

# Legislative Activities

2015



## New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Chris Collins

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick





September 30, 2016

The Honourable Chris Collins  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 31, Legislative Building  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the twenty-seventh annual report of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald J. Forestell". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Donald J. Forestell  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly





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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEAR IN REVIEW.....	1
HIGHLIGHTS .....	3
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Role of Speaker .....	5
Role of Members .....	5
House Activity .....	6
House Statistics .....	9
Members of the Legislative Assembly, as of December 31, 2015 .....	10
Committee Activity .....	12
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	
Visitors and Tours.....	17
Special Events and Ceremonies .....	19
Student Legislative Seminar .....	21
Page Program.....	22
Broadcasting and Webcasting.....	23
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Mission Statement and Organizational Chart.....	24
Functional Statements .....	25
Office of the Clerk .....	26
Financial and Human Resource Services .....	29
Legislative Library.....	33
Hansard Office.....	37
Debates Translation .....	40
Special Project.....	43
Program for Members.....	45

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

## *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Donald J. Forestell*

The 2015 calendar year was a productive one for the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The first session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature concluded and the second session began. In total, the House sat for 64 days during the calendar year with committees holding a total of 73 meetings. The year saw a number of changes, including revisions to the standing rules, the resignation of a former Premier and subsequent election of a new Member.

The first session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature, which adjourned on December 19, 2014, after 12 sitting days, resumed sitting on February 10, 2015. One of the first items for the consideration of the House upon its return was the proposed changes to the standing rules. On December 10, 2014, the Standing Committee on Procedure presented a report to the House that recommended various revisions to the standing rules, including allowing a private Member to undertake the responsibilities of the Government House Leader; extending the sitting hours; revising the order of consideration of routine proceedings to allow Oral Questions to occur earlier in the day; placing time limits on certain items of routine proceedings or delaying their consideration until the end of the day; providing the government with the option to defer recorded votes; changing the structure and mandate of certain standing committees to facilitate the referral of legislation and estimates; and allowing Ministers of the Crown to sit as participating members of the standing committees that consider their legislation or departmental estimates. A motion to adopt the recommendations was passed by the House on March 10, after several days of debate.

Finance Minister Roger Melanson delivered the first budget of the government on March 31. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on April 2 by the Opposition Finance Critic, Blaine Higgs.

During the spring sitting, the House considered 52 bills. Several noteworthy government bills were introduced that resulted in the following: the creation of Opportunities New Brunswick; a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing; a ban on smoking on public patios, playgrounds, outdoor walking trails, and provincial parks; the merger of four government entities under one Crown corporation known as Service New Brunswick; a financial disclosure requirement for contestants of political party leadership and provincial electoral nominations; and the clarification of factors necessary to achieve effective representation of both linguistic communities when determining electoral boundaries.

Also of note was the introduction and debate of certain private Members' public bills introduced by Members of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party. Examples include legislation proposing to lower the voting age from 18 to 16, and compensating first responders who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, as the condition would be presumed to be work related. Among the resolutions passed by the House was a motion to develop legislation to better address impaired driving in New Brunswick, potentially to include mandatory ignition interlock for all persons convicted of impaired driving offenses; and the designation of emergency services day, to be celebrated on the Saturday immediately preceding police and peace officers' national memorial day, to acknowledge the service of first responders.

The House adjourned on June 5, for a total of 51 sitting days during the spring sitting. The first session was subsequently prorogued on the morning of December 1. A total of 57 bills were introduced during the course of the first session, 51 of which received royal assent. The House sat for 64 days during the first session, for a total of 245 hours. This compares to 70 sitting days during the previous session, or 367 hours. The Committee of the Whole and Standing Committee on Economic Policy spent 48 hours considering legislation, and the Committee of Supply and Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy spent the prescribed 80 hours considering estimates.



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On May 22, former Premier David Alward resigned his seat as the Member for Carleton to accept the appointment as Canada's Consul General in Boston. Mr. Alward was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 1999 provincial election, and was subsequently re-elected in 2003, 2006, 2010 and 2014. Mr. Alward was elected Leader of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative Party in October 2008 and became Premier after his party captured a majority of the seats in the 2010 election.

Stewart Fairgrieve was elected in an October 5 by-election to fill the vacancy in Carleton. Mr. Fairgrieve was sworn in as an MLA by Lieutenant-Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau on October 29 at a ceremony held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Alfred R. Landry, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, announced his retirement in July. Commissioner Landry's retirement closes out a remarkable career of public service and dedication to the Province of New Brunswick. Appointed judge of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1985, Landry became a supernumerary judge in 2001 and retired from the bench in 2011. On the unanimous recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, he was appointed Commissioner under the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, effective September 1, 2013.

After 26 years of exemplary service to the Legislature and the Province of New Brunswick, Aurella Losier-Vienneau retired from her position as Chief Translator of Debates Translation on October 16. She began her career at the Legislature in 1989 and became Chief Translator in 1997. Ms. Losier-Vienneau demonstrated professionalism, discretion and efficiency throughout her successful career. The Speaker, Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly expressed their appreciation of her work at a reception held in her honour in the Legislative Library on October 9.

