Daily sitting 2 Wednesday, October 21, 2026

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Ms. M. Johnson welcomed to the House Daniel Allain, the newly elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and former MLA for Moncton East (2020-2024).

Ms. S. Wilson offered condolences to the family of the late Wayne Steeves, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Albert (1999-2014).

At the request of Hon. Mr. D'Amours, the House observed a moment of silence to honour the service members who lost their lives in a fire that swept through the Canadian Armed Forces Base in Wainwright, Alberta.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Dornan,
Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.
By Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.,
Bill 3, *An Act Respecting the Child, Youth, Senior and Mental Health Advocate*.

With leave of the House, the Honourable the Premier moved, seconded by Ms. M. Johnson: (Motion 1)

WHEREAS the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms in serving Parliament originates more than 500 years ago in medieval England and France;

AND WHEREAS the Sergeant-at-Arms is a senior officer of the House responsible for enforcing the Speaker's directives relating to order and decorum on the floor of the Assembly and in the public galleries, overseeing security services in the Legislative Precinct and assuming the role of guardian of the Parliamentary Mace;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with its authority under subsection 41(1) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Legislative Administration Committee has appointed Michel Litalien as Sergeant-at-Arms;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly does hereby confirm the appointment of Michel Litalien as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, October 29, 2026, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Hogan:

WHEREAS mortgage discharge fees charged by lenders can be as high as $400;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers may encounter these fees multiple times over the amortization period of their mortgage when changing lenders or paying their balance in full;

WHEREAS lenders have no right to maintain a lien on a property when all debts backed by that property have been paid or transferred to a new lender;

WHEREAS providing a mortgage discharge document is a simple administrative task for lenders analogous to providing a receipt and does not warrant these high administrative fees;

WHEREAS British Columbia and Manitoba have limited the amount lenders can charge to produce a discharge document;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to eliminate mortgage discharge fees charged by lenders.

Ms. Scott-Wallace gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, October 29, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ames:

WHEREAS Canada has had several active living credits in the past to support families, including the $500 per child Children's Fitness Tax Credit which supported and encouraged families to make active living a priority;

WHEREAS the Children's Fitness Tax Credit was eliminated by the federal Liberals in 2017;

WHEREAS the Active Families Benefit in Saskatchewan is seeing success for eligible families with children who participate in sports, cultural, and recreational activities;

WHEREAS the high cost of living often means families cannot afford to enroll their children in activities that will benefit their health;

WHEREAS the latest Statistics Canada numbers show that 70% of New Brunswickers are overweight or obese;

WHEREAS the NB Medical Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick, and Diabetes Canada have called obesity an epidemic in New Brunswick and have called on the Department of Health to develop an obesity strategy in the past;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to develop the NB Active Families Benefit to provide families in New Brunswick earning less than $80,000 a year with a benefit of $200 per child to cover registration costs for sports, cultural, and recreational activities.

Ms. Bockus gave Notice of Motion 4 that on Thursday, October 29, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. M. Wilson:

WHEREAS there is a projected shortage of optometrists in Canada to treat the 5.5 million Canadians living with an eye condition;

WHEREAS approximately half of Canadian optometrists are receiving their training in the United States at a significant personal cost because of a shortage of seats in Canada's two existing optometry programs;

WHEREAS the University of Waterloo currently delivers the only English-language optometry program in Canada, holds the blueprint for an optometry program in Atlantic Canada, and requires a financial commitment to proceed with development;

WHEREAS the University of New Brunswick at Saint John and the University of Waterloo have already signed a memorandum of understanding expressing a desire to partner in developing the first school of optometry in Atlantic Canada;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to answer the call from the New Brunswick Association of Optometrists and to support the development of a satellite school of optometry at the University of New Brunswick at Saint John in partnership with the University of Waterloo;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to provide support to the University of New Brunswick at Saint John and encourage the university to invest any initial financial outlay required to begin development of the program.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Friday, October 23, 2026, Bills 2 and 3 would be called for second reading.

And then, 12.03 p.m., the House adjourned.