



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

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 27
Thursday, March 23, 2023

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

Motion 23 by Hon. Mr. Steeves, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, March 21, 2023:

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

Debate adjourned by Mr. Legacy.

Debate to resume on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

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

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

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AMENDMENTS

Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act – Hon. Ms. Green

Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act – Mr. Coon

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Capital Estimates, 2023-2024

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

CONCLUDED

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

Motion 15 by Hon. Mr. Steeves. Debated and carried December 6, 2022.

Motion 27 by Hon. Ms. Dunn. Carried March 22, 2023.

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 25 by Ms. Bockus, seconded by Mr. Turner to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, December 20, 2022:

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.

CONCLUDED

Motion 18 by Mr. Ames. Debated and carried December 14, 2022.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act – Mr. Arseneau

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

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 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.

Amendment moved by Hon. Mr. Fitch, seconded by Hon. Mr. Crossman:

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".

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

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

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.

Motion 19 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 15, 2022:

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.

Motion 21 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 15, 2022:

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.

Motion 22 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 15, 2022:

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.

Motion 24 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Ms. Thériault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 22, 2022:

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.

Motion 28 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 30, 2023:

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.

Motion 29 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 30, 2023:

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 does 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.

CONCLUDED

- Motion 1 by Ms. Landry.** Debated and defeated November 3, 2022.
Motion 2 by Mr. Bourque. Debated and defeated November 24, 2022.
Motion 3 by Ms. Landry. Debated and defeated December 8, 2022.
Motion 7 by Mr. Legacy. Debated and defeated November 17, 2022.
Motion 8 by Mr. Coon. Withdrawn November 17, 2022.
Motion 10 by Ms. Thériault. Debated and carried as amended December 15, 2022.
Motion 12 by Ms. Thériault. Debated and carried as amended December 8, 2022.
Motion 16 by Mr. Coon. Withdrawn November 24, 2022.
Motion 20 by Mr. Bourque. Debated and carried as amended December 15, 2022.
Motion 26 by Mr. Coon. Carried December 16, 2022.

PETITIONS

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| Petition 1: Mr. LeBlanc, October 28, 2022. | (Response, November 16, 2022) |
| Petition 2: Mr. Coon, November 1, 2022. | (Response, December 7, 2022) |
| Petition 3: Mr. Arseneau, November 2, 2022. | (Response, December 7, 2022) |
| Petition 4: Mr. Arseneault, November 3, 2022. | (Response, January 20, 2023) |
| Petition 5: Ms. Mitton, November 3, 2022. | (Response, December 7, 2022) |
| Petition 6: Mr. LePage, November 3, 2022. | (Response, January 20, 2023) |
| Petition 7: Ms. Mitton, November 15, 2022. | (Response, December 7, 2022) |
| Petition 8: Mr. Arseneau, November 15, 2022. | (Response, December 5, 2022) |
| Petition 9: Mr. Coon, November 16, 2022. | (Response, December 7, 2022) |
| Petition 10: Mr. LeBlanc, March 22, 2023. | |
| Petition 11: Mr. Arseneau, March 22, 2023. | |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- | | |
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| Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick | Interim Report, December 16, 2022 |
| Standing Committee on Economic Policy | First Report, November 15, 2022 |
| | Second Report, November 23, 2022 |
| | Third Report, November 24, 2022 |
| | Fourth Report, December 6, 2022 |
| | Fifth Report, December 8, 2022 |
| | Sixth Report, December 13, 2022 |
| | Seventh Report, December 15, 2022 |

REPORTS/DOCUMENTS

Filed in the Clerk's Office

Strategic Plan 2023-2028, Auditor General of New Brunswick

(Filed March 21, 2023)

Annual Report 2023, *Statute Repeal Act*

(Filed March 22, 2023)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS (see Appendix A)

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question No. 1 by Ms. Mitton

(Response, December 5, 2022)