Rebecca Colborne, a senior translator with 14 years of experience at the Legislature, was promoted to Chief Translator and trained during the latter half of 2015, in order to ensure a smooth transition.

The year was also marked by the passing of Alain Sauvageau on November 13. Mr. Sauvageau was a long-time parliamentary translator with almost 30 years of service to the Legislative Assembly. He was recognized for his meticulous translations and formatting of procedural documents. His thoroughness led to the development of a word processing system still in use by staff today. Mr. Sauvageau's fascination with linguistics was palpable and he will always be remembered for the enthusiasm he brought to his profession.

The second session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature opened at 2 o'clock p.m. on December 1. The Lieutenant-Governor delivered the speech from the throne outlining the legislative agenda of the government. The Leader of the Official Opposition, Bruce Fitch, delivered the reply to the speech from the throne on December 3.

During the fall sitting, a total of 17 bills were introduced. In particular, legislation to reduce and better align regulations in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; and legislation that clarifies the right to receive an interpretation of personal health information when the information is not available in an individual's language of choice.

The House adjourned on December 18, after sitting 12 days. The standings in the House at year end were 26 Liberals, 22 Progressive Conservatives, and 1 Green.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New Brunswick Flag

The Legislature celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Brunswick flag on March 25 by having the first prototype displayed in the Legislative Chamber in the same location where it was originally proclaimed. This proclamation was particularly historic, because it was the first government document to be printed by the Province of New Brunswick in both official languages.



*Speaker Chris Collins stands next to the 1965 New Brunswick flag prototype, displayed in the Chamber for its anniversary celebration. Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel Bussi res stands to the left.*

Premier Brian Gallant, Leader of the Official Opposition Bruce Fitch, and Green Party Leader David Coon recognized the importance of the design and thanked the chief designer, Dr. Robert Pichette, who was a guest on the floor of the House that morning.

The provincial flag was adopted by proclamation on February 24, 1965, two weeks after the adoption of Canada's national flag. The symbols depicted on the flag are taken from the coat of arms assigned by royal warrant of Queen Victoria on May 26, 1868.

### Visiting Parliamentary Study Groups

In September and October, the Legislature hosted two parliamentary study groups.

From September 20 to 25, in conjunction with the Parliamentary Centre in Ottawa, two parliamentary staff from the Kingdom of Bhutan met with various staff and officials of the Legislative Assembly with the goal of examining the parliamentary system in New Brunswick and, in particular, the bilingual nature of our province. The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Department of Political Science at St. Thomas University, participating in several classes, and interact with the students. Their stay concluded with a visit to Speaker Collins' constituency where they were able to experience a day in the life of an MLA.



*Part of the delegation from the Republic of Fiji, from left to right: Hon. Viam Pillay, Hon. Sela Nanovo, Speaker Chris Collins, and Hon. Viliame Gavoka.*

New Brunswick was also chosen by the United Nations Development Programme to host a delegation of parliamentarians from the Republic of Fiji. The group met with staff and officials from the Legislative Assembly on October 5 and 6 to discuss topics such as parliamentary process, committee activity, public auditing and reporting, and conflict of interest requirements for MLAs.



## Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean Addresses the Legislature



*Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean  
with Speaker Chris Collins before addressing the  
New Brunswick Legislative Assembly on behalf of the  
International Organisation of La Francophonie.*

The New Brunswick Legislature was honoured to welcome Her Excellency the Right Honourable Madame Michaëlle Jean, Secretary General of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) and former Governor General of Canada.

Her Excellency began her first official Canadian visit with an address to the Legislative Assembly on June 4. She was warmly welcomed to the Legislature by Premier Brian Gallant, Leader of the Official Opposition Bruce Fitch and Green Party Leader David Coon. Her Excellency highlighted New Brunswick's unique position as Canada's only officially bilingual province, being a "model of strength and innovation for others."

The IOF was created in 1970. Its mission is to embody the active solidarity between its 80 member states and governments, which together represent over one-third of the United Nations' member states and account for a population of over 890 million people, including 220 million French speaking individuals.

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is an annual event that commemorates the anniversary of the Montreal massacre, where young women died as a result of a shooting at the École polytechnique in Montreal in 1989. The event, established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, provides an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the incidents of violence against women in our society and discuss what preventative action can be taken.

A memorial to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held in the Council Chamber and on the grounds of the Legislature on December 4. During the memorial, candles were lit in memory of the 14 women who lost their lives while studying at the engineering institution.



*Premier Brian Gallant invited community  
members to commemorate the lives lost during  
the 1989 Montreal massacre by hosting a candlelit vigil.*

The event was hosted by the Minister responsible for Women's Equality, Premier Brian Gallant. Many members of the community participated in the event, including several Members of the Legislative Assembly, civil servants, and representatives of community organizations which provide services to women and children who are victims of gender-based violence.



# MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



## ROLE OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is elected by secret ballot by all Members of the Legislative Assembly at the opening of a new Legislature, or when a vacancy occurs. The Speaker assumes the position of highest authority in the House. As the representative of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker is the guardian of its privileges and its presiding officer.

To facilitate the orderly flow of business, the House observes certain parliamentary rules, both written and traditional. The Speaker must ensure that these rules of procedure are observed and must protect the rights and privileges of the Assembly and its Members. The Speaker maintains order, interprets the standing rules and calls on Members to speak, ensuring a fair representation of opinion. The Speaker presides over the debates of the House with impartiality. The Speaker does not participate in debate, and does not vote except in the case of a tie.



*Hon. Chris Collins,  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

The Speaker is the head of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and is responsible for the services, staff and facilities directly related to the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker is president of the New Brunswick Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and serves as the representative of the Legislative Assembly on ceremonial and official occasions.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Speaker remains a Member of the Legislative Assembly and is expected to carry out various duties on behalf of his constituents.

## ROLE OF MEMBERS

The Parliament of New Brunswick, composed of the Crown and the elected Members, is constituted as the Legislative Assembly. The Queen of Canada, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, is the official Head of State and is represented in New Brunswick by the Lieutenant-Governor. The primary function of the Legislature, making laws, is vested jointly in the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Assembly, with the Assembly passing legislation and the Lieutenant-Governor assenting to it. This follows centuries-old British tradition in which the power of the state rests with the Crown, while the exercise of that power rests with elected Members.

New Brunswick's system of government, like the federal system in Ottawa, is based on the British parliamentary system. Each of the 49 Members is individually elected to represent the voters in



one constituency. Although a Member need not be affiliated with an organized political party, this has generally been the tradition in New Brunswick.

The three main functions of the Legislature are law-making, surveillance and representation. The legislative process (law-making) claims a predominant share of the Assembly's sitting time.

Surveillance refers to holding the government accountable. The job of examining and criticizing the actions of government is primarily a task for the opposition. Oral Question period is the most visible means of surveillance.

Representation refers to serving and representing constituents. For many Members, the constituency is a defining characteristic of their job. Serving constituents is viewed by many Members as one of their primary roles and most spend a great deal of time and effort directed toward this end.

## HOUSE ACTIVITY

The term *Legislature* generally refers to the institution which exercises the legislative power. More specifically, the term is used by parliamentarians to refer to the period between two general elections. Each general election brings about a new Legislative Assembly.

The annual meeting of the Assembly is called a session. Under the *Constitution Act, 1867*, at least one session of the Legislature must be held each year. There may be any number of sessions during the life of a Legislature. The term *session* refers to the period of time between the opening of the Legislative Assembly, when the Lieutenant-Governor delivers the throne speech, and the prorogation of parliamentary work. Any business not completed before prorogation dies on the *Order and Notice Paper*. A session may also be ended by dissolution, in which case a general election would follow.

The daily meeting of the Assembly is called a sitting. A sitting is not necessarily synonymous with a calendar day. Some sittings are very brief and others have extended over more than one calendar day. A sitting is concluded by the adjournment of the House.

The ordinary sitting hours for the House are:

Tuesday	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The ordinary sitting hours are prescribed by the standing rules and may be varied on occasion to include evening sittings.

Each sitting day is divided into two parts: Routine Business and Orders of the Day.



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## **Routine Business**

Routine Business is devoted to both new business and to providing Members with an opportunity to bring a variety of matters to the attention of the House. The same items of business reappear daily and include:

### **Prayers**

The prayers consist of two separate invocations followed by the Lord's Prayer and are read partly in English and partly in French.

### **Introduction of Guests**

Members have an opportunity to introduce persons from their constituency or other noteworthy individuals who are present in the House.

### **Statements by Members**

Members who are not Ministers may be recognized to make a brief statement related to any matter of importance to the Member.

### **Oral Questions**

Each sitting day, 30 minutes is set aside for the purpose of asking oral questions. During Oral Questions, Members may ask concise and clear questions on matters of urgency addressed to Ministers. Ministers may respond or take the matter under advisement.

### **Tabling of Documents**

A Minister may table with the House any return, report or other paper within the administrative competence of the government. Many statutes require that certain reports and documents be laid before the House each session or year. Other documents may be tabled pursuant to a standing rule or resolution of the House.

### **Statements by Ministers**

A Minister may make a brief statement on, or explanation of, government policy or administration. Debate is not permitted on such a statement or explanation but a representative of each recognized party in opposition may comment briefly.

### **Presentations of Petitions**

The public has the right to petition the Legislature, or government, to take certain action. Individuals or groups with petitions must enlist the aid of Members to have their petitions presented in the House.

### **Answers to Petitions and Written Questions**

A Minister, on behalf of government, may table with the House a response to any petition or written question previously presented in the House.



