



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Third Session, 60th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 24
Friday, December 8, 2023

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Prayers
Introduction of Guests
Statements of Condolence and Congratulation
Statements by Members
Oral Questions (30 minutes)
Tabling of Documents
Statements by Ministers
Presentations of Petitions
Answers to Petitions and Written Questions
Presentations of Committee Reports
Introduction of Bills
Notices of Motions
Notice of Opposition Members' Business
Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
Deferred Recorded Divisions
Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Police Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Adjourned Debates

Bill 17, Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Bill 16, Consumer Protection Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Capital Estimates, 2024-2025

BILLS AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT

Bill 2, An Act to Repeal the Beverage Containers Act – Hon. Mr. Crossman

Bill 3, An Act Respecting the Fisheries Bargaining Act and the Industrial Relations Act
– Hon. Ms. Dunn

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act – Hon. Ms. M. Wilson

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act – Hon. Mr. Steeves

Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Clean Environment Act – Hon. Mr. Crossman

Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Trespass Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Private Investigators and Security Services Act – Hon. Mr. Austin

Bill 9, An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being – Hon. Ms. Green

Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Electricity Act – Hon. Mr. Holland

Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act – Hon. Mr. Holland

Bill 12, An Act Respecting Trespass on Agricultural Lands – Hon. Ms. Johnson

Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act – Hon. Mr. G. Savoie

Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Assessment Act – Hon. Ms. M. Wilson

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion 30 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Friday, December 1, 2023:

WHEREAS a Reciprocal Taxation Agreement is a formal agreement between governments to pay one another's specified taxes and fees for administrative simplicity;

WHEREAS eight provinces and three territories have a comprehensive Reciprocal Taxation Agreement with the federal government;

WHEREAS the province intends to enter into a comprehensive Reciprocal Taxation Agreement with the federal government, with an effective date of April 1, 2024;

WHEREAS hospitals, schools and public colleges in New Brunswick currently receive a 100% government entity rebate of the GST/HST;

WHEREAS hospitals, schools and public colleges in New Brunswick will no longer be entitled to a 100% government entity rebate of the GST/HST, effective April 1, 2024;

WHEREAS under the Canada-New Brunswick Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement, Public Sector Bodies rebates can be provided on the provincial portion of the HST;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick approve new Public Service Bodies' rebates for schools, hospitals, and public colleges, such that these entities would continue to receive a 100% rebate of the provincial portion of the HST, effective April 1, 2024.

Motion 33 by Hon. Mr. Steeves, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, March 19, 2024:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Motion 37 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, seconded by Hon. Mr. Higgs to propose the following resolution on Friday, December 8, 2023:

THAT pursuant to the sessional calendar and paragraph (7) of the Special Order, both adopted by the House on June 16, 2023, the House shall meet in the Fall period on the following additional days: December 12 to December 13.

CONCLUDED

Motion 16 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie. Carried October 31, 2023.

Motion 24 by Hon. Mr. Steeves. Debated and carried November 28, 2023.

Motion 26 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie. Carried November 21, 2023.

Motion 39 by Hon. Mr. G. Savoie. Carried December 7, 2023.

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 38 by Mr. Cullins, seconded by Mr. Dawson to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, December 12, 2023:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 10 hours allocated for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bill 17 which shall include the hours spent considering said Bill from December 1, 2023, and onward, and at the expiration of the said 10 hours, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bill; the order for consideration of the said Bill in committee and report of the Bill to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bill; and where necessary, the said Bill shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day;

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 10 hours, there shall be, if necessary, 20 minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of the said Bill, if requested by the Government House Leader.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act – Mr. C. Chiasson

Bill 19, An Act Respecting the Right to a Healthy Environment – Mr. Coon

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 1 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS, on September 20, the Premier of New Brunswick told protesters outside the Legislative Assembly, “children are being taught to lie to their parents” by teachers;

WHEREAS that statement by the Premier of New Brunswick was disrespectful to teachers;

WHEREAS the teachers of New Brunswick play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our province through their dedication and hard work in educating our children;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier of New Brunswick to issue a formal apology to the teachers of New Brunswick.

