

Daily sitting 28

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
February 15, 2024.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I thank you for your Address and beg to assure you that I entertain the fullest confidence that in all your deliberations you will be guided by a most earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this province.

(Sgd. :) Brenda L. Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Honourable the Premier offered condolences to the family of the late Brian Mulroney, Canada's 18th Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker cautioned Members to not refer to their fellow Members by name.

Mr. Arseneault requested the unanimous consent of the House to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes, and unanimous consent was denied.

Ms. Conroy, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Fifth Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

March 20, 2024

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 fifth report.

Your Committee met on February 27, 2024, and had under consideration:

Bill 16, *Consumer Protection 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.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Holland,

Bill 23, *An Act Respecting Renewable Gas and Hydrogen*.

By Hon. Mr. Turner,

Bill 24, *An Act Respecting Occupational Health and Safety*.

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.,

Bill 25, *An Act Respecting An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*.

Hon. Mr. Holland gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers and all Canadians are struggling with affordability as a result of Liberal inflation;

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Budget Officer stated, “When both fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered, we estimate that most households will see a net loss, paying more in fuel charges and GST than they will receive in Climate Action Incentive payments”;

WHEREAS it is estimated that a family of four will have to pay \$700 more for groceries in 2024 because of the inflationary carbon tax;

WHEREAS the federal government plans to again hike the carbon tax on April 1 by a punishing 23%;

WHEREAS the province has a Climate Change Action plan that is about real action and not symbolic gestures;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is leading the country in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, having reduced emissions by 39% since 2005, and has made a further commitment to achieve net-zero by 2050;

WHEREAS the Governor of the Bank of Canada has indicated that the elimination of the Liberal carbon tax would have a significant beneficial impact on inflation;

WHEREAS 70% of provincial Premiers are asking the federal government to pause the planned April 1 increase;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge Prime Minister Trudeau, Dominic LeBlanc, and the government of Canada to abolish the federal carbon tax forthwith.

Mr. Legacy gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Thursday, March 28, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers have been facing steep cost of living increases;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's rurality means that people have to drive great distances to access necessary services, get to their medical appointments, take their kids to school, go to work, and run errands;

WHEREAS the original intent of the carbon charge was to push refineries into investing in technology and processes that will reduce emissions in our province;

WHEREAS the burden was transferred to New Brunswickers by the Higgs government since the introduction of the carbon adjuster on July 1, 2023, a separate charge added to the price of gas;

WHEREAS the carbon adjuster has added up to 6.58 cents per liter of regular gasoline, making New Brunswick fuel some of the most costly in the country;

WHEREAS the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) was informed in January 2024 that the carbon adjuster is costing New Brunswickers 26 times more than it should given their current formula;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to immediately eliminate the carbon adjuster costs from gasoline prices in the province.

Hon. Mr. Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
March 20, 2024.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Supplementary Estimates 2022-2023, Volume 2*, of the sums required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 2023, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Brenda L. Murphy.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Friday, March 22, 2024, Bills 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 would be called for second reading.

And then, 11.32 a.m., the House adjourned.