



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Second Session, 60th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 41

Tuesday, June 6, 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
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Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
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Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR THIRD READING

Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Coroners Act – Hon. Mr. Austin (**Deferred until June 15, 2023**)

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

Bill 58, Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act – Hon. Mr. Fitch

Adjourned Debates

Bill 46, Education Act – Hon. Mr. Hogan

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

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
 Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act – Hon. Mr. Carr
 Bill 37, An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act – Hon. Mr. Higgs
 Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 39, An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities – Hon. Mr. Fitch
 Bill 40, Health Facilities Act – Hon. Mr. Fitch
 Bill 41, An Act Respecting Holdback Trust Accounts – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.
 Bill 42, Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.
 Bill 43, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.
 Bill 44, An Act Respecting the Demise of the Crown – Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.
 Bill 45, Local Governance Commission Act – Hon. Mr. Allain
 Bill 47, Livestock Health Act – Hon. Ms. Johnson
 Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act – Hon. Mr. Savoie
 Bill 49, An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act
 – Hon. Mr. Savoie
 Bill 52, Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act – Mr. D'Amours
 Bill 53, An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Housing Corporation – Hon. Ms. Green
 Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Assessment Act – Hon. Ms. Green
 Bill 55, An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act – Hon. Ms. Green

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Bill 57, An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the Cosmetology Association of New Brunswick
 – Mr. Ames

BILLS AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT

Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act – Hon. Ms. Green
 Bill 29, Financial Advisors and Financial Planners Title Protection Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 34, An Act Respecting Highway Safety – Hon. Mr. Austin
 Bill 35, An Act to Amend the Building Code Administration Act – Hon. Mr. Austin
 Bill 50, Supplementary Appropriations Act 2021-2022 (1) – Hon. Mr. Steeves
 Bill 51, Appropriations Act 2023-2024 – Hon. Mr. Steeves

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion 34 by Hon. Mr. Holland, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, April 4, 2023:

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.

Motion 40 by Hon. Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Ames to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 18, 2023:

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.

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 23 by Hon. Mr. Steeves. Debated March 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 and 31 and carried March 31, 2023.

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

Motion 33 by Hon. Ms. Dunn. Carried March 28, 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

Adjourned Debates

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

Bill 56, An Act to End Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Drilling – Mr. Coon

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.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

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.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

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 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.

Motion 32 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Legacy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 30, 2023:

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.

Motion 35 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 6, 2023:

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.

Motion 36 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Ms. Landry to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 6, 2023:

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.

Motion 37 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 6, 2023:

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.

Motion 39 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 6, 2023:

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.

Motion 41 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. Mallet to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 18, 2023:

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.

Motion 42 by Mr. Bourque, seconded by Mr. Gauvin to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 18, 2023:

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.

Motion 43 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 25, 2023:

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.

Motion 45 by Mr. LePage, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 25, 2023:

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.

Motion 46 by Mr. K. Chiasson, seconded by Mr. LePage to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 25, 2023:

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.

Motion 47 by Ms. Landry, seconded by Mr. C. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 25, 2023:

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.

Motions for Returns

Motion 44 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 25, 2023:

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.

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.

Motion 30 by Mr. K. Chiasson. Debated and carried as amended March 30, 2023.

Motion 31 by Mr. Bourque. Debated and defeated May 18, 2023.

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' MOTIONS

CONCLUDED

Motion 38 by Mr. Cardy. Debated and carried March 29, 2023.

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. | (Response, March 31, 2023) |
| Petition 11: Mr. Arseneau, March 22, 2023. | (Response, April 5, 2023) |
| Petition 12: Mr. Bourque, May 10, 2023. | (Response, May 26, 2023) |
| Petition 13: Mr. LePage, May 19, 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 Eighth Report, May 10, 2023 Ninth Report, May 16, 2023 Tenth Report, May 17, 2023 |
| Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy | First Report, May 9, 2023 |
| Standing Committee on Law Amendments | First Report, March 28, 2023 Second Report, March 28, 2023 |
| Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers | First Report, May 12, 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)