Motion 2 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS the Human Development Council reported that there are at least 560 unhoused people living in New Brunswick's three major cities who cannot be housed without significant support mechanisms;

WHEREAS British Columbia offers complex care housing, which provides an enhanced level of health and social supports to address the needs of people who have overlapping mental health and substance use issues, trauma, or acquired brain injuries who are often left to experience homelessness or at risk of eviction;

WHEREAS there is limited peer-supported housing with wrap-around services for homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS providing wrap-around services such as mental health support, addiction treatment, employment assistance, and case management is crucial to preventing more New Brunswickers from experiencing homelessness and addressing the complex needs of homeless individuals;

WHEREAS a comprehensive and holistic approach to homelessness can significantly reduce the strain on social services, healthcare, and law enforcement while promoting community well-being;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to fund and implement a comprehensive program for peer-supported housing for the homeless, along with wrap-around services to address their diverse needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to set targets and measurable outcomes to gauge the success of this program, with regular reporting to the public.

Motion 3 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are facing financial challenges due to the rising costs of gasoline, which are affecting their daily lives, commuting, and overall cost of living;

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimated that the average New Brunswick household is expected to pay at least \$501 more on gas per year;

WHEREAS the Higgs government authorized a new tax to be added to regulated fuel prices to force consumers to pay for Irving Oil's additional costs in complying with the federal clean fuel regulations;

WHEREAS the Higgs government gas tax has added as much as seven cents for a regular unleaded litre of gasoline since its introduction on July 1, 2023, making New Brunswick's gasoline among the most expensive in Canada;

WHEREAS there was no need for the Higgs government to make it legally possible for Irving Oil to pass the costs for cleaning up their petroleum products to New Brunswickers since there was a 36-cent increase in refinery margins in New Brunswick between 2019 and 2022;

WHEREAS the Energy and Utilities Board plans to review the Higgs government's gas tax formula after six months of its implementation;

WHEREAS there is no way for customers who have been paying the Higgs government gas tax to get their money back if, after its review, the Energy and Utilities Board finds that the tax was too high or unnecessary;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately eliminate the Higgs government's tax on gasoline prices.

Motion 4 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments have implemented policies to centralize the management of New Brunswick's healthcare system;

WHEREAS the decentralization of our healthcare system will provide better decision-making that reflects local realities, allowing for more responsive and effective healthcare services;

WHEREAS involving local decision-making can improve healthcare services, increase community engagement, and lead to more innovative solutions to address healthcare issues at the grassroots level;

WHEREAS an Angus Reid Institute survey, in collaboration with the Canadian Medical Association, indicates that New Brunswickers' dissatisfaction towards the province's management of the healthcare system was the highest in Canada, with a combined 82% saying they are either "moderately" or "very dissatisfied";

WHEREAS the same survey shows that 82% of New Brunswickers feel that the overall quality of healthcare in New Brunswick has deteriorated over the past 10 to 15 years;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to reinstate locally elected board members for the Regional Health Authorities boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to re-establish the essential role of hospital administrators to manage their local hospitals, in collaboration with the medical and non-medical staff who work there.

Motion 5 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Losier to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's healthcare system has been grappling with a multitude of challenges, including critical shortages of healthcare workers and staffing retention issues that need to be addressed;

WHEREAS patients in New Brunswick endure prolonged wait times for essential healthcare services;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a significant senior population and one of the highest rates of chronic health conditions in the nation, which further emphasizes the pressing need for a healthcare system that is readily accessible to all residents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table, no later than April 1, 2024, a healthcare worker retention plan.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

Motion 7 by Mr. Gauvin, seconded by Ms. Holt to propose the following resolution on Thursday, October 26, 2023:

WHEREAS seniors prefer to stay in the familiar surroundings of their homes for as long as possible;

WHEREAS caregivers play an important role in supporting seniors to stay in their homes, which may delay or even avoid the need for more costly forms of long-term care services and may also lead to better overall health and quality of life for seniors;

WHEREAS caregiving comes at considerable personal and professional sacrifice with significant financial cost for the caregiver, who is expected to cover fuel when transporting seniors to medical appointments or other household spending such as snow removal or lawn care;

WHEREAS the gendered nature of caregiving imposes undue burdens on women for family care work, which the University of Alberta's Research on Aging Policies and Practice Centre estimates to be worth an economic value of \$2.4 billion in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS legislative regimes in other jurisdictions maintain programs that support caregivers through direct compensation, which produce positive benefits for both the caregiver and the cared;

WHEREAS the support of caregivers and their role in providing essential aid is of significant importance to New Brunswick;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a direct compensation benefit to caregivers in the 2024-2025 budget.

