

Daily sitting 35

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker introduced HarleyAnn Siddall and Alexis Gallant, participants in the fifth year of the Legislative Internship Program.

The Honourable the Premier offered condolences to the family of the late Sue Stultz, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Moncton West (2010-2014).

The Honourable the Premier welcomed to the House Wes McLean, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Victoria-Tobique (2010-2014).

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. G. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that it was unparliamentary for Ms. Holt to refer to the Premier as a “bully”. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Ms. Landry, Member for Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to upgrade Cité des Jeunes A.-M.-Sormany high school. (Petition 16)

Mr. D’Amours, Member for Edmundston-Madawaska Centre, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging government to upgrade Cité des Jeunes A.-M.-Sormany high school. (Petition 17)

Mr. Cullins, from the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

May 7, 2024

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

Your Committee met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on April 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 25, 2024, to consider the estimates referred to your Committee by resolution of the House adopted April 2, 2024.

Your Committee wishes to report that they have passed all estimates referred to them and outlined in this report. Your Committee recommends that these estimates be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd. :) Ryan Cullins, M.L.A.
Chair

The following are the items that were passed by the Committee:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2024-2025

RESOLVED, that there be granted to His Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2025:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	48,470,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	48,416,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services	105,087,000
School Districts	1,517,414,000
Early Childhood Development	288,257,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	1,910,704,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Corporate Services and Community Funding	3,126,000
Policy, Public Education and Engagement	1,319,000
Local Government and Local Governance Reform	104,958,000
Local Governance Commission.....	1,032,000
Authorizations and Compliance.....	9,189,000
Environmental Science and Protection	5,093,000
Climate Change.....	48,657,000
Less amounts authorized by law	108,000
Voted.....	173,266,000
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE	
Office of the Clerk, Chief Operating Officer and Head of the Public Service and Executive Council Secretariat ...	3,690,000
Corporate Communications	7,457,000
Office of the Lieutenant-Governor	567,000
Voted.....	11,714,000

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD	
Budget and Financial Management	911,000
Corporate Services	6,260,000
Treasury Management and Fiscal Policy	2,925,000
Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer.....	5,262,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	8,243,000
Office of the Comptroller.....	3,249,000
Revenue Administration	22,231,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	49,027,000
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Indigenous Affairs	6,935,000
Commissions Paid to Collectors of Pari-Mutuel Taxes....	455,000
Enterprise Resource Planning	54,159,000
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	688,000
Intergovernmental Affairs.....	9,060,000
Legislated Pension Plans, Benefit Accruals, Subsidies, and Supplementary Allowances	100,438,000
Less amounts authorized by law	188,000
Voted.....	100,250,000
New Brunswick Advantage Savings Fund	13,400,000
Pension and Employee Benefits Plans.....	370,494,000
Less amounts authorized by law	2,000
Voted.....	370,492,000
Provision for Losses.....	14,200,000
Revenue Sharing Agreements with First Nations	14,850,000
Service New Brunswick.....	242,277,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	242,223,000
Supplementary Funding Provision.....	372,808,000
Women's Equality	10,367,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	306,214,000
Medicare	850,172,000
Pharmaceutical Programs.....	262,659,000
Part III Health Services.....	2,379,122,000
Less amounts authorized by law	95,000
Voted.....	3,798,072,000

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY	
Technical Safety and Corporate Services Division.....	25,834,000
Community Safety Division	249,941,000
Security and Emergencies Division	24,946,000
Office of the Attorney General	28,825,000
Justice Services Division	31,452,000
Legal Aid	13,844,000
Less amounts authorized by law	108,000
Voted.....	374,734,000
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations.....	11,067,000
Less amounts authorized by law	4,393,000
Voted.....	6,674,000
Office of the Legislative Assembly	4,713,000
Office of the Auditor General	3,930,000
Offices of Leaders and Members of Registered Political Parties.....	2,054,000
Less amounts authorized by law	77,000
Voted.....	1,977,000
Elections New Brunswick.....	18,725,000
Office of the Ombud	2,848,000
Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate.....	2,127,000
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.....	840,000
Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	680,000
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	352,000
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Administration	9,022,000
Natural Resources	107,020,000
Energy and Mines	91,007,000
Land Management	3,166,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	210,161,000
NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING CORPORATION	
Corporate and Other Services	3,765,000
Housing Program Delivery	130,461,000
Housing Facilities	59,356,000
Tenant and Landlord Relations Office.....	2,759,000
Voted.....	196,341,000
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER	
Administration	1,734,000
Less amounts authorized by law	81,000
Voted.....	1,653,000

OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Administration and Business Development Services	16,549,000
Financial Assistance	25,000,000
Strategic Investments - Productivity /	
Global Competitiveness	5,000,000
Voted.....	46,549,000
OTHER AGENCIES	
Consolidated Entities	449,404,000
Less amounts authorized by law	449,404,000
Voted.....	0
Council of Atlantic Premiers	642,000
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	2,856,000
Labour and Employment Board.....	749,000
New Brunswick Police Commission	688,000
New Brunswick Women's Council	485,000
Premier's Council on Disabilities	336,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Labour and Strategic Services	14,888,000
Post-Secondary Education	534,202,000
WorkingNB.....	150,835,000
New Brunswick Public Library Service	18,956,000
Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification.....	17,373,000
Immigration	14,005,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	750,205,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Development Projects and Operations.....	80,873,000
Less amounts authorized by law	41,000
Voted.....	80,832,000
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT	
Service of the Public Debt	608,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	603,500,000
Voted.....	4,500,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Services	11,885,000
Seniors and Long Term Care	1,075,062,000
Child Welfare and Youth Services	181,877,000
Income Security	347,006,000
Other Benefits	47,200,000
Less amounts authorized by law	95,000
Voted.....	1,662,935,000

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Administration	3,827,000
Provincial Parks	18,290,000
Sport and Recreation.....	7,001,000
Culture, Archaeology and Heritage	31,426,000
Tourism.....	20,136,000
Less amounts authorized by law	54,000
Voted.....	80,626,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Administration	22,454,000
Policy and Legislative Affairs, Strategic Partnerships and Trade Corridors.....	1,605,000
Maintenance.....	109,739,000
Winter Maintenance.....	77,840,000
Bridge and Highway Construction.....	3,425,000
Buildings Group.....	153,255,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation.....	28,148,000
Less amounts authorized by law	27,409,000
Voted.....	369,057,000
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Capital Equipment	65,000
Strategic Infrastructure	400,000
Voted.....	465,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools - Capital Equipment	2,654,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Rural Districts	1,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment.....	44,392,000
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Capital Improvements.....	12,950,000
Mine Infrastructure	5,830,000
Musquash Watershed Infrastructure - Capital Improvements	10,013,000
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	3,600,000
Voted.....	32,393,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Deferred Maintenance Program.....	2,200,000

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Canada - New Brunswick Integrated Bilateral Agreement...	58,900,000
Strategic Infrastructure Initiative	4,800,000
Voted.....	63,700,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Nursing Home Services - Capital Improvements	14,000,000
Nursing Home Services - Capital Maintenance	3,000,000
New Brunswick Housing Corporation - Capital Construction.....	33,000,000
New Brunswick Housing Corporation - Capital Maintenance.....	5,000,000
Voted.....	55,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Capital Improvements.....	14,163,000
Strategic Infrastructure	5,876,000
Voted.....	20,039,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Bridges.....	92,920,000
Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Program	59,288,000
Highways	327,775,000
Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership.....	25,000,000
Public Works and Infrastructure	441,696,000
Vehicle Management Agency.....	30,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	48,270,000
Voted.....	928,409,000
LOANS AND ADVANCES	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000
Loan Programs.....	7,000,000
Voted.....	8,600,000
NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING CORPORATION	
Housing.....	3,224,000
OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Financial Assistance to Industry	50,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Student Loan Advances	90,500,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Financial assistance under the Development Loans Program	0

 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2022-2023, Volume 2

RESOLVED, that there be granted to His Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2023:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Provision for Losses.....	14,686,010.05
Revenue Sharing Agreements with First Nations	12,355,112.53
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	36,477,134.96
Drug Programs	14,220,131.34
Medicare	5,521,431.60
Part III Health Services.....	98,792,640.86
Voted.....	155,011,338.76
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate.....	137,378.71
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	
Energy and Mines	5,439,266.13
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
WorkingNB.....	10,450,179.85
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT	
Service of the Public Debt	331,600.00
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools - Capital Equipment	487,645.34
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Strategic Infrastructure Initiative	2,482,879.00

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 33, *Appropriations Act 2024-2025*.

