

Daily sitting 45

Thursday, May 30, 2024

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker offered condolences to the family of the late Joseph A. Day, former Senator for New Brunswick (2001-2020).

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the Congratulatory Statement by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie should have been delivered under Statements by Ministers. Hon. Mr. G. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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

May 30, 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 twelfth report.

Your Committee met on May 29, 2024, and had under consideration:

Bill 23, *An Act Respecting Renewable Gas and Hydrogen*;
Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*;
Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Electricity 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. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 78 that on Thursday, June 6, 2024, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Gauvin:

WHEREAS the direct contribution of cultural industries to New Brunswick's GDP was \$578,014,000 in 2021;

WHEREAS the number of jobs related to culture in New Brunswick was 11,300 in 2021;

WHEREAS artists earned on average \$27,400 in 2020, which is 39% less than the average income of the New Brunswick labour force, which was \$44,800;

WHEREAS there is no legislation on the status of the professional artist in New Brunswick and no body tasked with assessing and defining the legal status of artists, resulting in a lack of recognition of status and the existence of glaring socio-economic inequalities for those in the profession;

WHEREAS the status of the artist report published in 2021 recommends establishing a framework through legislation in the province not only to ensure legal recognition of the field but also to protect artists;

WHEREAS most artists do not have access to employment insurance, health insurance, measures covering business risks and fluctuating income, workplace safety insurance, or retirement on comparable terms with other professionals;

WHEREAS current programs covering benefits, employment insurance, and pension plans are employee-based and do not take into account the realities of the artistic profession, such as invisible work, which includes research and creation;

WHEREAS improving the socio-economic conditions of artists requires a link between the governments of New Brunswick and Canada, particularly with respect to the following: social benefits, such as pension plans; tax measures that take into account annual fluctuations in income, such as income averaging, exemptions on royalties, and creation grants; measures related to remuneration and underemployment, such as a guaranteed annual income or employment insurance better adapted to self-employed workers and taking into account invisible work and the periodicity of earnings; measures providing for sick, parental, or compassionate leave;

WHEREAS the status of the artist report includes many socio-economic recommendations, such as the recognition of invisible work, prioritizing New Brunswick artists, setting a minimum fee scale for all businesses that receive provincial funding, and reworking pension and tax laws in partnership with the federal government to give artists the support they need;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to commit to the adoption of a status of the artist Act that is not merely declaratory but that contains concrete measures to substantially improve the socio-economic status of professional artists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a fixed timeline for the implementation of the recommended government measures to cover all of the economic and social risks associated with the artistic profession, including those that require a link between the provincial and federal governments.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 53, Mr. LePage moved, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

WHEREAS experts are predicting more severe and frequent storms in the future due to climate change and have expressed concern regarding erosion, especially in areas along New Brunswick's northeastern and southeastern coasts;

WHEREAS communities across the province have voiced their worry regarding the deteriorating state or absence of infrastructure that protects them from erosion;

WHEREAS coastal erosion has left many New Brunswickers on the brink of losing their homes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to invest and support communities to prevent and deal with the impacts caused by erosion along the coasts.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 53 be amended:

In the resolution clause, by striking out all of the words following “New Brunswick” and substituting “to create a Climate Change Risk Reduction Fund to make the infrastructure investments required to safeguard vulnerable communities from flooding, coastal erosion and violent weather;”;

By adding after the resolution clause the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to establish a Coastal Protection Authority to coordinate actions necessary to protect communities and infrastructure along New Brunswick’s 2,250 kilometers of coastline.”

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

At 3.48 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.12 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Ms. Thériault, seconded by Mr. Mallet, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 53 be amended:

In the first resolution clause, by adding “prevention and” after “make the”;

In the second resolution clause, by adding “and implement the” after “to coordinate”.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and a debate ensued.

At 4.27 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.57 p.m. the House resumed with Ms. Conroy in the chair.

At the request of Ms. Thériault, it was agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw the sub-amendment.

At the request of Ms. Mitton, it was agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment and introduce an alternative.

Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 53 be amended:

In the resolution clause, by striking out all of the words following “New Brunswick” and substituting “to make the infrastructure investments required to safeguard vulnerable communities from flooding, coastal erosion and violent weather;”;

By adding after the resolution clause the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to establish a mechanism to coordinate and implement the actions necessary to protect communities and infrastructure along New Brunswick’s 2,250 kilometers of coastline.”

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 38

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Cullins	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Mr. Allain	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Ms. Shephard	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Dawson	Mr. D’Amours
Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. Anderson-Mason	Mr. LePage
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Carr	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Legacy	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. McKee	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Thériault	Ms. Landry
Hon. Ms. Bockus	Mr. Gauvin	

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 53 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS experts are predicting more severe and frequent storms in the future due to climate change and have expressed concern regarding erosion, especially in areas along New Brunswick's northeastern and southeastern coasts;

WHEREAS communities across the province have voiced their worry regarding the deteriorating state or absence of infrastructure that protects them from erosion;

WHEREAS coastal erosion has left many New Brunswickers on the brink of losing their homes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to make the infrastructure investments required to safeguard vulnerable communities from flooding, coastal erosion and violent weather;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to establish a mechanism to coordinate and implement the actions necessary to protect communities and infrastructure along New Brunswick's 2,250 kilometers of coastline.

And the question being put, Motion 53 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 38

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. C. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Cullins	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Mr. Allain	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Ms. Shephard	Mr. K. Chiasson
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Dawson	Mr. D'Amours
Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. Anderson-Mason	Mr. LePage
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Carr	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Legacy	Mr. Losier
Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. McKee	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Thériault	Ms. Landry
Hon. Ms. Bockus	Mr. Gauvin	

Debate resumed on Motion 49, moved by Mr. M. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Legacy, on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Holland, seconded by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 49 be amended:

By striking out the third whereas clause;

In the resolution clause, by striking out all of the words following “New Brunswick” and substituting “to ensure that the public is informed of the actions of all levels of government.”

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

At 5.49 p.m. the House recessed. At 5.56 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it negated the intent of the original motion. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Mr. M. LeBlanc moved the adjournment of the House.

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

And then, 5.58 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 18

May 29, 2024