



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK Second Session, 60th Legislative Assembly

**ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 14
Wednesday, November 23, 2022**

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Prayers
Introduction of Guests
Statements of Condolence and Congratulation
Statements by Members
Oral Questions (30 minutes)
Tabling of Documents
Statements by Ministers
Presentations of Petitions
Answers to Petitions and Written Questions
Presentations of Committee Reports
Introduction of Bills
Notices of Motions
Notice of Opposition Members' Business
Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
Deferred Recorded Divisions
Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Bill 21, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Health Council Act – Hon. Mr. Fitch

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Bill 3, An Act Respecting Surgical Facilities – Hon. Mr. Fitch

Bill 6, An Act Respecting the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act and the Wills Act
– Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.

Bill 10, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

Bill 11, An Act Respecting the Health and Safety of Fishers – Hon. Mr. Holder

Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act – Hon. Mr. Holder

Bill 14, An Act Respecting the Assessment Act – Hon. Ms. Green

Bill 15, An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing – Hon. Mr. Holland

Bill 16, An Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022, no. 2 – Hon. Mr. Allain

Bill 17, Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Bill 18, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Museum Act – Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace

Bill 19, Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.

Bill 20, Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.

BILLS AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Works Act – Hon. Mr. Carr

Bill 5, Missing Persons Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Bill 7, Private Woodlot Sustainability Act – Hon. Mr. Holland

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Elections Act – Mr. McKee

Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion 15 by Hon. Mr. Steeves, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, December 6, 2022:

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

CONCLUDED

Motion 5 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie. Carried October 28, 2022.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 2 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. Gauvin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 3, 2022:

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.

Motion 3 by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. Bourque to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 3, 2022:

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.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

Motion 4 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 3, 2022:

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.

Motion 6 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 10, 2022:

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.

Motion 9 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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.

Motion 10 by Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. Mallet to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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.

Motion 11 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Bourque to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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.

Motion 12 by Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. Gauvin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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*.

Motion 13 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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.

Motion 14 by Mr. C. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 24, 2022:

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.

Motion 16 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 1, 2022:

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

CONCLUDED

Motion 1 by Ms. Landry. Debated and defeated November 3, 2022.

Motion 7 by Mr. Legacy. Debated and defeated November 17, 2022.

Motion 8 by Mr. Coon. Withdrawn November 17, 2022.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Mr. LeBlanc, October 28, 2022.

(Response, November 16, 2022)

Petition 2: Mr. Coon, November 1, 2022.

Petition 3: Mr. Arseneau, November 2, 2022.

Petition 4: Mr. Arseneault, November 3, 2022.

Petition 5: Ms. Mitton, November 3, 2022.

Petition 6: Mr. LePage, November 3, 2022.

Petition 7: Ms. Mitton, November 15, 2022.

Petition 8: Mr. Arseneau, November 15, 2022.

Petition 9: Mr. Coon, November 16, 2022.

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question No. 1 by Ms. Mitton

Directed to: Hon. Mr. Hogan
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

How many students will graduate at Intermediate Plus or above under the new program that will be replacing French Immersion?