

Daily sitting 43

Thursday, May 28, 2026

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 42, Ms. M. Wilson moved, seconded by Ms. Bockus:

WHEREAS the Victoria Cross is the British Commonwealth's highest medal for valour, created in 1856 by Queen Victoria, and awarded 99 times to Canadian soldiers between 1854 and 1945;

WHEREAS, in 1993, Queen Elizabeth II established the Canadian Victoria Cross, making it the highest award in the Canadian Honours System, to be awarded for most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy;

WHEREAS members of the Canadian Armed Forces have served in battle and in conflict zones on numerous occasions in the 81 years since the awarding of the last Victoria Cross in 1945, from Korea to Cyprus to the Balkans to Afghanistan;

WHEREAS, although many members of the Canadian Armed Forces have displayed uncommon acts of bravery and valour in the 33 years since the creation of the Canadian Victoria Cross, none have yet been awarded;

WHEREAS the non-profit group Valour in the Presence of the Enemy, led by their Chair, retired General Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defence Staff, has been working on an initiative to see deserving members of the Canadian Armed Forces considered for this honour;

WHEREAS the Legislatures of Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, along with the Senate of Canada, have already passed motions addressing the lack of any Canadian Victoria Crosses having yet been awarded;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of Canada to establish an independent military honours review board to review veterans' cases where evidence suggests Victoria Cross criteria were met.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. D'Amours, seconded by Mr. Johnston, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 42 be amended:

By adding the following after the final whereas clause:

“WHEREAS New Brunswick is home to the 5th Canadian Division Support Base, CFB Gagetown, the second largest military base in Canada;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a long and proud military history, with generations of service members who have bravely defended our country and contributed to peace and security around the world;

WHEREAS the Minister responsible for Military Affairs has written to the Minister of National Defence, asking that independent Military Honours Review Board members be added to the review board which would provide a transparent, credible, and impartial process to assess cases where new evidence suggests the criteria for the Victoria Cross have been met;”

In the resolution clause by striking out “establish an independent military honours review board to review veterans’ cases where” and replacing it with “add independent members to the Military Honours Review Board to review veterans’ cases where new”.

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

At 3.10 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.29 p.m. the House resumed.

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

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 42 be amended by adding “, who would constitute a majority of the membership,” after “independent members”.

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

At 3.46 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.56 p.m. the House resumed.

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

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Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Monahan
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Miles	Ms. Wilcott	Ms. M. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Mr. Mallet	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. LePage	Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Weir
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Oliver
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Doucet	Mr. Russell
Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Ms. Vautour	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. Johnston	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Ms. M. Johnson	Mr. Lee
Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. Savoie	Ms. Mitton
Hon. Ms. Townsend	Ms. Scott-Wallace	
Hon. Mr. Randall	Mr. Austin	

Madam Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was adopted.

Madam Speaker put the question on Motion 42 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Victoria Cross is the British Commonwealth's highest medal for valour, created in 1856 by Queen Victoria, and awarded 99 times to Canadian soldiers between 1854 and 1945;

WHEREAS, in 1993, Queen Elizabeth II established the Canadian Victoria Cross, making it the highest award in the Canadian Honours System, to be awarded for most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy;

WHEREAS members of the Canadian Armed Forces have served in battle and in conflict zones on numerous occasions in the 81 years since the awarding of the last Victoria Cross in 1945, from Korea to Cyprus to the Balkans to Afghanistan;

WHEREAS, although many members of the Canadian Armed Forces have displayed uncommon acts of bravery and valour in the 33 years since the creation of the Canadian Victoria Cross, none have yet been awarded;

WHEREAS the non-profit group Valour in the Presence of the Enemy, led by their Chair, retired General Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defence Staff, has been working on an initiative to see deserving members of the Canadian Armed Forces considered for this honour;

WHEREAS the Legislatures of Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, along with the Senate of Canada, have already passed motions addressing the lack of any Canadian Victoria Crosses having yet been awarded;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is home to the 5th Canadian Division Support Base, CFB Gaagetown, the second largest military base in Canada;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a long and proud military history, with generations of service members who have bravely defended our country and contributed to peace and security around the world;

WHEREAS the Minister responsible for Military Affairs has written to the Minister of National Defence, asking that independent Military Honours Review Board members be added to the review board which would provide a transparent, credible, and impartial process to assess cases where new evidence suggests the criteria for the Victoria Cross have been met;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of Canada to add independent members, who would constitute a majority of the membership, to the Military Honours Review Board to review veterans' cases where new evidence suggests Victoria Cross criteria were met.

And the question being put, Motion 42 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

At 4.43 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.53 p.m. the House resumed.

Debate resumed on Motion 37, moved by Ms. M. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hogan, on May 14, 2026.

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

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

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

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petition 17

May 27, 2026