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## **Presentations of Committee Reports**

Any information to be transmitted to the House from a committee is presented in the form of a committee report. Committees submit reports on a variety of subjects, including: bills, estimates, procedural matters and subject-matter inquiries.

## **Introduction of Bills**

Ministers and other Members have an opportunity to introduce new bills in the House and give a brief explanation as to their purpose.

## **Notices of Motions**

In order for Members to be fully prepared when matters are called for debate in the House, two days' written notice is required for important House business. Members may give such notice under this item.

## **Notice of Opposition Members' Business**

Opposition Members' Business is taken under consideration at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays. An item of Opposition Members' Business may be considered in an order different from its order of priority or its order of presentation in the House provided that one day's notice has been given under this item.

## **Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House**

Motions moved under this item are those relating to the business of the House and are moved by the government. The government will also announce the scheduling and order in which the daily business of the House will be considered.

## **Deferred Recorded Divisions**

The will of the House is usually ascertained by means of a voice vote. Once debate on a motion has concluded, the Speaker puts the question and determines whether the yeas or nays have it and declares the motion carried or lost. A recorded division may be requested on any voice vote. A recorded division requires those voting in the affirmative or negative to rise so their names can be entered in the Journal. A recorded division, if requested, need not be held immediately. At the request of the Government House Leader or Whip, it may be deferred to the next sitting day under this item.

## **Orders of the Day**

This item refers to the business that is to come before the House each day, as set out in the *Order and Notice Paper*. An item of business may include consideration of bills at various stages, estimates, or motions for which notice has already been given.

## **Condolences and Congratulations**

While no longer a part of Routine Business following the rule changes in 2015, Members have an opportunity to present a statement of condolence or extend congratulations to any person, group or association before the Speaker motions for the daily adjournment of the House.



## HOUSE STATISTICS

	57 <sup>th</sup> Legislature			58 <sup>th</sup> Legislature
	Second Session 2011 - 2012	Third Session 2012 - 2013	Fourth Session 2013-2014	First Session 2014-2015
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	55	58	70	64
Evening Sittings	11	5	6	0
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	59	56	70	50
Received Royal Assent	57	54	69	49
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	2	3	8	2
Received Royal Assent	1	3	8	2
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	8	13	14	5
Received Royal Assent	0	0	3	0
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	14	19	10	14
Number debated	4	5	1	4
Number agreed to	14	18	10	14
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	57	56	54	29
Number debated	15	13	22	24
Number agreed to	8	8	6	14
Number withdrawn	32	21	10	0
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	15	12	16	3
In Committee on Estimates	4	12	12	18
In other Committees	-	12	11	0
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>	75	66	59	87
<i>Petitions</i>	95	47	14	112
<i>Written Questions</i>	38	10	0	0



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 Seating Arrangement

 <p><b>Daniel Guitard</b> Restigouche- Chaleur</p>	 <p><b>Bertrand LeBlanc</b> Kent North</p>	 <p><b>Ed Doherty</b> Saint John Harbour</p>	 <p><b>Victor Boudreau</b> Shediac- Beaubassin- Cap-Pelé</p>
 <p><b>Wilfred Roussel</b> Shippagan- Lamèque-Miscou</p>	 <p><b>Chuck Chiasson</b> Victoria-La Vallée</p>	 <p><b>Denis Landry</b> Bathurst East- Nepisiguit- Saint-Isidore</p>	 <p><b>Roger Melanson</b> Dieppe</p>
 <p><b>John B. Ames</b> Charlotte- Campobello</p>	 <p><b>Monique LeBlanc</b> Moncton East</p>	 <p><b>Cathy Rogers</b> Moncton South</p>	 <p><b>Brian Gallant</b> Shediac Bay-Dieppe</p>
 <p><b>Lisa Harris</b> Miramichi Bay- Neguac</p>	 <p><b>Bernard LeBlanc</b> Memramcook- Tantramar</p>	 <p><b>Bill Fraser</b> Miramichi</p>	 <p><b>Hédard Albert</b> Caraquet</p>
 <p><b>Gilles LePage</b> Restigouche West</p>	 <p><b>Benoît Bourque</b> Kent South</p>	 <p><b>Francine Landry</b> Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston</p>	 <p><b>Stephen Horsman</b> Fredericton North</p>
	 <p><b>Andrew Harvey</b> Carleton-Victoria</p>	 <p><b>Brian Kenny</b> Bathurst West- Beresford</p>	 <p><b>Donald Arseneault</b> Campbellton- Dalhousie</p>
		 <p><b>Serge Rousselle</b> Tracadie-Sheila</p>	 <p><b>Rick Doucet</b> Fundy-The Isles- Saint John West</p>



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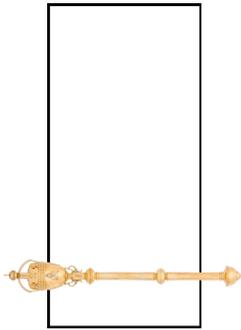
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GP



