Daily sitting 31   Friday, February 2, 2018
9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Landry,
    Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.
By Hon. Mr. LePage,
    Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

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Mr. Roussel gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Thursday, February 8, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Guitard:

WHEREAS seasonal industries play a vital role in New Brunswick in order to maintain a stable and sustainable economy;

WHEREAS many families and individuals are dependent on seasonal work as their main source of income;

WHEREAS the unemployment rate in a region is used to determine the number of hours required to qualify for Employment Insurance along with the program's benefit period;

WHEREAS the Employment Insurance program is administered by the federal government;

WHEREAS positive economic growth in New Brunswick that may be concentrated in specific areas of a region may skew the unemployment rate formula for the whole region, especially in regions with rural populations where there may be more reliance on seasonal work;

WHEREAS the unemployment rate calculated for a particular region does not take into account a large number of seasonal workers that may be employed in that region, a large number of seasonal workers will exhaust their Employment Insurance benefits several weeks prior to returning to their seasonal jobs;

WHEREAS this artificial gap or "black hole" is unfair to seasonal workers who will not be able to gain enough hours to qualify for Employment Insurance benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the federal government to make changes to the qualifying provisions of the Employment Insurance program to address the plight of seasonal workers.

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, Bills 43 and 44 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bill 42 be called for second reading; following which the House would resume the adjourned debate on the Budget.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 11, *Transparency in Election Commitments Act*.
Bill 16, *Cannabis Control Act*.
Bill 17, *Cannabis Management Corporation Act*.
Bill 18, *Cannabis Education and Awareness Fund Act*.
Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Act*.
Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*.
Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons Act*.
Bill 34, *Healthy Aging and Long-Term Care Act*.
Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Edmundston Act, 1998*.
Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*.
Bill 39, *Climate Change Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 42, *Government Advertising Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 42 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 42, *Government Advertising Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 28),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

And after some time, Ms. LeBlanc took the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

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Hon. Mr. Fraser offered condolences to the family of the late Reginald MacDonald, former Liberal MLA for Bay du Vin (1979-1982, 1987-1995) and Southwest Miramichi (1995-1999).

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And then, 2.10 p.m., the House adjourned.