
Daily sitting 47

Thursday, June 4, 2026

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 46 that on Thursday, June 11, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres is occurring rapidly and is largely unregulated;

WHEREAS Canadians are worried about misinformation, job losses, and the amount of energy being used for AI data centres;

WHEREAS Opportunities New Brunswick has been involved in pursuing a plan to build an AI data centre on land owned by the government's Regional Development Corporation in Lorneville;

WHEREAS this data centre will require 200 megawatts of energy from NB Power, in addition to the 190 megawatts it intends to purchase from a gas plant built by Volta Grid, a Texas-based company run by a Trump supporter;

WHEREAS the proposed on-site gas plant built by Volta Grid is estimated to emit over 750,000 tonnes of greenhouse gasses per year;

WHEREAS NB Power said it hasn't even accounted for AI data centre energy use in its forecasting;

WHEREAS the Higgs government banned NB Power from selling electricity to cryptocurrency mines due to concerns of adding demand to the grid;

WHEREAS, out of concern for the demand that AI data centres will put on the grid, Quebec now requires ministerial authorization for any new load of 5 megawatts or more;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to put an immediate moratorium on the current and future development of AI data centres;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to maintain the moratorium until legislation is enacted that ensures that the development and operation of AI data centres does not increase the price of electricity, harm communities, or harm the environment.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 37 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 17

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

NAYS - 25

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Arseneault
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Boudreau	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Mr. Herron	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. McKee	Ms. Wilcott	
Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Mallet	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 43, Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Monahan:

WHEREAS, in May 2022, the Liberal caucus presented a motion to eliminate the provincial excise tax on gasoline, declaring that “New Brunswickers need and deserve relief to cope with high gas prices” and that the provincial government had clear authority to act;

WHEREAS the Premier and the Liberal Party campaigned on affordability in 2024 and promised New Brunswickers relief at the pumps;

WHEREAS, because of global supply-chain instability, regular unleaded gasoline surpassed \$2.00 per litre in New Brunswick for the second time in history on May 15, 2026, and the price has since remained near the \$2.00 mark;

WHEREAS the federal government has already taken action by suspending its own excise tax on fuel from April 20 until Labour Day, while the Holt Liberals have done nothing;

WHEREAS the provincial government collects 10.87¢ per litre on gasoline and 15.45¢ per litre on diesel in excise taxes of its own;

WHEREAS the Holt Liberal government is currently benefiting from high fuel prices through the provincial portion of HST, charged on top of the excise taxes, while families struggle to afford basic necessities and businesses struggle to keep their prices affordable;

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of New Brunswickers living in rural, suburban, and smaller urban communities cannot opt for public transportation and must bear the high cost of fuel to commute, work their farms, and run the businesses that feed, heat, and supply the province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to follow the federal government's example and immediately suspend the provincial excise tax of 10.87¢ per litre on gasoline and 15.45¢ per litre on diesel.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Ms. Vautour, seconded by Ms. Wilcott, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 43 be amended:

In the first whereas clause by adding "former" before "provincial government";

By striking out the last five whereas clauses and replacing them with:

“WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick amended the fuel pricing regulations in December 2025, so E10 ethanol-blended fuel would set the benchmark price for regular gasoline, a move made to save drivers up to 10 cents per litre;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has introduced additional cost-saving measures including implementing a 3% rent cap, removing the provincial tax on electricity usage, establishing the School Breakfast Program to provide free breakfast to children and save families \$800 annually on food, approving every food bank and community kitchen’s funding requests to the Department of Social Development, to name a few;”

By striking out the resolution clause and replacing it with:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to continue to explore affordability measures to support New Brunswickers in mitigating the high cost of living.”

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

At 4.32 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.45 p.m. the House resumed.

Ms. M. Johnson rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it exceeded the scope of the original motion. Mr. M. LeBlanc spoke on the point of order.

At 4.47 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.55 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the amendment out of order as the subject matter proposed exceeded the scope of the original motion.

Debated resumed.

And after some time, Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 43 was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 14

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

NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Herron	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Johnston
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Ms. Wilcott	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Mallet	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Arseneault	

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