
Daily sitting 14

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier offered condolences to the family of the late Antonine Maillet, Acadian novelist, playwright and scholar, first woman chancellor of the Université de Moncton and creator of the play *La Sagouine*. Mr. Savoie, Mr. Coon and Madam Speaker joined in this regard, following which, the House observed a moment of silence.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 45, Mr. Coon rose to request an emergency debate on the impact of U.S. tariffs on New Brunswickers and the provincial economy. Mr. M. LeBlanc and Mr. Savoie spoke in favour of the request.

As it was the will of the House to debate the matter, Madam Speaker granted the request for an emergency debate. It was agreed by unanimous consent to proceed with the debate at 2.30 p.m. this sitting day.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting through the noon recess.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

- By Hon. Mr. Gauvin,
Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*.
- By Hon. Mr. Dornan,
Bill 7, *An Act Respecting Travel Nurses*.
- By Hon. Mr. D'Amours,
Bill 8, *An Act Respecting the Degree Granting Act*.
- By Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.,
Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.
- By Hon. Mr. Gauvin,
Bill 10, *An Act Respecting Motorcycle Safety*.
- By Hon. Mr. Herron,
Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Mr. Austin gave Notice of Motion 16 that on Thursday, March 27, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ames:

WHEREAS collaboration with First Nations and other stakeholders is essential in fostering mutual respect, ensuring environmental stewardship, and promoting inclusive decision-making in the management of natural resources;

WHEREAS the provincial government has previously estimated that the construction of the Energy East pipeline would create between 2,300 and 4,600 direct and indirect jobs in New Brunswick over the span of the project and potentially increase the province's GDP by \$3 billion;

WHEREAS Canadian pipeline safety standards are the most rigorous on Earth, with an average of 99.99% of all oil transported via federally regulated pipelines each year arriving safely at its intended destination, and no fatal accidents directly resulting from the operation of federally regulated pipelines since 1990;

WHEREAS transporting fuel via pipeline emits 61% to 77% less greenhouse gas than fuel transported by rail;

WHEREAS lifting the moratorium on natural gas exploration will not only enable New Brunswick to capitalize on its natural resources but also promote innovation, create jobs, and ensure that the voices of First Nations and stakeholders are integral to the development process;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately lift the moratorium on natural gas exploration and work collaboratively with First Nations and other stakeholders to explore and develop our natural resources, including natural gas.

Mr. Hogan gave Notice of Motion 17 that on Thursday, March 27, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Weir:

WHEREAS Canada's healthcare system is one of the most comprehensive in the world, but rural and underserved areas face a growing shortage of healthcare professionals, with over 1.2 million Canadians living in communities without access to a family doctor;

WHEREAS New Brunswick currently faces significant healthcare challenges, with rural areas of the province experiencing critical shortages of family physicians and specialists, which impact the quality and accessibility of healthcare for residents;

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada, as of 2021, nearly 140,000 New Brunswickers did not have access to a family doctor, contributing to longer wait times and poorer health outcomes for many in the province;

WHEREAS the implementation of financial incentives, such as tuition rebates or loan forgiveness programs, has been shown to be effective in other provinces in attracting and retaining healthcare professionals in underserved areas, including successful models in Quebec and Manitoba;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government and Department of Health to explore financial incentives such as a tuition rebate for medical students who agree to return and practice medicine in New Brunswick.

Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Thursday, March 27, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace:

WHEREAS the Canadian economy thrives on the principles of free trade, innovation, and collaboration, and interprovincial trade plays a pivotal role in uniting our diverse regions, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all Canadians;

WHEREAS New Brunswick, as a vital part of the Atlantic region, possesses unique resources, industries, and cultural assets that can greatly benefit from increased interprovincial trade, leading to enhanced job creation, economic diversification, and sustainable development;

WHEREAS the current barriers to interprovincial trade, including regulatory discrepancies, tariffs, and licensing challenges, hinder New Brunswick's ability to fully leverage its potential in key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, technology, and tourism, thereby limiting opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS breaking down these barriers will allow New Brunswick to access larger markets, attract investment, and promote innovation, ultimately leading to a stronger, more resilient economy that benefits not only businesses but also the residents of New Brunswick through increased employment opportunities, better access to goods and services, and improved public services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to commit to actively pursuing the removal of interprovincial trade barriers in collaboration with other provinces and territories, to create a more seamless and integrated economic environment that fosters growth, prosperity, and a higher quality of life for all New Brunswickers.

Ms. Conroy gave Notice of Motion 19 that on Thursday, March 27, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS the retention and recruitment of nurses are critical to the future sustainability and success of our healthcare system, ensuring that all New Brunswickers have access to high-quality, timely care when they need it;

WHEREAS the Premier has recognized the essential role of casual nurses in the healthcare system and expressed a commitment to improving programs that support them, yet many critical groups of nurses, such as casual nurses, LPNs in special care facilities, hospice nurses, and public health nurses, were excluded from the current bonus program despite promises made in the Liberal election platform to provide bonuses to all nurses;

WHEREAS the Holt government has made the decision to redirect significant funds, amounting to \$180.6 million, from the WorkSafe return of premiums, which could instead be invested in a much-needed retention bonus program for New Brunswick nurses, including those currently not receiving the recognition and compensation they deserve for their essential contributions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest the WorkSafe funds into a retention bonus program for New Brunswick nurses currently not feeling respected and valued by the government, to help address recruitment and retention challenges and ensure that all nurses in New Brunswick are supported and recognized for their vital roles in our healthcare system.

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

Fredericton, New Brunswick.
March 19, 2025.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits the *Supplementary Estimates 2023-2024, Volume 1*, of the sums required for the services of the Province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 2024, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, recommends these estimates to the House.

(Sgd. :) Louise Imbeault.
Lieutenant-Governor.

At 12.29 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed.

EMERGENCY DEBATE

Madam Speaker delivered the following statement:

Members,

Before we begin our first emergency debate in many years, I wish to highlight a few procedural rules. The motion under debate is “that this House do now adjourn”. The topic of discussion is the impact of U.S. tariffs on New Brunswickers and the provincial economy. Please limit your remarks to this subject matter. Each Member has the opportunity to speak once, for no longer than 15 minutes. When there are no further speakers, that will conclude the debate and pursuant to the motion under consideration, the House will then adjourn.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 45, the House proceeded with the consideration of the motion by Mr. Coon to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing an important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the impact of U.S. tariffs on New Brunswickers and the provincial economy.

The Honourable the Premier welcomed Jim Quinn, Senator for New Brunswick. Mr. Savoie and Ms. Mitton joined in this regard.

And after some time, Mr. Arseneault, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the request of Mr. M. LeBlanc, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Friday, March 21, 2025, Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 would be called for second reading.

Debate resumed on the motion to adjourn the House.

And after some time, Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, Madam Speaker declared the motion carried.

And then, 8.39 p.m., the House adjourned.