**Hon. Chris Collins**  
Speaker  
Moncton Centre

Donald J. Forestell  
Clerk

Shayne Davies  
Clerk Assistant

Rose Campbell  
Clerk Assistant

 <b>Trevor Holder</b> Portland-Simonds	 <b>Pam Lynch</b> Fredericton-Grand Lake	 <b>Gary Crossman</b> Hampton
 <b>Jody Carr</b> Oromocto-Lincoln	 <b>Brian Macdonald</b> Fredericton West-Hanwell	 <b>Brian Keirstead</b> Albert
 <b>Bruce Fitch</b> Riverview	 <b>Jake Stewart</b> Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin	 <b>Ernie Steeves</b> Moncton Northwest
 <b>Madeleine Dubé</b> Edmundston-Madawaska Centre	 <b>Glen Savoie</b> Saint John East	 <b>Jeff Carr</b> New Maryland-Sunbury
 <b>Kirk MacDonald</b> Fredericton-York	 <b>Sherry Wilson</b> Moncton Southwest	 <b>Bill Oliver</b> Kings Centre
 <b>Bruce Northrup</b> Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins	 <b>Hugh Flemming</b> Rothesay	 <b>Carl Urquhart</b> Carleton-York
 <b>Blaine Higgs</b> Quispamsis	 <b>Stewart Fairgrieve</b> Carleton	
 <b>Dorothy Shephard</b> Saint John Lancaster	 <b>Ross Wetmore</b> Gagetown-Petitcodiac	
 <b>David Coon</b> Fredericton South		

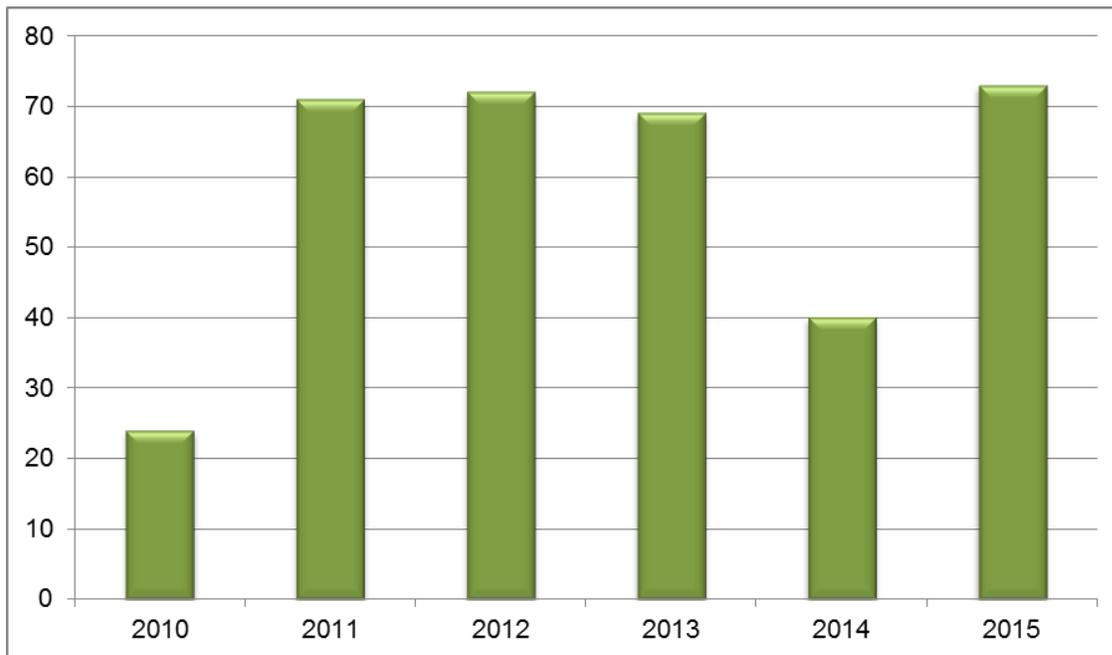


## COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



A significant amount of work is carried out by legislative committees. These committees are an extension of the House and undertake responsibilities that the Assembly as a whole would find difficult, if not impossible, to carry out. Committees exist to expedite the work of the House and to allow for more thorough study of complex or technical questions. Committees are also able to consult with the public on important matters, and travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from people in all areas of the province.

In 2015, there were 9 standing committees, which held a total of 73 meetings. The House did not appoint a select committee. Standing committees are appointed by the House and exist for the life of a Legislature. Select committees are appointed to examine specific issues and exist until the presentation of their final reports or until the dissolution of the House, whichever occurs first.



**Yearly Number of Committee Meetings**



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The following is a list of committees, their membership, mandate and activities, as of December 31, 2015.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Legislative Administration Committee**

<b>Members</b>	Hon. Mr. Collins (C)	Mr. Albert
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (VC)	Mr. Guitard
	Ms. Harris	Mr. Oliver
	Hon. Mr. Melanson	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Hon. Mr. Fraser	Mr. Coon

#### **Mandate**

The Committee is responsible for the administration and operation of the legislative buildings and grounds, and generally for all matters relating to the Legislative Assembly and its Members, including budgets, financial policies, allowances and expenses of Members, and terms and conditions of employment of officers and employees.

