



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK First Session, 61st Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER – Sitting No. 19
Thursday, March 27, 2025

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

Motion 13 by Hon. Mr. Legacy, seconded by Hon. Ms. Holt to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, March 18, 2025:

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

Debate adjourned by Mr. J. LeBlanc on behalf of the Honourable the Premier.

Debate to resume on Friday, March 28, 2025.

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

- Bill 13, An Act Respecting the Firefighters' Compensation Act and the Workers' Compensation Act – Hon. Mr. D'Amours
 Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act – Hon. Mr. D'Amours
 Bill 15, An Act Respecting the Highway Act – Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson
 Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.
 Bill 17, An Act Respecting Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs – Hon. Mr. Gauvin

Adjourned Debates

- Bill 12, An Act to Repeal the Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act – Hon. Mr. Legacy

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AMENDMENTS

- Bill 4, An Act Respecting Petroleum Products Pricing – Hon. Mr. Legacy

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

- Bill 18, An Act to Amend An Act Incorporating the New Brunswick Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists – Mr. Bourque

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

- Capital Estimates 2025-2026
 Supplementary Estimates, 2023-2024, Volume 1

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion 1 by Mr. M. LeBlanc, seconded by Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson to propose the following resolution on Tuesday, November 26, 2024:

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick is focused on strengthening relationships with First Nations communities that are built on trust and collaboration;

WHEREAS recognizing and paying respect to the First Nations on whose territories we live and work is an important part of the ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation;

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024, the Government of New Brunswick invited government employees to use a land acknowledgement at formal meetings, at events, in publications, and in other government venues and settings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick acknowledge that the Province of New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples and that the Members of the Legislative Assembly seek to repair and rebuild meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and honour these lands which hold the hopes of future generations.

CONCLUDED

Motion 2 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried November 20, 2024.

Motion 3 by Hon. Mr. Legacy. Debated and carried December 10, 2024.

Motion 4 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried November 20, 2024.

Motion 9 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried November 28, 2024.

Motion 10 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried November 28, 2024.

Motion 11 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried December 11, 2024.

Motion 12 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Carried December 11, 2024.

Motion 24 by Mr. M. LeBlanc. Debated and carried March 26, 2025.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[Order in accordance with notice provided pursuant to Standing Rule 44(4)]

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 15 by Ms. M. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lee to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 20, 2025:

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.

Motion 16 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Ames to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 27, 2025:

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.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

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

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 7 by Ms. Scott-Wallace, seconded by Mr. Savoie to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 12, 2024:

WHEREAS farm solid waste is currently not collected and disposed of by all municipal or local garbage collection services;

WHEREAS solid waste disposal represents a cost and logistical burden for farmers;

WHEREAS farmers pay property taxes for access to public services like everyone else;

WHEREAS farmers and their livelihood are essential to our health, well being, and quality of life;

WHEREAS farmers and their businesses are vital to the larger success of our economy;

WHEREAS some local governments provide solid waste collection and disposal services now, including silage wrap, and others had done so previously;

WHEREAS provincial regulations once stipulated the Minister of Local Government must provide collection and disposal service for farm properties in rural communities, regional municipalities and local service districts, including silage wrap;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to conduct a study in consultation with the Ag Alliance, Circular Materials, Plaex as well as any

other relevant stakeholders to find a means to determine an appropriate strategy to manage agricultural solid waste.

Amendment moved by Hon. Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Hon. Mr. Finnigan that Motion 7 be amended as follows:

In the resolution clause:

By deleting “to conduct a study, in consultation with the Ag Alliance, Circular Materials, Plaex, as well as any other relevant stakeholders, to find a means to determine an appropriate strategy to manage agricultural solid waste” and replacing it with “to continue working with municipalities, Regional Services Commissions, the Agricultural Alliance, Circular Materials and Plaex, as well as any other relevant stakeholders, to determine opportunities to manage agricultural plastic waste in a sustainable manner”.

[Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.]

Motion 8 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Ames to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 12, 2024:

WHEREAS the Premier has openly mused about reviewing the Central NB Correctional Facility Project;

WHEREAS New Brunswick’s current correctional facilities are over capacity, leading to repeat offenders being released on house arrest before they have completed their full sentence;

WHEREAS the Province has already invested over 5 million dollars into the Project, as well as a significant financial contribution from the local municipality;

WHEREAS the people of Grand Lake are relying on the facility for increased public safety and the betterment of their economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to continue with the Central NB Correctional Facility located in the Minto Industrial Park.

Motion 14 by Ms. M. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weir to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 20, 2025:

WHEREAS drug addiction and recovery are critical public health issues that deeply impact individuals, families, and communities across New Brunswick;

WHEREAS privately and not-for-profit owned drug recovery programs operate within the province and play a significant role in offering support to individuals seeking treatment;

WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the potential for harm caused by unregulated or inadequately monitored private and not-for-profit recovery programs, or lack of evidence-based practices;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the provincial government to ensure that all drug recovery programs, whether public or private and not-for-profit, adhere to high standards of accountability, safety, and efficacy for the well-being of those they serve;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to move towards a recovery-based model in treating those suffering from addictions and to re-evaluate current harm reduction models.

Motion 17 by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Weir to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 27, 2025:

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.

Motion 18 by Mr. Savoie, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 27, 2025:

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.

Motion 19 by Ms. Conroy, seconded by Mr. Hogan to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 27, 2025:

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.

Motion 20 by Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton to propose the following resolution on Thursday, March 27, 2025:

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.

