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Daily sitting 36

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker rose to address the point of order raised the previous sitting day, and ruled that Ms. Holt had used unparliamentary language when she used the term “bully” and requested that she withdraw the term, which she did.

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Following Oral Questions, Mr. Arseneault rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Fitch referred to Mr. M. LeBlanc by name. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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Ms. Mitton, Member for Memramcook-Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to sign the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) agreement. (Petition 18)

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

May 8, 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 sixth report.

Your Committee met on May 7, 2024, and had under consideration:

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

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.:) Michelle Conroy, M.L.A.  
Chair

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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.

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The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Allain,

Bill 43, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Regulatory College of Medical Radiation Technologists.*

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Cercle des Voyages since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 64 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Canadian Sky since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 65 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS

text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and Destination Canada, including but not limited to the office of the international Vice President, the in-market office in the United Kingdom, and the in-market office in France since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 66 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and all the other groups that the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture contacted or met with during her vacation last September, since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 67 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company eDreams since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 68 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the

Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Finn Partners since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 69 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company JMB Voyages since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 70 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Odigoo Voyage since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 71 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Prestige Travel since January 1, 2023.

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Ms. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 72 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc:

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 documentation, information, notes, memos, records, correspondence, however stored, electronically or otherwise, including but not limited to, emails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages regarding all communications between the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and the company Wexas since January 1, 2023.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, May 9, 2024, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 5, Bill 20 and Motion 49.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 be called for second reading until 4 p.m.; at which time the House would adjourn.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, a debate arose thereon.

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that he had been defamed by comments made on a social media platform by Hon. Mr. Fitch. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 35 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

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STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

Earlier today, the Member for Restigouche-Chaleur raised a point of order and submitted that the Minister of Health defamed him on Twitter. Specifically, the tweet in question alleged that the Member for Restigouche-Chaleur laughed at the Minister of Health's attempt to speak French. The Member for Restigouche-Chaleur denies this allegation, and I will take him at his word that he did not engage in the alleged conduct.

With that said, however, I must advise the House that the Speaker does not have the authority to address comments or statements made outside of the House. As well, it would be impractical for the Speaker to be asked to monitor the use of personal digital devices by Members, including determining whether any offending tweet or social media post originated in the House.

I will address, however, the general issue of tweeting or posting items on social media. I would ask all Members to please refrain from tweeting or posting criticism of your fellow Members on social media while we are sitting in the House. To engage in such activity would obviously cause disorder in the House, lead to various points of order, distract from the business of the House, and undermine the reputation of this House and its honourable Members. I thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that you follow my request. It would make it a lot easier for all of us, and we could have the next 13 days in some form of peace.

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Debate resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

"Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments."

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative.

And the question being put that Bill 36 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 37 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Private Occupational Training Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 41 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Private Occupational Training Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 42, *An Act Respecting Local Governance and Regional Service Delivery*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 42 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 42, *An Act Respecting Local Governance and Regional Service Delivery*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 38 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 39, *Justices of the Peace Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 39 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 39, *Justices of the Peace Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Hearing Officers*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 40 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Hearing Officers*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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And then, 3.25 p.m., the House adjourned.