Motion 9 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including but not limited to extreme weather events, such as more frequent and severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, droughts, and forest fires;

WHEREAS effective communication during climate-related emergencies is vital to ensure public safety and minimize the impact of climate-related disasters;

WHEREAS access to cellphone coverage remains inconsistent across New Brunswick, with numerous rural areas experiencing inadequate or unreliable cellular network service, rendering rural New Brunswickers vulnerable during times of climate-related emergencies;

WHEREAS cellphones and wireless communication provide a crucial means of broadcasting timely and life-saving information to the public during emergencies, such as evacuation notices, weather alerts, and safety instructions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to guarantee provincewide cellphone coverage, including the implementation of necessary public infrastructure and financial investments to ensure reliable network connectivity.

Motion 10 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS the increasing cost of rent is exacerbating the affordability crisis that many New Brunswickers are facing;

WHEREAS housing is a fundamental human right, and affordable and stable housing is essential for the well-being of all New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS a temporary rent cap was implemented in 2022;

WHEREAS the Higgs government is failing to protect tenants from unaffordable rent increases;

WHEREAS a permanent rent cap can provide a long-term solution to protect renters from excessive rent increases and create stability in the housing market;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a permanent rent cap.

Motion 12 by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Arseneault to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS there is a need to revisit the decision regarding the funding of the new RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine for seniors to enhance their overall health and well-being;

WHEREAS there is a general consensus on the importance of funding the RSV vaccine for seniors to alleviate the strain on hospitals and ensure more efficient healthcare resource allocation;

WHEREAS it is evident that RSV is a significant contributor to hospital admissions during certain periods of the year and that redirecting the funding of the associated hospital costs could serve to provide vaccines to a substantial number of seniors in need;

WHEREAS RSV disproportionately affects people aged 65 and older, infants, and immunocompromised individuals, leading to hospitalization and, in some cases, fatalities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to fund the voluntary RSV vaccine beginning in 2023 for seniors and other vulnerable groups, considering the potential benefits it represents for public health and healthcare system efficiency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to classify RSV as a notifiable disease under public health regulations, which will enable the collection of essential data for a more informed response to this health challenge.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

Motion 14 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 2, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers are struggling to make ends meet due to rising energy costs;

WHEREAS the Enhanced Energy Savings Program has been effective in promoting energy efficiency, reducing energy costs for low-income families, and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, although the provincial government recently announced that it will spend another \$30 million on the Enhanced Energy Savings Program, an investment of \$150 million is needed to clear the existing waitlist of about 16,000 households;

WHEREAS there is a growing need to address the energy efficiency concerns of moderate-income households, which may not qualify for the Enhanced Energy Savings Program under the current income threshold;

WHEREAS NB Power is projected to expand its energy efficiency savings target to 0.75 % of sales by 2028-29, below what is recommended by experts;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest a minimum of \$120 million to clear the Enhanced Energy Savings Program's existing waitlist;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to raise the income threshold of the Enhanced Energy Savings Program to \$75,000 and establish zero-interest loans for moderate income households to furnish the capital for cost-effective energy retrofits of homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to raise the energy efficiency savings target to 1.5% of sales by 2025.

Motion 15 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's neonatal intensive care and special care nursery admission rates continue to be above the national average;

WHEREAS the accessibility of midwifery services is limited in New Brunswick, hindering options for expectant parents and placing more strain on the existing healthcare system;

WHEREAS the Midwifery Demonstration Site in Fredericton has attended 271 births since its inception in October 2017, reporting extraordinary client experience of 99% satisfaction with the care they received;

WHEREAS an evaluation done by a third party on Fredericton's Midwifery Demonstration Site in 2022 highlighted that the inclusion of midwives in perinatal care improves health outcomes and empowers expectant parents to make informed choices about their care;

WHEREAS the same evaluation on Fredericton's Midwifery Demonstration Site calls on the government to expand the midwifery services across the province, immediately scale up the existing Fredericton clinic, begin looking at options to create spots for New Brunswickers in midwifery educational programs, and overhaul the *Midwifery Act*;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately implement the recommendations from the Fredericton Midwifery Demonstration Site Summary Evaluation Report, in consultation with the Midwifery Council of New Brunswick.

