



FIRST REPORT
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Third Session
Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly
of the
Province of New Brunswick

June 21, 2006

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Allaby, Chair
Mr. Sherwood, Vice-Chair
Hon. Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. MacDonald
Hon. Mr. Malley
Hon. Mr. Williams

Mr. Betts
Mr. C. LeBlanc
Mr. Doucet
Mr. Haché
Mr. Murphy
Mr. Branch

June 21, 2006

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

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

The report outlines the activities of the Committee during the Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly and during the Third Session to date.

Your Committee wishes to thank the many government officials who appeared during the public sessions and wishes to acknowledge their cooperation in providing follow-up information.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Eric Allaby, MLA
Chairman

June 21, 2006

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

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

The report outlines the activities of the Committee during the Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly and during the Third Session to date.

Review of 2003-2004 Fiscal Year

The Committee commenced its review of the 2003-2004 fiscal year on February 3, 2005. The Committee met with the Auditor General, Daryl Wilson, to review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2004, Volumes 1 and 2*. The Committee also met with officials of the Office of the Comptroller. The Comptroller, Michael Ferguson, answered questions with respect to the Public Accounts and Financial Statements of the Province for the fiscal year ended the 31st day of March 2004.

The Committee met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on February 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25, 2005 to review the activities and financial statements of the various government departments for the year ending March 31, 2004. Officials of the following departments and offices of government appeared before the Committee:

February 8, 2005

Department of Finance (including Service of the Public Debt)

- John Mallory, Deputy Minister

Office of Human Resources

- Laura Freeman, Deputy Minister

February 9, 2005

Department of Business New Brunswick

- Maurice J. Bernier, Deputy Minister

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Byron James, Deputy Minister

February 10, 2005

Department of Public Safety

- Louise Lemon, Deputy Minister

Department of Natural Resources

- W. David Ferguson, Deputy Minister

February 11, 2005

Department of Tourism and Parks

- Brian Alexander, Deputy Minister

February 15, 2005

Department of Health and Wellness

- Nora Kelly, Deputy Minister

February 16, 2005

Department of Justice

- Yassin Choukri, Deputy Minister

Department of Transportation

- David Johnstone, Deputy Minister

February 17, 2005

Department of Training and Employment Development

- Rachel Bard, Deputy Minister

Department of Supply and Services

- G. Stephenson Wheatley, Deputy Minister

February 18, 2005

Department of Education

- Roger Doucet, Deputy Minister
- John Kershaw, Deputy Minister

February 23, 2005

Department of Energy

- Bill Thompson, Deputy Minister

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Committee

- Mireille Duguay, Chief Executive Officer

February 24, 2005

Department of Education (continued from February 18, 2005)

- Roger Doucet, Deputy Minister
- John Kershaw, Deputy Minister

Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations

- Jim McKay, Deputy Minister

February 25, 2005

Department of Family and Community Services

- Don Ferguson, Deputy Minister

On August 10, 2005, the Committee met in a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick Volume I, 2005*. The Auditor General, Daryl Wilson, briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and on the contents and findings of the Report.

On behalf of all Members, the Committee Chairs thanked the Auditor General, Mr. Wilson, for his many years of dedicated service to the Legislative Assembly and the Province of New Brunswick.

The Committee met on September 20, 21 and 22, 2005, to continue its consideration of departmental reports for the year ending March 31, 2004. Officials of the following departments and offices of government appeared before the Committee:

September 20, 2005

Office of the Premier (including Communications New Brunswick)

- Rodney Weston, Chief of Staff

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

- Loredana Catalli Sonier, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

September 21, 2005

Labour and Employment Board

- George Filliter, Chairperson

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

- Patrick Francis, Deputy Minister

Culture and Sport Secretariat

- Sylvie Levesque-Finn, Executive Director

New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors

- Sister Anne Robichaud, Chairperson

September 22, 2005

New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- Rosella Melanson, Executive Director

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

- Randy Dickinson, Executive Director

Meeting with CCAF

On November 22, 2005, in a joint meeting with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the Committee met with representatives from CCAF-FCVI Inc., a foundation specializing in public sector governance, management and accountability. Topics of discussion included exercising leadership; relationships between legislators, legislative auditors, and senior government managers; achieving and demonstrating results; best practices in a jurisdiction; and committee self assessment.

On January 10, 2006, the Committee met in a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick Volume 2, 2005*. The Auditor General, Michael Ferguson, briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and on the contents and findings of the Report.

Election of Chair

On February 7, 2006, the Committee was informed of the resignation of Mr. Branch as Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. C. LeBlanc, Mr. Allaby was elected Chair of the Committee.

Review of 2004-2005 Fiscal Year

The Committee met on February 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 21, 22, 23 and March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24, 2006 to review the activities and financial statements of the various government departments for the year ending March 31, 2005. Officials of the following departments and offices appeared before the Committee:

February 7, 2006

Office of the Auditor General

- Michael Ferguson, Auditor General

Office of the Comptroller

- Stephen Thompson, Comptroller

Department of Supply and Services

- G. Stephenson Wheatley, Deputy Minister

February 8, 2006

Department of Natural Resources

- W. David Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Byron James, Deputy Minister

February 9, 2006

Department of Health and Wellness

- Nora Kelly, Deputy Minister

February 10, 2006

Department of Tourism and Parks

- Brian Alexander, Deputy Minister

Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations

- Jim McKay, Deputy Minister

February 15, 2006

Department of Training and Employment Development

- Rachel Bard, Deputy Minister

February 21, 2006

Department Education

- Roger Doucet, Deputy Minister
- John Kershaw, Deputy Minister

February 22, 2006

Department of Business New Brunswick

- Eloi Duguay, Deputy Minister

Office of Human Resources

- Laura Freeman, Deputy Minister

February 23, 2006

Department of Energy

- Bill Thompson, Deputy Minister

March 15, 2006

Department of Justice

- Yassin Choukri, Deputy Minister

Department of Family and Community Services

- Don Ferguson, Deputy Minister

March 16, 2006

Department of Transportation

- David Johnstone, Deputy Minister

Department of Public Safety

- Louise Lemon, Deputy Minister

March 17, 2006

***Department of Environment and Local Government* (2003-04 & 2004-05)**

- Hermel Vienneau, Deputy Minister

March 22, 2006

***Executive Council Office* (2003-04 & 2004-05)**

- Maurice Bernier, Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

- Léandre Desjardins, Chief Executive Officer

***New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth* (2003-04 & 2004-05)**

- Melissa Cameron, Chairperson

March 23, 2006

Labour and Employment Board

- George Filliter, Chairperson

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

- Patrick Francis, Deputy Minister

Department of Justice (continued from March 15, 2006)

- Yassin Choukri, Deputy Minister

New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors

- Sister Anne Robichaud, Chairperson

March 24, 2006

Department of Family and Community Services (continued from March 15, 2006)

- Don Ferguson, Deputy Minister

New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, Chairperson

Your Committee wishes to thank the many government officials who appeared during the public sessions and wishes to acknowledge their cooperation in providing follow-up information.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Eric Allaby, MLA
Chairman