
Daily sitting 19

Thursday, March 27, 2025

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Statements by Members, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Members of the Opposition referred to the Premier by name. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken and reminded Members that the only exception is the last name of the current Premier followed by the word “government”.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. M. Johnson rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Gauvin provided an answer unrelated to the question. Madam Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

Mr. Austin, Member for Fredericton-Grand Lake, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to replace the Newcastle Center bridge. (Petition 6)

Hon. Mr. Legacy 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 27, 2025.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmits a Bill entitled *Special Appropriation Act 2025*, and having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends the same to the House.

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

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Legacy,
Bill 20, *Special Appropriation Act 2025*.
Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*.

Ms. S. Wilson gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Thursday, May 8, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace:

WHEREAS data from Statistics Canada and local Jewish organizations indicate a disturbing rise in antisemitic incidents across New Brunswick over recent years;

WHEREAS, since October 2023, New Brunswick's Jewish community has experienced alarming incidents, including threats to safety at communal facilities, vandalism of Jewish-owned businesses, and intimidation faced by Jewish students in educational institutions;

WHEREAS local law enforcement agencies in New Brunswick have reported significant increases in hate crimes, with the Jewish community being disproportionately targeted;

WHEREAS a provincial summit to combat antisemitism would serve as a vital platform for stakeholders, including government officials, law enforcement, educators, and community leaders, to collaborate, share insights, and develop actionable strategies to counter the rising tide of hate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government of New Brunswick to direct the appointed representatives on Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to convene a provincial summit to address antisemitism in New Brunswick to foster dialogue among stakeholders and to establish comprehensive measures to protect the Jewish community and combat hate in all its forms within the province.

Ms. Scott-Wallace gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, May 8, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS physical activity and sports play a significant role in promoting health, well-being, and community engagement among residents of New Brunswick;

WHEREAS athletes competing at various levels contribute to the province's reputation and pride, representing New Brunswick in regional, national, and international competitions;

WHEREAS several provinces, including British Columbia and Ontario, have established funding programs that provide financial support to athletes competing in recognized sports, ensuring they have the resources necessary to train and excel;

WHEREAS, despite the demonstrated benefits of supporting athletes, New Brunswick currently lacks a comprehensive funding program tailored to assist local athletes competing in recognized sports, which could hinder their development and potential success;

WHEREAS investing in our athletes not only fosters individual excellence but also strengthens the overall sporting community in New Brunswick, encouraging youth participation and enhancing our province's profile in the sports arena;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to begin funding programs that directly support New Brunswick athletes who are competing in recognized sports according to SportNB guidelines.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 29 that on Thursday, May 8, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House detailed expenditure plans for each provincial department and agency for 2025-2026.

Ms. M. Johnson, Opposition House Leader, requested unanimous consent to consider Opposition Members' Business in reverse order: Motion 16 and 15.

At 2.25 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.31 p.m. the House resumed.

Unanimous consent was granted.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Bills 20 and 21 would be called for second reading.

Mr. M. LeBlanc moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, March 28, 2025, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 6, 2025, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Madam Speaker, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Madam Speaker may give notice that she is so satisfied and in such notice shall state a time at which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time so stated and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time, and

THAT in the event of Madam Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, either of the Deputy Speakers shall act in her stead for the purpose of this order.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the motion, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 16, Mr. Austin moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Herron, seconded by Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 16 be amended as follows:

By adding “consultation and” after the first “WHEREAS”.

By deleting the three subsequent whereas clauses and replacing them with the following:

“WHEREAS the geopolitical, economic and trade landscape has greatly changed;

WHEREAS the federal government has designated 34 critical minerals for being essential for Canada’s economic security, for a transition to the green economy, and a sustainable source of highly strategic minerals for our partners and allies;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has 21 of those critical minerals including the Bathurst Mining Camp that hosts 42 zinc-copper deposits, North America’s largest undeveloped resource of manganese in the Woodstock area, the world’s largest undeveloped resource of indium at the former Mt. Pleasant mine in Charlotte County, and the Sisson tungsten-molybdenum deposit, the largest deposit of its type in the world;”

In the resolution clause, by deleting all the words after “Assembly” and replacing them with “of New Brunswick supports the Department of Natural Resources’ work to develop a comprehensive and environmentally responsible mineral strategy to unlock the economic potential of the mining sector of New Brunswick, in consultation and collaboration with First Nations and other stakeholders across the province”.

At 3.17 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.36 p.m. the House resumed.

Ms. M. Johnson rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was not in order as it exceeded the scope of the original motion and introduced foreign elements. Hon. Mr. Herron spoke on the point of order.

Madam Speaker delivered the following ruling:

 STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

I have reviewed the original motion and the proposed amendment and I find the amendment to be out of order for the following reasons.

The subject matter of the proposed amendment is foreign to the original motion. The resolution clause in the original motion urges the government to lift the moratorium on natural gas exploration. The amendment proposes that the Assembly support the work on the development of a mineral strategy.

Accordingly, I find the amendment to be out of order.

Debated resumed.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 16 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 14

Mr. Hogan	Mr. Monahan	Ms. S. Wilson
Ms. M. Johnson	Mr. Ames	Mr. Cullins
Mr. Savoie	Mr. Weir	Ms. Bockus
Ms. Scott-Wallace	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Lee
Mr. Austin	Mr. Oliver	

NAYS - 25

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. McKee	Ms. Wilcott	
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Mallet	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 15, Mr. Lee, the seconder, moved on behalf of Ms. M. Johnson:

WHEREAS suicide is one of the leading causes of death among youths, especially adolescents aged 15 to 19;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is grappling with rising rates in mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation;

WHEREAS suicide rates among Indigenous youth in New Brunswick and Canada are notably higher than among non-Indigenous youth;

WHEREAS stigmas around mental health issues often prevent students from seeking help;

WHEREAS educational institutions play a critical role in fostering a supportive environment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to support the implementation of comprehensive suicide awareness and prevention programs in schools across the province, including mandatory training for educators and staff, the integration of mental health education into the curriculum, and the establishment of supportive resources for students, with the goal of fostering a safe and inclusive environment that encourages open discussions about mental health and provides effective interventions for those in need.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.