Motion 20 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

WHEREAS, despite the government's social assistance reform, New Brunswick's social assistance rates are still the lowest in Canada for all household categories;

WHEREAS social assistance recipients in New Brunswick are still living well below the poverty line and in deep poverty, struggling to meet their basic needs and attain a decent standard of living;

WHEREAS the Higgs government's austerity measures led to six consecutive surpluses, including a surplus of over \$1 billion for the fiscal year 2022-23;

WHEREAS implementing a guaranteed liveable income program for social assistance recipients would eliminate poverty by ensuring that individuals and families have the financial means to meet their basic needs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to develop a strategy to implement a guaranteed liveable income program in consultation with experts, social assistance recipients, and advocacy groups.

Motion 22 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers are struggling with an escalating affordability crisis that has seen skyrocketing prices for essentials, including food, housing, medication, heating oil and gasoline;

WHEREAS, although New Brunswick recently increased the minimum wage to \$14.75 per hour, it remains the lowest in Atlantic Canada and the second lowest in Canada;

WHEREAS the Human Development Council calculates living wages in New Brunswick by investigating the real-life and real-time costs of living and considers the current living wage to be an average of \$20 per hour in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS ensuring that all New Brunswickers earn a living wage is crucial to lift individuals out of poverty, increase economic security, reduce financial stress, support one's physical and mental wellness, encourage healthy child growth and development, promote social inclusion and belonging, and improve quality of life;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create a plan to increase the minimum wage to a living wage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create a program to provide temporary financial support to help employers with any increased costs resulting from the transition from a minimum wage to a living wage.

Motion 23 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

WHEREAS a significant number of New Brunswickers do not have access to paid sick days;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of paid sick leave in protecting public health and minimizing the spread of contagious diseases;

WHEREAS no worker should continue to fear losing their job as a result of getting ill or having to take care of a family member;

WHEREAS, since instituting paid sick days, British Columbia has reported multiple benefits, including increased productivity, better staff retention, a decline in workplace injuries, and an increase in morale;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to ensure that all workers in New Brunswick are entitled to a minimum of 10 paid sick days per year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create a program to provide temporary financial support to small and medium-sized businesses to help them cover the costs of providing paid sick leave to their employees.

Motion 25 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 30, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick only produces 3% of the food that New Brunswickers eat;

WHEREAS, according to the 2021 census, New Brunswick lost 20% of its farms between 2016 and 2021;

WHEREAS, according to the 2021 census, only 6.7% of New Brunswick farmers are under 35 years old;

WHEREAS local agriculture encourages dynamic land use;

WHEREAS agriculture is a structure-based sector that is resistant to delocalization;

WHEREAS encouraging local non-industrial agriculture constitutes a way to fight climate change;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately set ambitious local purchasing targets for public establishments in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to see to the creation of a farm school in New Brunswick in partnership with NBCC and CCNB in an RSC that does not have a postsecondary institution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to undertake an agricultural reform that focuses on diversification rather than intensification, which includes completely stopping the destruction of the Tracadie shooting range.

Motion 27 by Mr. J. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. M. LeBlanc to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 30, 2023:

WHEREAS New Brunswick municipalities underwent a consequential, once-in-a-generation local governance reform;

WHEREAS effective and efficient municipal governance is essential for the well-being and progress of New Brunswick's communities;

WHEREAS there is growing demand for a thorough examination of current municipal governance and administrative practices and structures to identify areas for improvement and enhancement;

WHEREAS a government summit on fiscal reform scheduled for Fall 2023 has been postponed and no date has been set;

WHEREAS completing the project of municipal reform in New Brunswick, including the fiscal reform as indicated in the White Paper, requires a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to appoint a select committee on municipal reform to:

1. review the current state of municipal governance in New Brunswick;
2. identify challenges and opportunities to improve existing municipal structures;
3. consult with relevant stakeholders to gather feedback on the reforms;
4. examine best practices from other jurisdictions that have successfully implemented municipal reforms;
5. develop recommendations for legislative and policy changes to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal governance in New Brunswick.