Bill 34, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (2)*.

Mr. Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bills 33 and 34 were ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *Appropriations Act 2024-2025*, the motion for second reading was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Allain
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Shephard
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Ms. Green	Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Bockus	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Cullins	

NAYS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 33, *Appropriations Act 2024-2025*, was read a second time.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 34, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (2)*, the motion for second reading 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 - 25

Hon. Mr. Hogan	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Allain
Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Hon. Mr. Austin	Mr. Wetmore
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Shephard
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Dawson
Hon. Ms. Green	Hon. Mr. Ames	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Turner	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Bockus	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Holland	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	
Hon. Mr. R. Savoie	Mr. Cullins	

NAYS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mallet
Mr. Legacy	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Ms. Holt	Mr. J. LeBlanc	Mr. Losier
Mr. McKee	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. M. LeBlanc
Ms. Thériault	Mr. D'Amours	Ms. Landry
Mr. Gauvin	Mr. LePage	Mr. Cardy
Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Bourque	

Accordingly, Bill 34, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (2)*, was read a second time.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 33, *Appropriations Act 2024-2025*.

Bill 34, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2022-2023 (2)*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Steeves,

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Austin,

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C.,

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

Bill 39, *Justices of the Peace Act*.

Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Hearing Officers*.

By Hon. Mr. Turner,

Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Private Occupational Training Act*.

By Hon. Mr. G. Savoie,
Bill 42, *An Act Respecting Local Governance and Regional
Service Delivery*.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 59 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information in any format, in the possession of the government related to work performed for the Government of New Brunswick by Steve Outhouse, including but not limited to contracts, letters of engagement, letters of instruction, correspondence, invoices, expense claims, reports, or recommendations, since September 1, 2023.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 60 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information in any format, in the possession of the government related to work performed for the Government of New Brunswick by Intercede Communications, including but not limited to contracts, letters of engagement, letters of instruction, correspondence, invoices, expense claims, reports, or recommendations, since September 1, 2023.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 61 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information in any format, in the possession of the government related to work performed for the Government of New Brunswick by Mash Strategy, including but not limited to contracts, letters of engagement, letters of instruction, correspondence, invoices, expense claims, reports, or recommendations, since September 1, 2023.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Thursday, May 16, 2024, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D'Amours:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information in any format, in the possession of the government related to work performed for the Government of New Brunswick by Derek Robinson, including but not limited to contracts, letters of engagement, letters of instruction, correspondence, invoices, expense claims, reports, or recommendations, since September 1, 2023.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie gave notice that on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Bills 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. G. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 be called for second reading.

On the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 23, *An Act Respecting Renewable Gas and Hydrogen*, be now read a second time, the question was put and resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 23, *An Act Respecting Renewable Gas and Hydrogen*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 24, *An Act Respecting Occupational Health and Safety*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 24 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 24, *An Act Respecting Occupational Health and Safety*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 25, *An Act Respecting An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 25 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 25, *An Act Respecting An Act Respecting Child and Youth Well-Being*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 26, *Special Appropriation Act 2024*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 26 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 26, *Special Appropriation Act 2024*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 27 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax 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 being read for second reading of Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 28 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court 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 being read for second reading of Bill 29, *An Act Respecting Cannabis Control*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 29 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 29, *An Act Respecting Cannabis Control*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 30 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 4.44 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report 2024	
<i>Statute Repeal Act</i>	April 2, 2024
Response to Petition 13	April 5, 2024
Response to Petitions 14, 15	April 11, 2024
Annual Report 2022	
Vestcor Inc.	April 15, 2024
Under the provision of the <i>Fees Act</i> , information regarding fee changes made under the <i>Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act</i> and its Regulation	April 15, 2024
Annual Report 2022-2023	
New Brunswick Museum	April 23, 2024