Daily sitting 7 Thursday, October 29, 2026

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Lee, Member for Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to install a three-way stop at the intersection of Route 790 and Route 795. (Petition 2)

Ms. Bockus gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Thursday, November 5, 2026, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. M. Johnson:

WHEREAS seniors living in New Brunswick's nursing homes and special care homes deserve access to a level of direct care that reflects their needs, dignity, and safety;

WHEREAS residents in these facilities are increasingly living with complex medical, mobility, and cognitive needs, requiring greater levels of hands-on assistance and supervision;

WHEREAS New Brunswick currently lacks province-wide transparency standards regarding the establishment of the number of direct-care hours each resident should receive each day;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has established a standard of 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day, Ontario has committed to 4.0 hours of direct care, and PEI provides between 3.5 and 4.6 hours of direct care;

WHEREAS the federal government recommends a minimum benchmark of 4.1 hours of direct care per patient per day;

WHEREAS adequate direct-care hours are essential to ensuring residents receive timely assistance with bathing, toileting, meals, medications, mobility, personal care, socialization, and other daily needs;

WHEREAS insufficient staffing and direct-care hours can contribute to staff burnout, unfilled beds, increased pressure on hospitals and nursing homes, and reduced ability to safely care for residents with increasingly complex needs;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes has asked the government to increase direct-care hours;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to increase the funded hours of direct care provided to residents of New Brunswick nursing homes to a minimum of 4.1 hours per resident per day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to establish a transparent province-wide standard for direct-care hours in special care homes, based upon resident acuity and informed by comparable standards in other Atlantic provinces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to conduct a province-wide assessment of actual versus funded direct-care hours in nursing homes and special care homes, including the impact of staff vacancies, absenteeism, and turnover.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 4, Ms. Bockus moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 4 be amended:

In the first resolution clause by striking out the words after "to" and substituting "explore options for developing a satellite school of optometry in New Brunswick serving both official linguistic communities.";

In the second resolution clause by striking out the words after "the government to" and substituting "assess and evaluate the viability, development and implementation of such a program in collaboration with Atlantic governments."

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

At 3.06 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.30 p.m. the House resumed with Mr. Arseneault, the Deputy Speaker, in the chair.

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

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 4 be amended:

In the first resolution clause by striking out "a satellite" and substituting "an independent public";

In the second resolution clause by adding "and report back to the New Brunswick Association of Optometrists and the University of New Brunswick at Saint John by the end of the current fiscal year" after "governments".

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

At 3.46 p.m. the House recessed. At 4 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the sub-amendment was out of order. Mr. Savoie spoke on the point of order.

At 4.04 p.m. the House recessed. At 4.18 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the sub-amendment to be in order.

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

YEAS - 16

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

NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Mallet
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Randall	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Wilcott	

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the amendment and it was adopted on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 23

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Mallet
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Randall	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Wilcott	

NAYS - 16

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

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

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 explore options for developing a satellite school of optometry in New Brunswick serving both official linguistic communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to assess and evaluate the viability, development and implementation of such a program in collaboration with Atlantic governments.

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 - 23

Hon. Mr. Gauvin	Hon. Mr. McKee	Mr. Mallet
Mr. M. LeBlanc	Hon. Ms. Thériault	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Legacy	Hon. Mr. Herron	Mr. J. LeBlanc
Hon. Ms. Miles	Hon. Ms. Townsend	Mr. Doucet
Hon. Mr. Dornan	Hon. Mr. Randall	Ms. Vautour
Hon. Ms. C. Johnson	Hon. Mr. Kennedy	Ms. Sodhi
Hon. Mr. LePage	Hon. Mr. Hickey	Mr. Robichaud
Hon. Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Wilcott	

NAYS - 16

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

Madam Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Monahan had altered footage of House proceedings with the addition of A.I. generated graphics and posted the footage on social media. Mr. Savoie spoke on the point of order. Madam Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Ms. Scott-Wallace moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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