
Daily sitting 15

Thursday, November 23, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

At 1.22 p.m. the House recessed due to a momentary power outage.

At 1.26 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Allain, Member for Moncton East, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to relocate a scrapyard in Moncton. (Petition 7)

Ms. Conroy, 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 23, 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 third report.

Your Committee met on November 22, 2023, and had under consideration:

Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.:) Michelle Conroy, 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 29 that on Thursday, November 30, 2023, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Liberal Graham government signed a 10-year agreement with Medavie Health Services to transfer the management of ambulance services to Medavie Health Services;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Liberal Graham government turned over to Medavie Blue Cross the design and administration of a \$1.3-million program to monitor prescription drugs;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Liberal Gallant government turned over the management of the publicly administered Extra-Mural Program to Medavie Health Services;

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Conservative Higgs government further privatized the management of the list of those waiting for a family doctor or nurse practitioner by creating NB Health Link and giving it to Medavie Health Services;

WHEREAS the privatization of the management of public services is costing more than if these services were kept in the public sector due to the extra administrative costs, incentives for performance, outright overpayment, extra procedures, and profits for these companies;

WHEREAS the privatization of healthcare services by successive Liberal and Conservative governments is contributing to the loss of staff in the healthcare system, loss of managerial control, loss of accountability, and loss of democratic decision-making of our healthcare system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to cease any further privatization efforts within the healthcare system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a comprehensive action plan to transfer the management of the healthcare services currently offered by Medavie Health Services to the Regional Health Authorities.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 6, Mr. Gauvin moved, seconded by Mr. LePage:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the risk of spread of airborne illnesses in public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes if significant improvements to air quality systems in government buildings are not made;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's report on the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that 73% of nursing homes do not meet design standards that are now almost a decade old and that departmental staff acknowledged that they believe that the infrastructural deficiencies in nursing homes contributed to the

COVID-19 outbreaks because the buildings were inadequate to mitigate airborne diseases;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's same report also acknowledged that the Department of Social Development has no formal plan to bring these nursing homes up to standard;

WHEREAS in the 2nd session of the 60th Legislative Assembly, the House unanimously adopted Motion 36 urging the government to modernize the *Clean Air Act* and urging the government to bring forward a plan to monitor, report on, and improve air quality systems in public buildings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table a strengthened *Clean Air Act* in this session;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to present a formal plan of capital investment, no later than April 1, 2024, to bring all nursing homes to the most recent departmental design standards.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 6 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 17

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Arseneault | Mr. C. Chiasson | 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. Bourque | |

NAYS - 25

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 17, Mr. McKee moved, seconded by Mr. J. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court offers an alternative for offenders with mental health issues;

WHEREAS this program is widely praised by mental health advocates for its focus on community treatment as opposed to incarceration or other penalties;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court program was developed based on best practices in other jurisdictions and informed by research;

WHEREAS there is a need to expand the Mental Health Court program to other regions of the province so that more offenders with mental health issues can avail themselves of this invaluable service for addressing their mental health needs;

WHEREAS other provinces including our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia have recognized the benefits of having a Mental Health Court and have made a commitment to expanding availability;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expand the Mental Health Court program throughout the province in this session.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Flemming, seconded by Hon. Ms. S. Wilson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 17 be amended:

In the first whereas clause by striking out “the Mental Health Court offers” and substituting “mental health courts offer”;

In the second whereas clause by striking out “this program” and substituting “the Mental Health Court in Saint John”;

In the third whereas clause by striking out “program” and substituting “in Saint John” and by adding “of that time” after “practices”;

In the fourth whereas clause by adding “innovative approaches like” after “expand” and by striking out “program” and substituting “in Saint John”;

By adding before the resolution clause the following:

“WHEREAS the success of efforts to treat in a different stream offenders who are struggling with addictions and/or mental health challenges depends on having immediately available to all those offenders the right services at the right time;”

In the resolution clause, by striking out all the words after “government” and substituting “to continue to expand access to mental health and addictions treatment spaces across the province and continue to expand the capacity of the Provincial Court to address more effectively the unique needs of offenders who are struggling with addictions and/or mental health challenges”.

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 17 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS mental health courts offer an alternative for offenders with mental health issues;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court in Saint John is widely praised by mental health advocates for its focus on community treatment as opposed to incarceration or other penalties;

WHEREAS the Mental Health Court in Saint John was developed based on best practices of that time in other jurisdictions and informed by research;

WHEREAS there is a need to expand innovative approaches like the Mental Health Court in Saint John to other regions of the province so that more offenders with mental health issues can avail themselves of this invaluable service for addressing their mental health needs;

WHEREAS other provinces including our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia have recognized the benefits of having a Mental Health Court and have made a commitment to expanding availability;

WHEREAS the success of efforts to treat in a different stream offenders who are struggling with addictions and/or mental health challenges depends on having immediately available to all those offenders the right services at the right time;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to expand access to mental health and addictions treatment spaces across the province and continue to expand the capacity of the Provincial Court to address more effectively the unique needs of offenders who are struggling with addictions and/or mental health challenges.

And the question being put, Motion 17 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Arseneault moved the adjournment of the House.

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

And then, 5.44 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 5

November 22, 2023