Motion 28 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 30, 2023:

WHEREAS the conservation of New Brunswick's Crown forests and waters is essential to the well-being of our environment, biodiversity, and the overall health of our communities;

WHEREAS Crown lands were never ceded or surrendered to the Crown by First Nations;

WHEREAS currently 10% of Crown lands are designated as protected natural areas, while another 15% of Crown lands are farmed for high volume wood production in plantations that are harvested by clearcutting, leaving 75% of Crown lands to meet multiple objectives;

WHEREAS research led by Dr. Matt Betts of Oregon State University shows that New Brunswick forestry companies' practice of clearcutting natural forest has significantly degraded the habitat of between 33 and 104 million forest birds since 1985;

WHEREAS the weight of the evidence in the scientific literature shows that exposure to glyphosate-based herbicides leads to reduced biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems and forests and poses numerous human health risks;

WHEREAS there is a pressing need for enhanced oversight and management of Crown lands and waters to ensure ecologically sustainable practices and responsible stewardship;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to replace clearcut logging of Crown land with ecologically-based harvesting practices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ban the spraying of herbicides, including glyphosate, on Crown land;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to negotiate shared management agreements for Crown lands with First Nations communities.

Motion 31 by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 30, 2023:

WHEREAS the Chief Medical Officer of Health plays a crucial role in safeguarding the public health of New Brunswickers and advising the government on medical matters;

WHEREAS the Gallant government undermined the independence of the Chief Medical Officer of Health by restructuring the Office of Public Health and moving many of its staff and resources to other departments;

WHEREAS, under the Higgs government, the Chief Medical Officer of Health admitted that political preferences played a role in public health decision-making during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS the lack of independence of the Chief Medical Officer of Health may result in delayed or inadequate responses to health crises, miscommunication, and erosion of the public trust;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to amend the *Public Health Act* to ensure that the Chief Medical Officer of Health is a public advocate for the health of New Brunswickers, not a private advisor to government.

Motion 32 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Mr. Coon to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 7, 2023:

WHEREAS, during Local Governance Reform, the Higgs government raised the maximum multiplier that municipalities are permitted to charge for non-residential and heavy industrial properties to 1.7;

WHEREAS 35 New Brunswick municipalities have increased their multiplier to 1.7 and are not permitted to increase it further;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan do not have limits on non-residential and industrial property tax multipliers;

WHEREAS New Brunswick residents shoulder more than their fair share of the property tax compared to large industrial facilities;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to remove the maximum limit on the municipal property tax multiplier for non-residential and heavy industrial properties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to create additional industrial property tax classifications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to eliminate property tax exemptions on heavy industries.

Motion 34 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 7, 2023:

WHEREAS the climate crisis represents one of the greatest threats to both human civilization and nature;

WHEREAS the burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas, is the greatest contributor to climate change, responsible for almost 86% of carbon dioxide emissions in the past decade;

WHEREAS the expansion of fossil fuels is incompatible with the internationally agreed 1.5 °C climate threshold to prevent the worsening and potentially irreversible effects of climate change;

WHEREAS the International Energy Agency stated that there can be no new oil, coal, or gas development if the world is to reach net zero by 2050;

WHEREAS, in 2019, Premier Higgs discreetly carved out an exception in the moratorium on hydraulic fracking in New Brunswick for the Sussex area;

WHEREAS Premier Higgs is determined to expand the production of fossil fuels and has indicated that he would pursue fracked gas development with or without First Nations' consent;

WHEREAS, in April 2022, Quebec became the first jurisdiction in the world to ban oil and gas development on its territory;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to implement a comprehensive and immediate ban on the new exploration for fossil fuel;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to enact legislation to prohibit the drilling of wells for the production of natural gas and oil within New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to allocate resources to support the development and implementation of renewable energy to ensure a livable future.

Motion 35 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Arseneau to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 7, 2023:

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.