#### **Activities**

The Committee held 7 meetings, on February 11, March 18, June 18, September 23, October 13, November 10, and December 2 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature.

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### **Standing Committee on Crown Corporations**

<b>Members</b>	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
	Mr. Harvey (VC)	Ms. Dubé
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Mr. Ames	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Northrup
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Roussel	

#### **Mandate**

The Committee reviews the annual reports of provincial agencies, boards and commissions.

#### **Activities**

The Committee held 11 meetings, on January 20 and 22, February 5 and 6, March 24, June 23, November 17, 18, 19 and 20, and December 15. The Committee met on January 20 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and to participate in an orientation session held by the Office of the Auditor General. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2014, Volumes I and II; and the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2015, Volumes I, II, III and IV. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of Ambulance New Brunswick, Atlantic Lottery Corporation, Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, Horizon Health Network, New Brunswick Community College, New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board, New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation, New Brunswick Liquor Corporation, Research and Productivity Council, and Vitalité Health Network.



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## Standing Committee on Economic Policy

<b>Members</b>	Mr. LePage (C)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Ames (VC)	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Mr. Albert	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. Stewart
	Ms. Harris	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

### Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain government legislation related to economic policy.

### Activities

The Committee held 11 meetings, on March 24, May 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28, June 2, 3 and 4, and December 15 and 17. The Committee met on March 24 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee presented reports to the House on May 26, 27, 28 and 29, June 3 and 5, and December 16.

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## Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

<b>Members</b>	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Chiasson
	Mr. Bourque (VC)	Mr. Jody Carr
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Crossman
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Higgs
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Roussel	

### Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review the estimates of certain government departments and related entities.

### Activities

The Committee held 18 meetings, on March 24, April 21, 22, 23, 24, 28 and 29, May 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20. The Committee met on March 24 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee presented reports to the House on May 5, 12 and 26.

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## Standing Committee on Law Amendments

<b>Members</b>	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C. (C)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Mr. Albert (VC)	Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
	Mr. Ames	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Northrup
	Ms. Harris	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Harvey	

### Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain bills prior to second reading. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation.



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## Activities

The Committee held 4 meetings, on March 24, June 24, October 29, and November 25. The Committee met on March 24 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee was referred Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act* and met with representatives from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour to discuss the subject matter of the Bill.

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## Standing Committee on Private Bills

<b>Members</b>	Mr. Roussel (C)	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Guitard (VC)	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Mr. Harvey	Mr. Oliver
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	

### Mandate

The Committee reviews all private bills prior to second reading. Any person affected by a private bill may appear before the Committee.

### Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on March 24, April 7 and May 26. The Committee met on March 24 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee presented reports to the House on April 7 and May 26.

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## Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

<b>Members</b>	Mr. Albert (C)	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
	Hon. Mr. Fraser (VC)	Ms. Dubé
	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Jody Carr
	Ms. Harris	Mr. Holder
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

### Mandate

The Committee was established through rule changes adopted in March 2015, which combined the Standing Committee on Procedure, the Standing Committee on Privileges, and the Standing Committee on Legislative Officers. All standing rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Committee. The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to consider a matter or question of privilege concerning the House, a committee or Member. The Committee also reviews the reports to the House from the Legislative Officers, which includes the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Child and Youth Advocate, Commissioner of Official Languages, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and Ombudsman.



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## Activities

The Committee held 4 meetings, on January 14, June 18, November 12, and December 16. The Committee met to discuss the proposed rule changes it recommended in a report to the House on December 10, 2014. The Committee reviewed the annual report of the Commissioner of Official Languages and met with the Legislative Officers regarding the role and mandate of their offices, and to receive input from the Officers on how the Committee may serve as an effective forum in the future.

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## Standing Committee on Public Accounts

<b>Members</b>	Mr. Holder (C)	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Chiasson (VC)	Mr. Albert
	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Steeves
	Ms. Harris	Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
	Mr. Harvey	Mr. Coon
	Ms. LeBlanc	

### Mandate

The Committee reviews Auditor General reports, Public Accounts, and annual reports of government departments.

### Activities

The Committee held 14 meetings, on January 13, 20 and 22, February 3 and 4, March 24, June 23, October 6, 15, 27 and 28, November 4 and 5, and December 15. The Committee met on January 13 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and met on January 20 to participate in an orientation session held by the Office of the Auditor General. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2014, Volumes I and II; and the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2015, Volumes I, II, III and IV. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of the following departments and offices: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries; Education and Early Childhood Development; Energy and Mines; Executive Council; Healthy and Inclusive Communities; Human Resources; Natural Resources; and Transportation and Infrastructure.

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## Standing Committee on Social Policy

<b>Members</b>	Ms. LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. LePage (VC)	Ms. Dubé
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. Ames	Ms. Lynch
	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Wilson
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

### Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain government legislation related to social policy.

