
Daily sitting 23

Thursday, December 11, 2025

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Following Statements by Ministers, Mr. Oliver rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Ms. Boudreau used a prop. Madam Speaker ruled the point well taken.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to revert to Oral Questions for a reply to a question taken as notice.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Thursday, March 19, 2026, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS the lobbyist registry remains the same temporary registry that was created eight years ago;

WHEREAS the lobbyist registry contains out-of-date information and is missing government departments covered by the Act;

WHEREAS the lobbyist registry does not show complete information, including what subjects Cabinet ministers are being lobbied on;

WHEREAS the lobbyist registry is not user-friendly;

WHEREAS there is a lack of enforcement of the lobbyist registry, as evidenced by the corporate lobbyists that the Premier has confirmed she has met with who do not appear on the registry;

WHEREAS, in its first throne speech a year ago, the Holt government promised to modernize and strengthen the lobbyist registry to enhance transparency and accountability;

WHEREAS, in her 2025 State of the Province speech, the Premier said her government is “committed to being the most accountable and transparent government New Brunswick has ever seen”;

WHEREAS transparency and accountability remain shrouded in mystery when it comes to those lobbying this government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to update the *Lobbyists' Registration Act* so that New Brunswickers know who is lobbying whom for what;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Integrity Commissioner to ensure that the online lobbyist registry is updated to include all current information and be more user-friendly.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, March 19, 2026, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS access to affordable solar energy can significantly lower household energy costs, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and create local jobs in New Brunswick's growing renewable energy sector;

WHEREAS Premier Holt has committed to establishing a provincial solar retrofit program to make solar energy more accessible and affordable for New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS high upfront costs remain a significant barrier to installing solar power systems, preventing many New Brunswickers from benefiting from clean, renewable energy;

WHEREAS innovative and affordable solar solutions, such as plug-in solar panels widely available in European countries, enable tenants to reduce their power costs with free energy from the sun;

WHEREAS expanding access to solar energy will empower New Brunswickers to save money, strengthen energy resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to implement a comprehensive and accessible solar retrofit program that removes financial barriers and expands access to solar energy for all New Brunswickers.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 29 that on Thursday, March 19, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS New Brunswick only produces 9% of the vegetables and 3% of all of the food that New Brunswickers eat;

WHEREAS the threat of US tariffs has underscored the importance of creating a resilient local food economy;

WHEREAS New Brunswick lost 20% of its farms between 2016 and 2021;

WHEREAS only 6.7% of New Brunswick farmers are under 35 years old;

WHEREAS encouraging local non-industrial agriculture constitutes a way to fight climate change;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately set ambitious local purchasing targets for public institutions in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to ensure stable government funding for local food contracts to enable more of our food to be produced locally.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 30 that on Thursday, March 19, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS transportation is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New Brunswick, contributing approximately 26% of total emissions;

WHEREAS achieving New Brunswick's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction targets requires lowering transportation emissions by reducing the reliance on personal vehicles and improving access to public transportation options;

WHEREAS there is currently no government department responsible for coordinating public transportation development, resulting in service gaps, inadequate frequency, and poor integration of transportation modes, leaving many New Brunswickers without reliable public transportation alternatives;

WHEREAS the 2017 *From Surfaces to Services* report identified the critical need for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to improving public transportation across the province, yet no meaningful action has been taken;

WHEREAS appointing a Minister responsible for public transportation would provide the necessary leadership, coordination, and accountability to ensure the effective development, funding, and integration of public transportation services throughout New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to give the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure a mandate for public transportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to allocate the necessary resources and funding to support the New Brunswick Transportation Authority to create and implement a public transportation strategy.

Debate resumed on Motion 9, moved by Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Ames, on December 4, 2025.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Coon, seconded by Ms. Mitton, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 9 be amended:

In the fourth whereas clause by striking out “leading jurisdictions such as Portugal, Norway, and parts of Canada have shown that combining compassionate, legally safeguarded intervention with”;

By striking out the fifth whereas clause;

In the resolution clause by striking out all words following “framework” and substituting “for complex care housing with wraparound services including mental health support, addiction treatment, employment assistance and case management”.

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

At 3.03 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.19 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Austin rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it removed references to compassionate intervention, which negated the intent of the motion. Ms. Mitton and Mr. Savoie spoke on the point of order.

At 3.22 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.32 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the amendment in order as the subject matter did not constitute a direct negative but rather proposed an alternative to the original question.

And after some time, Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Bourque questioned the ability of the Official Opposition to communicate in French. Mr. Bourque withdrew the remark.

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

YEAS - 29

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

NAYS - 15

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 9 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS mental illness and addiction are not moral failings but health conditions that affect families and communities in every corner of this country, and each year in Canada, over 4,800 people die by suicide, while over 20 Canadians die every single day from toxic drug poisonings;

WHEREAS behind these statistics are loved ones — parents, children, neighbours, friends — whose suffering often unfolds in silence and desperation, leaving families and communities powerless and legally unable to intervene until it is too late;

WHEREAS in New Brunswick, suicide and overdose deaths have climbed steadily in recent years, with suicide rates among the highest in Atlantic Canada and the province seeing a more than 60% increase in suspected drug poisoning deaths since 2016, while emergency rooms and law enforcement agencies face increasing crisis calls with limited tools to respond effectively;

WHEREAS wraparound care — housing, treatment, counseling, and long-term follow-up — can reduce emergency visits, lower overdose deaths, and reconnect people with their families and communities;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to establish a framework for complex care housing with wraparound services including mental health support, addiction treatment, employment assistance, and case management.

And the question being put, Motion 9 as amended was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 29

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

NAYS - 15

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

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 10, Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

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 Natural Resources Canada estimates that New Brunswick sits on nearly 80 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas, which the Fraser Institute estimates is worth between \$186 billion and \$221 billion at current market prices;

WHEREAS the federal government has demonstrated interest in the development and export of Canada's energy resources to our allies, as exemplified by the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent between Canada and Germany in August 2025 to build energy partnerships and Saint John-Kennebecasis Liberal MP Wayne Long stating in September 2025 that the Holt government should restart shale gas development in New Brunswick to take advantage of the next export potential;

WHEREAS the Russian war against Ukraine has forced Europe to reassess its previous reliance on Russian natural gas imports, resulting in the European Union's REPowerEU Plan, adopted in May 2022 which seeks to eliminate all imports of Russian gas by the end of 2027, thus necessitating new import sources;

WHEREAS Europe's transition to green energy includes natural gas, as reinforced via a European Commission court ruling in September 2025;

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 gas resources.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

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

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