Motion 36 by Mr. Arseneau, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 14, 2023:

WHEREAS the 2014 New Brunswick general election produced a Liberal majority government with 100% of the power, despite only receiving 28% of the vote among eligible voters;

WHEREAS the 2020 New Brunswick general election produced a Conservative majority government with 100% of the power, despite only receiving 26% of the vote among eligible voters;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Commission on Legislative Democracy established in 2003 by Conservative Premier Bernard Lord designed and recommended a mixed-member proportional representation system for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the 2017 Commission on Electoral Reform recommended that the government consider some form of proportional representation;

WHEREAS over 90 countries currently use proportional representation, including 85% of countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's electoral system should accurately reflect the will of the people, something that cannot be achieved through the current first-past-the-post electoral system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to implement a proportional representation voting system.

Motions for Returns

Motion 18 by Mr. M. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Losier to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

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 related to the expenses incurred by Elections New Brunswick relating to the preparation and planning of a potential provincial election since May 1, 2023.

Motion 19 by Mr. M. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Losier to propose the following resolution on Thursday, November 9, 2023:

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, e-mails, mobile to mobile device communication, PINs, and SMS text messages, regarding all communications between the Premier's Office, the Executive Council Office, and Elections New Brunswick relating to the preparation and planning of a potential provincial election since May 1, 2023.

CONCLUDED

Motion 6 by Mr. Gauvin. Debated and defeated November 23, 2023.
Motion 8 by Ms. Landry. Debated and carried as amended October 26, 2023.
Motion 11 by Mr. Legacy. Debated and defeated November 2, 2023.
Motion 13 by Ms. Thériault. Debated and defeated November 30, 2023.
Motion 17 by Mr. McKee. Debated and carried as amended November 23, 2023.
Motion 21 by Ms. Landry. Debated and carried as amended December 7, 2023.
Motion 29 by Ms. Mitton. Debated and defeated December 7, 2023.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Ms. Mitton, October 18, 2023.	(Response, November 1, 2023)
Petition 2: Ms. Mitton, October 18, 2023.	(Response, November 1, 2023)
Petition 3: Ms. Landry, October 25, 2023.	(Response, November 9, 2023)
Petition 4: Mr. Coon, October 25, 2023.	(Response, November 9, 2023)
Petition 5: Ms. Thériault, November 2, 2023.	(Response, November 22, 2023)
Petition 6: Mr. Bourque, November 22, 2023.	(Response, December 6, 2023)
Petition 7: Mr. Allain, November 23, 2023.	(Response, December 6, 2023)
Petition 8: Mr. Allain, December 7, 2023.	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee on Economic Policy	First Report, November 1, 2023
	Second Report, November 21, 2023
	Third Report, November 23, 2023
	Fourth Report, November 28, 2023

REPORTS/DOCUMENTS

Tabled in the House

Achieving Greater Accessibility: New Brunswick's Framework for Accessibility Legislation
 (Tabled by Hon. Ms. Dunn December 7, 2023)

Filed in the Clerk's Office

Annual Report 2022-2023, Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture
 (Filed December 7, 2023)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS (see Appendix A)

Shayne Davies
 Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

APPENDIX A**WRITTEN QUESTIONS****Question No. 1 by Mr. D'Amours**

Directed to: Hon. Mr. Fitch
Minister of Health

Can the Minister of Health indicate the steps taken by the government since the *Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act* received royal assent on June 16, 2023?

Question No. 2 by Mr. D'Amours

Directed to: Hon. Mr. Turner
Minister responsible for Opportunities NB

Can the Minister responsible for Opportunities New Brunswick indicate the funding approval criteria for small modular reactor projects?

Question No. 3 by Mr. D'Amours

Directed to: Hon. Mr. Turner
Minister responsible for Opportunities NB

Can the Minister responsible for Opportunities New Brunswick indicate the total of private investments confirmed by December 5, 2023, in connection with the approval of small modular reactor projects?

Question No. 4 by Mr. D'Amours

Directed to: Hon. Mr. Turner
Minister responsible for Opportunities NB

Can the Minister responsible for Opportunities New Brunswick indicate the amounts disbursed in connection with small modular reactor projects as of December 5, 2023?