### Activities

The Committee held one meeting, on March 24 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair.



## CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

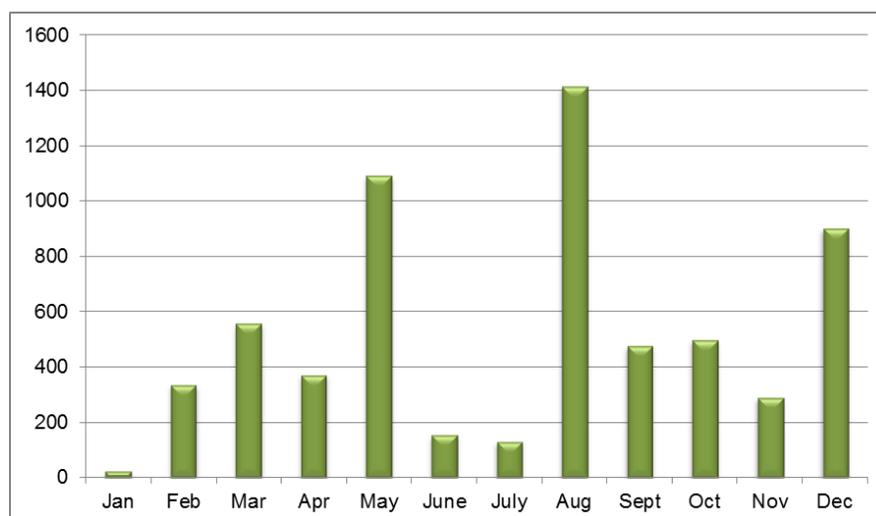


## VISITORS AND TOURS

Parliament Square, which includes the Legislative Assembly, the Departmental Building, and the Old Education Building, was officially declared a protected historic site under the *Historic Sites Protection Act* in November 2000. The present Legislative Assembly in Fredericton has been the seat and symbol of democracy in New Brunswick since 1882, when it replaced a building destroyed by fire two years earlier.

The historic value of the site is shared with tourists, students, official visitors, and internal and external conference delegations. Tours of the building are offered year-round and focus on the craftsmanship of the structure, artifacts and artwork on the site, and the functioning of New Brunswick's parliamentary system.

Numerous school groups from throughout the province visited the Legislative Assembly during the House sittings. Students and teachers had the opportunity to sit in the gallery and observe the proceedings of the House first hand. Over 6,200 people visited the Legislature in 2015, compared to over 7,500 in 2014. The number of visitors was down from the previous year due principally to the closure of the Legislative Assembly in June and July, when the fire suppression system was updated and a new sprinkler system was installed.



Monthly Visitor Numbers in 2015



Throughout the year, but particularly during the summer months, the Legislative Assembly and grounds attract visitors from all corners of the province and from all Canadian provinces and territories. In addition, international visitors are welcomed daily. Guided tours are available in both official languages or guests can enjoy self-guided tours throughout the historic building.

In May, three students began their summer employment as tour guides: Alex Robichaud, Corben Parker, and Lauren Colter offered tours until August 31. Since 2013, the Legislative Assembly offers tours seven days per week.

In recognition of Take Our Kids to Work Day, the Departments of Finance, Justice, and Social Development organized a visit to the Legislative Assembly by grade 9 students on November 4. A special tour on the functioning of the legislative institution was organized by these departments in order for students to learn about the roles of the legislative branch of government and the civil service. Take Our Kids to Work Day is organized by The Learning Partnership, a national non-profit organization that advocates a strong public education system in Canada. New Brunswick joined the program in 1996 and, since 1998, the program has been held nationally, with all provinces and territories taking part.

Many dignitaries were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly in 2015. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly met with the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto, Mr. Rong-chuan Wu on February 5; the Consul General of Japan in Montreal, Mr. Tatsuo Arai on February 17; the Ambassador of France in Canada, His Excellency Nicolas Chapuis on March 25; the Consul General of the United States in Halifax, Mr. Richard Riley on April 9; the Ambassador of the Philippines to Canada, Her Excellency Petronila P. Garcia on August 27; the Ambassador of Qatar to Canada, His Excellency Fahad Mohamed Y. Kafoud on September 21; the Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada, His Excellency Beat Nobs and the Consul General of Switzerland in Montreal, Mr. Beat Kaser on October 1; the Ambassador of China to Canada, His Excellency Luo Zhaohui on November 18; and the Consul General of the United States in Halifax, Mr. Steven Giegerich on December 1.

