and government buildings to mitigate the risks associated with the transfer of airborne illnesses, airborne contaminants, and other harmful agents.

And the question being put, Motion 36 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 44

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. Gauvin
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Coon
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Ms. M. Wilson	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. Cullins	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Ames	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Dawson	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Bockus	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Arseneau
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Legacy	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Allain	Ms. Holt	Ms. Landry
Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. McKee	Mr. Cardy
Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Thériault	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 46, Mr. K. Chiasson moved, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS New Brunswick has the opportunity to be an environmental leader powered by affordable clean energy that will be sustainable for future generations;

WHEREAS New Brunswick must continue to reduce our carbon footprint to achieve net zero/carbon neutrality by adopting blue, green, and clean technologies, modernizing infrastructure, and electrifying transportation;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's demand for clean, reliable, efficient, and affordable energy is currently straining resources and will continue to grow into the future;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a range of energy generating infrastructure at various stages of lifecycle; including the Mactaquac hydro facility, the NB Power Belledune Generating Station, and the Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station;

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has shared plans to deliver a clean electricity strategy by 2025;

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship adopted on February 17, 2023, a motion to hold public hearings on a clean energy strategy, whose conclusions must be finalized by the committee by October 1, 2023;

WHEREAS a comprehensive energy strategy in 2023 would provide a roadmap for optimizing energy production, promoting energy efficiency, and integrating renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS there are current opportunities for New Brunswick to play a role in the clean energy economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expedite the development of a comprehensive energy strategy that recognizes the need for reliable baseline power and focuses on increased renewable energy sources encompassing the following key elements:

- a. a full inventory of current generating infrastructure including current production capacity and current and projected gaps in demand;
- b. the identification and evaluation of our region's renewable energy potential, including wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal resources and other energy sources including nuclear;
- c. a commitment to stop further development of fossil fuels, including those from fracking and drilling;
- d. a plan for the electrification of New Brunswick, including the development of a smart grid that will allow for and incentivize the adoption of community-level power production;

- e. the fostering of partnerships with Indigenous communities, local stakeholders, and industry experts to ensure inclusivity and maximize collaboration;
- f. a plan to increase public awareness, engagement, and education through targeted communication campaigns and community outreach programs;
- g. a review and update of existing energy-related legislation to align with the goals of the comprehensive strategy in order to attract private investment in clean energy projects and take advantage of economic opportunities related to clean energy and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the strategy.

And the question being put, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petition 13

June 7, 2023

Daily sitting 44

Friday, June 9, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to not change public school Policy 713. (Petition 15)

Mr. Cullins gave Notice of Motion 49 that on Thursday, June 15, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 12 hours allocated for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bills 30, 32, 37, 39, 40, 45, 46, 52, and 58 which shall include the hours spent considering said Bills from June 9, 2023, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 12 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in committee and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills; and where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day;

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 12 hours, there shall be, if necessary, 20 minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of any of the said Bills, if requested by the Government House Leader.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Notice of Motion 49 was out of order as it infringed on the rights of the minority by restricting debate. Mr. Arseneau and Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Ms. Holt gave Notice of Motion 50 that on Thursday, June 15, 2023, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Landry:

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate, the New Brunswick Women's Council, the minister responsible for the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*, and the Human Rights Commission have identified serious problems with the process to review Policy 713;

WHEREAS the changes proposed in the new version of Policy 713 disregard the rights of children and youth and the best interest of the child;

WHEREAS members of this House and the public have expressed their extreme disappointment in a lack of process and transparency, notably around this review;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to revert to the version of Policy 713 from August 2020.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 46 be called for second reading until 12 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Ms. Mitton, 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:

"Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, be not now read a third time but that the bill be read a third time this day six months hence."

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 on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 17

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. McKee	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

NAYS - 27

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Cardy

And the question being put that Bill 39 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 26

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

NAYS - 19

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Losier
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Ms. Landry
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Cardy
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Bourque	
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet	

Accordingly, Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities*, was read a third time and passed.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time, moved by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, on June 6, 2023.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson, 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 adjournment had arrived.

And then, 12 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 45

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Arseneau, Member for Kent North, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to revoke the operating permit of Coastal Shell Products in Richibucto. (Petition 16)

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 46 be called for second reading.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time, moved by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Arseneault, on June 6, 2023.

And the debate being ended on the amendment, and the question being put, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 21

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Losier
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. McKee	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Ms. Thériault	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet	Mr. Wetmore

NAYS - 24

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Turner
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Conroy

Debate resumed.

