
Daily sitting 15

Thursday, November 20, 2025

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Madam Speaker, Mr. Arseneault, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Ms. Vautour, from the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, presented the Fourth Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

November 20, 2025

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Madam Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Economic Policy begs leave to submit this, their fourth report.

Your Committee met on November 19, 2025, and had under consideration:

Bill 9, *An Act Respecting the Emergency 911 Act*;
Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Wills Act*;
Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act*;
Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*;

and have agreed to the same.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd. :) Natacha Vautour, M.L.A.
Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Madam Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Thursday, December 4, 2025, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers struggling with addiction and mental health issues often have trouble finding a way to get the treatment they need;

WHEREAS the Department of Health only funds 67 detox beds and 34 rehab beds for adults, youth, and children with substance use disorders through the Regional Health Authorities;

WHEREAS the limited availability of public treatment options in New Brunswick has resulted in prolonged waiting times, leaving vulnerable individuals without timely access to essential care and support;

WHEREAS privately run rehab centres have proliferated to fill in the gap created by the overstretched publicly funded facilities;

WHEREAS private addiction treatment centres are unregulated in New Brunswick, which raises concerns about the quality of care and treatment provided, potentially jeopardizing the well-being of those seeking assistance;

WHEREAS a comprehensive and compassionate approach to addressing addiction and mental health issues requires increased investment in public detox and rehab facilities, coupled with robust regulation to ensure the highest standards of care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to take immediate action to establish and enforce regulations for all private rehab centres, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the provision of high-quality care for individuals seeking treatment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to increase its investment in public detox and rehab facilities to reduce the waiting list for those seeking treatment.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 4, moved by Hon. Ms. Miles, seconded by Mr. Doucet, on November 6, 2025.

And after some time, Mr. Monahan, seconded by Mr. Cullins, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 4 be amended by striking out “continue” and substituting “commence”.

At 2.34 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.37 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker advised the House that the sub-amendment, having been corrected for grammatical purposes, was in order, and further advised that it was not the practice of the House to adjust the time remaining in debate following interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and a debate ensued.

At 2.38 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.45 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time. Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the sub-amendment was out of order as it was completely contrary to the amendment and would produce the same result as the defeat of the amendment. Ms. M. Johnson spoke on the point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the point not well taken as the matter had already been decided.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the sub-amendment was defeated on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 17

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

NAYS - 24

Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Holt	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Randall	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Mr. McKee	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Ms. Wilcott	Mr. Robichaud

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 4 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS persons suffering from substance use disorders remain at high risk for relapse, even after receiving treatment for addiction;

WHEREAS receiving follow-up supports and lifestyle changes leads to improved outcomes and lower relapse rates after treatment;

WHEREAS stable housing, employment, and mental health support for addiction and co-occurring disorders are critical to maintaining sobriety;

WHEREAS the lack of gender-specific, age-appropriate, and culturally-safe services for all marginalized groups has been identified as a barrier to recovery;

WHEREAS careful and rigorous case management is critical to ensuring individuals in recovery are receiving the supports they need to maintain sobriety;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to provide persons in recovery from substance use disorders with integrated care plans comprising mental health support, employment opportunities, assistance finding affordable housing, access to recovery-focused support groups, and access to social services that meet the needs of marginalized groups.

And the question being put, Motion 4 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 26

Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Ms. Holt	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Randall	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Mr. McKee	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Ms. Wilcott	Mr. Coon
Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Mallet	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

NAYS - 16

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

Mr. Bourque, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Mr. Weir moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS emergency services and hospital emergency departments are seeing increasing mental health demand;

WHEREAS police are frequently first responders to mental-health crises — studies report that 6% to as high as 30% of police calls involve persons believed to be experiencing a mental-health problem — and this variability underscores the need for consistent, evidence-based crisis response training across front-line services;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's mental health indicators are of particular concern: provincial reports and the Canadian Mental Health Association note higher-than-average rates of mood, anxiety and substance-use disorders in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS evidence reviews of crisis-response and de-escalation approaches indicate that training in trauma-informed care, mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation for police, EMS, emergency-room staff and social workers improves safety, reduces coercive responses, and connects people more effectively to care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to institute mandatory training for police, EMS, ER staff, and social workers in mental health crisis response and trauma-informed care be implemented.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 3 be amended in the resolution clause by striking out all the words after “to” and substituting “continue to provide access to training for police, EMS, ER staff and social workers in mental health crisis response and trauma-informed care.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

At 3.55 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.08 p.m. the House resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Ames, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 3 be amended by adding “by augmenting current programs with increased financial support” after “care”.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and a debate ensued.

At 4.24 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.37 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the sub-amendment was out of order as it required the expenditure of funds. Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the point not well taken as the original motion simply urges, not directs, the government to take a certain action.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the sub-amendment was defeated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 3 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS emergency services and hospital emergency departments are seeing increasing mental health demand;

WHEREAS police are frequently first responders to mental-health crises — studies report that 6% to as high as 30% of police calls involve persons believed to be experiencing a mental-health problem — and this variability underscores the need for consistent, evidence-based crisis response training across front-line services;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's mental health indicators are of particular concern: provincial reports and the Canadian Mental Health Association note higher-than-average rates of mood, anxiety and substance-use disorders in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS evidence reviews of crisis-response and de-escalation approaches indicate that training in trauma-informed care, mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation for police, EMS, emergency-room staff and social workers improves safety, reduces coercive responses, and connects people more effectively to care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to continue to provide access to training for police, EMS, ER staff, and social workers in mental health crisis response and trauma-informed care.

And the question being put, Motion 3 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 23

Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Mallet
Hon. Ms. Holt	Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Arseneault
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Herron	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Randall	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Mr. McKee	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Ms. Wilcott	

NAYS - 17

Mr. Hogan	Ms. M. Wilson	Ms. S. Wilson
Ms. M. Johnson	Mr. Coon	Mr. Cullins
Mr. Savoie	Mr. Weir	Ms. Bockus
Mr. Austin	Ms. Conroy	Mr. Lee
Mr. Monahan	Mr. Oliver	Ms. Mitton
Mr. Ames	Mr. Russell	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Ames moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

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

WHEREAS the last report from Correctional Service Canada from 2019 estimated that 78% of offenders in correctional institutions struggled with substance use;

WHEREAS the chief of the Saint John police has attributed the 8% increase in violent crime in Saint John to illicit drugs;

WHEREAS therapeutic community models / therapeutic living units have been successfully implemented in correctional settings in North America and Europe, and have consistently demonstrated that these corrections-based programs are effective in reducing post-release criminal activity and re-incarceration rates;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to invest in developing therapeutic living units in all provincial correctional facilities in New Brunswick, complete with transition programs and follow-up supports, so inmates struggling with addiction can access the treatment that they need while incarcerated, allowing them to work toward a healthy future, free from substance-use disorder during and after their sentence.

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.