
Daily sitting 19

Thursday, November 30, 2023

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to a point of order raised during the previous sitting day:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Members, before we start Statements by Members, I wish to rule on the point of order raised the previous sitting day by the Official Opposition House Leader.

The Opposition House Leader submitted that the Member's Statement by the Member for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin contained allegations of a personal nature against the Leader of the Official Opposition, specifically by accusing her of "promoting an aggressive culture of bullying."

It is a well-established practice in this House that Member's Statements are not to be used to launch personal attacks against each other. Members may question the policies of the other parties, but not personally attack their fellow Members. The statement by the Member for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin was clearly a personal attack on the character of the Leader of the Opposition and not in order.

That said, during this session, and previous sessions of this Legislature, we have often heard Members, from both sides, accusing others of bullying, and more recently, a Government Member was accused of inciting bigotry and hate by a Member of this House.

These personal attacks on your fellow Members must not continue. We are all honorable Members, here to represent the interests of our constituents, for the betterment of our province. I will be listening closely to your statements today, which I trust will be respectful and not personal in nature.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 35 that on Thursday, December 7, 2023, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS transportation is the second-largest source of New Brunswick's greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for approximately 26% of its total greenhouse gas emissions, and the second-largest sector for energy demand at 23%;

WHEREAS New Brunswick could achieve the most significant greenhouse gas emission reductions in the transportation sector by reducing the reliance on personal vehicles and using alternative forms of transportation;

WHEREAS public transportation provides an affordable alternative to private car usage and ensures equitable access to essential services, education, and employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, unlike Premier Higgs, Premiers Ford and Legault work hand in hand with the CEO of VIA Rail and the federal government to improve regional rail service in central Canada;

WHEREAS Premier Higgs' inattention to public transportation extends to the Maritime Bus service and city transit services, which receive no provincial support for their operating budgets;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Transportation Authority is well suited to lead the development and implementation of an effective public transportation strategy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to revive the New Brunswick Transportation Authority to lead the implementation of a provincial public transportation strategy, including inter-city bus and regional rail;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to allocate the necessary resources and funding to support the New Brunswick Transportation Authority in executing the public transportation strategy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to properly allocate funding for the operational costs of city transit services and to ensure Maritime Bus can provide interconnection with transportation services in Quebec in the next provincial budget.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 13, Ms. Thériault moved, seconded by Ms. Holt:

WHEREAS pay equity is an internationally recognized human right;

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Institute for Women's Policy Research estimated that pay equity would halve the poverty rate among working women;

WHEREAS the care sector is one of the main employment sectors for women in New Brunswick, but one of the least well-paid and most undervalued;

WHEREAS, in New Brunswick, women make up the majority of the 11 000 people employed by some 700 community care agencies in rural and urban areas;

WHEREAS care services meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups, including seniors, children, and people living with disabilities or mental illness;

WHEREAS the sector includes home care, daycares, specialized care homes, community residences, family support, the Employment and Support Services Program (ESSP), and transition houses;

WHEREAS the sector faces significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, and that the lack of a long-term plan to achieve pay equity and provide better working conditions has exacerbated the crisis, hampering the quality and availability of care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop a plan before April 1, 2024, to achieve pay equity across the community care sector by 2026, including:

- (a) public investments in salaries in the sector until pay equity is achieved;
- (b) the development of salary scales that take into account pay equity;
- (c) the annual indexation of these salary scales according to the Consumer Price Index;
- (d) pay equity exercises for all jobs in the community care sector that have not been evaluated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to subsequently ensure the maintenance of pay equity every five years, to cover the cost of social benefits (health insurance, paid sick leave, pension) and to develop a process of more rigorous verification of the transfer of wage subsidies to female employees and a complaint system for the sector's workforce.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 13 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque
Mr. Legacy	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Holt	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. McKee	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry

NAYS - 24

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

Mr. Arseneau moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that the motion was out of order. Mr. Speaker ruled that pursuant to Standing Rules 64 and 44(10), the motion to adjourn was in order.

And the question being put on the motion, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 3

Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
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NAYS - 15

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Gauvin	Mr. Bourque
Mr. Legacy	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 29, Ms. Mitton moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

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

Annual Report 2022-2023

Department of Aboriginal Affairs

November 29, 2023