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.

And then, 5.10 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Legislative Analysis, Results of the Advocate's
review of proposed changes to Policy 713
by the Department of Education, Office
of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate

June 12, 2023

Daily sitting 46

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. Mitton rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Holland used unparliamentary language when he used the term “misleading conversation” in reference to Mr. Coon. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the Minister’s Statement delivered by Hon. Ms. Johnson contained arguments and observations contrary to the Standing Rules. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that the reply by Ms. Thériault to a Minister’s Statement was not on topic. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

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

June 14, 2023

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 thirteenth report.

Your Committee met on June 8, 9 and 13, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

(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.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, June 15, 2023, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 50, Bill 52 and Motion 47.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 46 be called for second reading until 12 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time.

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

And then, 12 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 47

Thursday, June 15, 2023

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

At 10.03 a.m. the House recessed due to technical difficulties with the sound and interpretation system. At 10.14 a.m. the House resumed.

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

June 15, 2023

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 fourteenth report.

Your Committee met on June 14, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act*;

and have made certain progress therein.

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.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and inquired about the points of order taken under advisement the previous sitting day. Mr. Speaker stated that he had reviewed the proceedings and found that both points were not well taken.

At 11.20 a.m. the House recessed. At 11:46 a.m. the House resumed.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 46 be called for second reading; following which the House would consider Motion 49; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 46, *Education Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 46 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 27

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	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

NAYS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 46, *Education Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members,

I am now prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader on June 9 with respect to Notice of Motion 49, which is a time allocation motion.

The wording of Notice of Motion 49, introduced by the Member for Fredericton-York, is virtually identical to the wording and process outlined in previous time allocation motions. All of which have been moved by a Private Member, applied to multiple Bills, and ruled to be in order by me and two previous Speakers. In fact, this will be my fourth ruling on the issue in less than two years.

As I have indicated in my previous three rulings, it is not for the Speaker to determine how much time is “reasonable” to spend considering a Bill or several Bills. That is a decision for the House to make. And if the House wishes to change or clarify how time allocation is applied to proposed legislation, it should do so by amending the Standing Rules. Until then, this is the practice that has developed in our House.

Accordingly, I find Notice of Motion 49 to be in order and will allow it to proceed to debate.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 49, Mr. Cullins moved, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 12 hours allocated for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bills 30, 32, 37, 39, 40, 45, 46, 52 and 58 which shall include the hours spent considering said Bills from June 9, 2023, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 12 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in committee and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills; and where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day;

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 12 hours, there shall be, if necessary, 20 minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of any of the said Bills, if requested by the Government House Leader.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 49 be amended in both clauses by striking out “12 hours” and substituting “25 hours”.

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

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie requested the unanimous consent of the House to remove Bill 46 from Motion 49.

At 2.09 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.18 p.m. the House resumed.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to remove Bill 46 from Motion 49.

Ms. Mitton requested the unanimous consent of the House to remove Bills 40 and 45 from Motion 49, and unanimous consent was denied.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was defeated on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

 NAYS - 26

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

And the question being put on Motion 49, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	

NAYS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

It was agreed by unanimous consent to delay Opposition Members' Business to allow Bill 30 to be ordered for third reading forthwith.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

At 2.36 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.51 p.m. the House resumed.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 50, Ms. Holt moved, seconded by Ms. Landry:

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate, the New Brunswick Women's Council, the minister responsible for the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*, and the Human Rights Commission have identified serious problems with the process to review Policy 713;

WHEREAS the changes proposed in the new version of Policy 713 disregard the rights of children and youth and the best interest of the child;

WHEREAS members of this House and the public have expressed their extreme disappointment in a lack of process and transparency, notably around this review;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to revert to the version of Policy 713 from August 2020.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. C. Chiasson, seconded by Ms. Landry, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 50 be amended by striking out the resolution clause and substituting the following:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to request that the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate conduct full consultations with relevant stakeholders on any changes to Policy 713 and the impact of such changes, and make public the results of such consultations by August 15, 2023.”

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 on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 26

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Ms. Landry
Mr. Legacy	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Cardy
Ms. Holt	Mr. D'Amours	Hon. Mr. Holder
Mr. McKee	Mr. LePage	Hon. Ms. Shephard
Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque	Hon. Mr. Allain
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Mallet	Hon. Mr. Carr
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Arseneau	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Mr. Coon	Mr. Losier	Mr. Wetmore
Ms. Mitton	Mr. M. LeBlanc	

NAYS - 20

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 50 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Child and Youth Advocate, the New Brunswick Women's Council, the minister responsible for the *Child and Youth Well-Being Act*, and the Human Rights Commission have identified serious problems with the process to review Policy 713;

WHEREAS the changes proposed in the new version of Policy 713 disregard the rights of children and youth and the best interest of the child;

WHEREAS members of this House and the public have expressed their extreme disappointment in a lack of process and transparency, notably around this review;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to request that the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate conduct full consultations with relevant stakeholders on any changes to Policy 713 and the impact of such changes, and make public the results of such consultations by August 15, 2023.

And the question being put, Motion 50 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 26

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Ms. Landry
Mr. Legacy	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Cardy
Ms. Holt	Mr. D'Amours	Hon. Mr. Holder
Mr. McKee	Mr. LePage	Hon. Ms. Shephard
Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque	Hon. Mr. Allain
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Mallet	Hon. Mr. Carr
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Arseneau	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Mr. Coon	Mr. Losier	Mr. Wetmore
Ms. Mitton	Mr. M. LeBlanc	

NAYS - 20

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. S. Wilson	

At the request of Mr. Arseneault, it was agreed by unanimous consent to discharge the order referring Bill 52 to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy and proceed to third reading forthwith.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At the requests of Ms. Conroy, it was agreed by unanimous consents to amend or add the following provisions to Bill 52: section 0.1; section 1; subparagraph 5(1)(c)(0.1); section 6; section 31.1; section 32; and paragraph 35(e.1).

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 52 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act*, was read a third time and passed.

And then, 5.37 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 48

Friday, June 16, 2023

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 17)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. LePage,

Bill 61, *An Act to Amend the Environmental Trust Fund Act*.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House recess until such time as the Economic Policy Committee had completed its work; following which Bills 32 and 37 would be called for third reading.

At 9.51 a.m. the House recessed. At 1.21 p.m. the House resumed.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Presentations of Committee Reports.

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

June 16, 2023

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 fifteenth report.

Your Committee met on June 16, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act*;
Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

Your Committee also had under consideration:

Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*;

and have agreed to the same with certain amendments.

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 on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 44

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. McKee
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Turner	Ms. Thériault
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Gauvin
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Mr. Cullins	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Ms. Anderson-Mason	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Ames	Mr. LePage
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Dawson	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Dunn	Ms. Bockus	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Shephard	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Arseneault	Ms. Landry
Hon. Mr. Hogan	Mr. Legacy	Mr. Cardy
Hon. Mr. Austin	Ms. Holt	

NAYS - 3

Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
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The Order being read for third reading of Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that pursuant to Motion 49, the time allocated for debate had expired.

And the question being put that Bill 32 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, the motion for third reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 28

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

NAYS - 18

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

Accordingly, Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act*, the motion for third reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 28

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

 NAYS - 19

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*, the motion for third reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 28

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

NAYS - 19

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bill was read a third time:

Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 51)

THAT the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be concurred in by the House.

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

On motion of Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to paragraph (4) of the Special Order adopted by the House on June 16, 2023, the House shall meet in the Fall period on the following days:

October 17 to October 20;
October 24 to October 27;
October 31 to November 3;
November 21 to November 24;
November 28 to December 1;
December 5 to December 8.

Her Honour, the Administrator, was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker addressed Her Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick has passed several Bills at the present sittings of the Legislature to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

The Clerk Assistant then read the titles of the Bills as follows:

- Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act.*
Bill 29, *Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection Act.*
Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act.*
Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Nursing Homes Act.*
Bill 32, *An Act Respecting Transferring Powers to the Energy and Utilities Board.*
Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act.*
Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Highway Safety.*
Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act.*
Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act.*
Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act.*
Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities.*
Bill 40, *Health Facilities Act.*
Bill 41, *An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts.*
Bill 42, *Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act.*
Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act.*
Bill 44, *An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown.*
Bill 45, *Local Governance Commission Act.*
Bill 47, *Livestock Health Act.*
Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act.*
Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act.*
Bill 50, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2021-2022 (1).*
Bill 52, *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act.*
Bill 53, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation.*
Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act.*
Bill 55, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act.*
Bill 58, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act.*

Her Honour signified Her Assent as follows:

It is the King's wish. Le roi le veut.

To these Bills, Her Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:

In His Majesty's name, Her Honour the Administrator assents to these Bills, enacting the same and ordering them to be enrolled.

Mr. Speaker then addressed Her Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly having devoted itself with unremitting diligence to the consideration of the several subjects referred to in the speech Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to deliver at the opening of the session, and to other matters of interest to the people of the province, humbly begs to present for your Honour's acceptance a Bill intituled *Appropriations Act 2023-2024*. (Bill 51)

Her Honour replied:

It is the King's wish. Le roi le veut.

To this Bill, Her Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk in the following words:

Her Honour thanks His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this Bill.

Her Honour then retired and Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And then, 2.17 p.m., the House adjourned.

Daily sitting 49

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

11 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable Brenda Murphy, Lieutenant-Governor, was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took her seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Her Honour was pleased to close the session with the following speech:

Members of the Legislative Assembly, good morning.

As we gather this morning for the prorogation of the second session of the 60th Legislative Assembly, I think it is important to acknowledge the global turbulence that we are experiencing, from the war in Ukraine to the horror in the Middle East. Even here in North America, where we have the privilege of living in peace and freedom, we are feeling the impacts of growing polarization and division. We are very fortunate to live in New Brunswick, in Canada, where we pride ourselves in espousing equality, diversity, inclusion, and acceptance. We cannot, however, take these things for granted. Upholding these values needs to remain a priority. If those are the values we believe in, it becomes our shared responsibility to safeguard them.

It is our shared responsibility to uphold Canadian values such as diversity, inclusion, and equity, and we must remain vigilant in safeguarding them. We have a great deal to be proud of as New Brunswickers and Canadians.

We are also fortunate in having stable democratic institutions. Whatever your political persuasion, it is up to you, as elected representatives, to safeguard them and to ensure that our system works for everyone in our province. I invite you to set aside party politics when you debate important issues and make decisions that affect New Brunswickers. Do not forget that they are the ones who chose you to represent them in this Assembly.

Combined, your 49 voices represent all New Brunswickers. The people who have chosen you to make decisions on their behalf have high expectations that this Legislative Assembly will model respect, compromise, and empathy. Trust in our democratic institutions and in our elected leaders is key to a healthy and prosperous society, especially at a time when misinformation can spread so easily. By maintaining a higher level of discourse, you will prove yourselves to be worthy of that trust. You will be strong role models for all New Brunswickers.

I urge you to take the time to understand different perspectives, to debate your points of view honourably, and to find common ground that will lead to substantive and sustainable progress. You have the power to be actors of change and difference makers for your constituents. You can demonstrate leadership through social cohesion and harmony. Ultimately, you are the stewards of the land, the resources, and most importantly, the welfare of people from all walks of life.

The decisions you make here have an impact on New Brunswickers' quality of life, not only today, but also for generations to come. Do not take this responsibility lightly. I am sure that, when we move on to the opening of the third session of the 60th Legislative Assembly in this historic Chamber, the actions you take, the decisions you make, and the decorum you maintain will be worthy of it.

Now, with the completion of the business of the second session of the 60th Legislative Assembly, it is my responsibility and my privilege to issue the command of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada, that this legislature stand prorogued.

May Divine Providence continue to guide and bless the people of New Brunswick.

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Shayne Davies, then said:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until 1 o'clock p.m. today, and this Legislative Assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly.

The House prorogued at 11.13 a.m.

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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2022-2023 Office of the Public Intervener, A Unit of the Office of the Attorney General	June 20, 2023
2022 Recycle NB	June 29, 2023
2022 WorkSafe NB	July 17, 2023

2022 New Brunswick <i>Firefighters' Compensation Act</i> Disability Fund	July 17, 2023
2022-2023 Horizon Health Network	July 20, 2023
2021-2022 Extra Mural/Ambulance New Brunswick	July 26, 2023
2022-2023 Vitalité Health Network	August 2, 2023
2022-2023 New Brunswick Health Council	August 3, 2023
2022-2023 New Brunswick Power Corporation	August 8, 2023
2022-2023 Elections New Brunswick	August 15, 2023
2022-2023 Midwifery Council of New Brunswick	August 22, 2023
2022-2023 New Brunswick Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation	September 5, 2023
2022-2023 Financial and Consumer Services Commission	September 5, 2023
2021-2022 New Brunswick Lotteries and Gaming Corporation	September 13, 2023
2021 New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation	September 14, 2023
2021-2022 Cannabis Management Corporation	September 14, 2023
2020-2021 New Brunswick Police Commission	September 18, 2023
2020-2021 Regional Development Corporation	September 26, 2023
2022-2023 Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	September 28, 2023
2022-2023 New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board	September 29, 2023
2022 New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation	October 16, 2023

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New Brunswick Power Corporation, Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2023	July 21, 2023
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