Motion 21 by Ms. Bockus, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 8, 2025:

WHEREAS the sale of beer, wine, and spirits is currently regulated in a manner that limits consumer choice and convenience, resulting in unnecessary barriers to access for responsible adults in our province;

WHEREAS other provinces, including Ontario and British Columbia, have successfully allowed the sale of beer, wine, and spirits in grocery and convenience stores, leading to an increase in consumer convenience, reduced government oversight, and competitive market conditions, without compromising public safety;

WHEREAS the revenue generated from expanded sales of alcohol in grocery and convenience stores would provide a valuable opportunity to enhance government revenue and support public health initiatives, while maintaining a strong regulatory framework to ensure responsible sales and consumption;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate steps to allow the sale of beer, wine, and spirits in grocery and convenience stores, ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place for responsible distribution, safety, and health regulations.

Motion 22 by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Ames to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 8, 2025:

WHEREAS the pharmacy engagement pilot project was designed to integrate pharmacists more effectively into the healthcare system by expanding their roles in patient care, including medication management, chronic disease monitoring, and minor ailment prescribing;

WHEREAS this initiative demonstrated tangible benefits, including improved patient outcomes, reduced wait times in emergency departments, and enhanced efficiency within the healthcare system;

WHEREAS pharmacists, as highly trained and accessible healthcare professionals, play a crucial role in alleviating pressure on primary care providers and emergency services, particularly during a time of healthcare workforce shortages in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS discontinuing this pilot project would result in decreased access to essential healthcare services, increased strain on physicians and emergency departments, and potential negative impacts on patient health outcomes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to strongly advocate for the immediate reinstatement and expansion of the pharmacy engagement pilot project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to allocate the necessary funding and resources to support pharmacists in delivering essential healthcare services as part of a sustainable and integrated healthcare system.

Motion 23 by Ms. Bockus, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, May 8, 2025:

WHEREAS the SEED (Student Employment and Experience Development) grants in New Brunswick have proven to be an effective way for MLAs to support projects that address specific community needs, but the current allocation limits do not provide sufficient flexibility for MLAs to meet the growing demands of their constituents;

WHEREAS other provinces, such as Alberta, have implemented systems that allow for a higher number of funded positions or grants per riding, resulting in more inclusive community support, better outcomes for local initiatives, and enhanced relationships between elected officials and the communities they serve;

WHEREAS increasing the number of SEED grants available in each riding will enable MLAs to provide greater support to local initiatives, foster stronger connections with constituents, and ensure that community-driven projects can thrive across New Brunswick, contributing to social and economic development at the grassroots level;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to increase the funding for SEED grants to enable MLAs to award 30 positions in each riding, empowering them to better address local needs and contribute to the ongoing development of their communities.

Motion 25 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Scott-Wallace to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 3, 2025:

WHEREAS New Brunswick is endowed with vast natural resources, including untapped reserves of natural gas, which present a significant opportunity to contribute to the province's economic development, job creation, and energy security;

WHEREAS a jurisdictional scan of other Canadian provinces demonstrates the economic impact of natural gas exploration, seeing billions in economic benefits from its natural gas sector;

WHEREAS New Brunswick, with its unique geological formations, has the potential to explore and develop its natural gas resources, ensuring that the economic benefits of this

resource can be realized in a way that protects the province's natural environment for future generations;

WHEREAS the development of natural resources in New Brunswick will strengthen the province's economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government of New Brunswick to initiate comprehensive research and a consultative process to explore the responsible development of its natural resources in order to unlock new economic opportunities and contribute to the long-term prosperity of the province.

Motion 26 by Mr. Austin, seconded by Ms. Conroy to propose the following resolution on Thursday, April 3, 2025:

WHEREAS security threats and incidents targeting public and private institutions, including places of worship and non-profit organizations, have become an increasing concern across Canada, with religious and community organizations often being vulnerable to acts of vandalism, theft, and other forms of violence;

WHEREAS the recent vandalism of the Fredericton Synagogue, an act that undermines the principles of tolerance, respect, and inclusion, highlights the critical need for greater community support and collaboration, and religious organizations, through their longstanding commitment to fostering understanding, unity, and social responsibility, are essential partners in promoting healing, reconciliation, and a stronger, more inclusive New Brunswick society, making their inclusion in the New Brunswick Community Investment Fund vital for the betterment of all communities;

WHEREAS religious organizations in New Brunswick have a long history of providing essential community services, including food programs, mental health support, youth mentorship, and senior care, which contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of local communities, particularly in underserved and vulnerable populations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to expand the CIF eligibility requirements to include security apparatus and equipment for religious and non-profit organizations, ensuring that these essential institutions are equipped to protect their staff, members, and facilities from emerging threats.

CONCLUDED

Motion 5 by Mr. Ames. Debated and carried as amended December 12, 2024.

Motion 6 by Mr. Hogan. Debated and carried as amended November 28, 2024.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Mr. Coon, November 26, 2024.

(Response, January 10, 2025)

Petition 2: Ms. S. Wilson, December 10, 2024.

(Response, January 23, 2025)

Petition 3: Ms. Mitton, December 10, 2024.

(Response, December 19, 2024)

Petition 4: Mr. Cullins, December 13, 2024.

(Response, December 19, 2024)

Petition 5: Mr. Lee, March 21, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee on Economic Policy

First Report, December 10, 2024

Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

First Report, December 11, 2024

Second Report, March 26, 2025

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly