
Daily sitting 16

Friday, March 21, 2025

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Lee, Member for Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Lorneville urging government to designate certain land for conservation. (Petition 5)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Legacy,

Bill 12, *An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act.*

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Thursday, March 27, 2025, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS providing paid sick days is a public health measure that helps reduce the risk of spreading illness among coworkers and customers, minimizing the negative impacts on productivity;

WHEREAS, without paid sick days, workers are forced to choose between their health and financial security, potentially risking their own well-being and the health of others;

WHEREAS 45% of full-time workers in New Brunswick earn under \$50,000 annually and a significant portion of these workers do not have access to paid sick days, making it harder for them to recover from illness or care for family members;

WHEREAS the *Employment Standards Act* allows only for up to five days of unpaid sick days, leaving many workers vulnerable to financial hardship when they are ill;

WHEREAS the federal government, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and British Columbia provide paid sick days to their employees;

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;

WHEREAS the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour's consultation on sick days indicated broad support for paid sick days in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure that all New Brunswick workers have access to paid sick days.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Bill 12 would be called for second reading.

Mr. M. LeBlanc, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 7, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 be called for second reading until 12 p.m.; at which time the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 7, *An Act Respecting Travel Nurses*, a debate arose thereon.

At 10.29 a.m. the House recessed. At 10.32 a.m. the House resumed.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 7 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 7, *An Act Respecting Travel Nurses*, 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 6, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 6 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Madam Speaker, at the request of Mr. M. LeBlanc, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

Mr. M. LeBlanc announced that it was the intention of government to resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 13),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

Mr. Doucet welcomed to the House Monique LeBlanc, former Liberal MLA for Moncton East (2014-2020).

And after some time, Madam Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 2 p.m., the House adjourned.