The European Union ambassadors in Canada were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly on June 2 and formally introduced in the Chamber. This was the delegation's first official joint



*Speaker Chris Collins invites the European Union delegation to sign his guest book. Pictured here, Slovenian Ambassador Marjan Cencen and European Union Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninsx.*

mission to the Maritimes. The visit highlighted the importance of European Union-Canada relations, with a particular focus on the European Union-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. The delegation was led by Her Excellency Marie-Anne Coninsx, the Ambassador of the European Union to Canada, and the European Union heads of mission: His Excellency Arno Riedel of Austria; His Excellency Veselko Grubišić of Croatia; His Excellency Pavel Hrnčir of the Czech Republic; His Excellency Charles Murto of Finland; Alexandre Vulic, Deputy Head of Mission for France; His Excellency Juris Audariņš of Latvia; His Excellency Vytautas Žalys of Lithuania; Her Excellency Maria Ligor of Romania; His Excellency Marjan Cencen of Slovenia, His Excellency Carlos Gómez-Múgica Sanz of Spain; His Excellency Per Sjögren of Sweden; His Excellency Howard Drake of the United Kingdom; and His Excellency Bálint Ódor of Hungary.



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND CEREMONIES

The Legislative Assembly hosted *The Quest for Canada*, a recreated historical debate for students that comprised one part in a series of the Confederation Centre of the Arts' national tour in recognition of Sir



*"For I have loved my country with a passionate love," defends Sir John A. Macdonald, played by Matthew James Donovan.*

John A. Macdonald's 2015 bicentennial on March 30. Developed in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage to celebrate 200 years since Macdonald's birth, this national theatre initiative explored the life and journey of Canada's first Prime Minister through a multi-tiered biographical production that examined the legacy of the nation's preeminent Father of Confederation.

Local high school students were invited to partake in the bilingual, scripted debate that was designed to encourage further exploration of Canada's political processes. Held in the Chamber, the Legislature's involvement helped students connect historic events to current-day government process while adding authenticity to the experience. Prior to the debate, resource material and curriculum-linked lesson plans were provided to give students an understanding of Sir John A. Macdonald's life, Canada's political timeline and parliamentary protocols, exploring such topics as the uniting of Canada, the building of the Canada-Pacific railway and the creation of the North West Mounted Police by way of a fiery debate among Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfred Laurier, and other political adversaries.

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building. On April 2, the Legislative Assembly participated in the Light It Up Blue campaign for World Autism Awareness Day.

The Legislature also participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure with Paint Canada Pink Week. From August 17 to 21, the building was bathed in pink to create and sustain awareness of the disease. The Legislative Assembly was also glowing gold on September 23 to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and honour those who have been directly affected by pediatric cancers. This event was held on the eve of the last leg of the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride, a cross-Canada ride in which Speaker Collins cycled in 2013. The charity raises money to directly fund research and support programs for pediatric cancer. From November 13 to 20, the Legislature participated in the Purple Lights campaign. An initiative of Pancreatic Cancer Canada, this campaign saw the Legislature illuminated with a purple lighting scheme. The Legislature also participated in the Canadian Blood Services "Wrap It Up Red" campaign from December 14 to 21 by lighting the portico red to encourage New Brunswick citizens to donate blood.



*Gracie Bell, a 2 ½ year-old blood recipient, steals the stage from her mother, Tammy Bell, and Speaker Collins before lighting the portico red.*



The annual Queen's Counsel Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on October 19. The distinction of Queen's Counsel is bestowed upon experienced lawyers in the province. The eleven recipients this year were: Johanne Bray, Fredericton; Michael Brenton, Saint John; Ellen C. Desmond, Saint John; George P. Filliter, Fredericton; Rita Godin, Bathurst; Charles V. Kingston, Fredericton; Christian E. Michaud, Moncton; Brian F. P. Murphy, Moncton; Honourable Joseph T. Robertson, Fredericton; Louise B. Somers, Saint-Quentin; and Kelly T. VanBuskirk, Saint John.

Various award ceremonies took place at the Legislative Assembly during 2015, including the Canada Cord Ceremony on October 24, which is an annual award ceremony of the Girl Guides of Canada; the New Brunswick Council of Scouts Canada's annual Chief Scout Awards on November 7; and the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Ceremony on November 14. Traditionally, the Lieutenant-Governor presides over all three ceremonies.



The Annual Provincial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on December 4 in front of the Legislative Assembly. Special guests included Lieutenant-Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau; Speaker Chris Collins; the Deputy Premier and Member for Fredericton North, Hon. Stephen Horsman; the Member for Carleton-York, Carl Urquhart; the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Donald Forestell; and the Chaplain of the Legislative Assembly, Father Donald Savoie. Hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served to the public by Epsilon Y's Men and Epsilon Y's Menettes. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Garden Creek School Boys Choir and the Elm City Echoes.

Following the tree lighting, a procession led by Santa Claus and the Fredericton Concert and Marching Band proceeded along Queen Street to continue the festivities at Fredericton City Hall for the city's tree lighting ceremony.

From November 17 to December 13, a book of condolence was placed first in the rotunda then in the Council Chamber of the Legislative Assembly to provide New Brunswickers an opportunity to share their thoughts and pay their respects to the victims of the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris, France. The book of condolence was delivered to the French President, His Excellency François Hollande.



**The book of condolence for the victims of the Paris terror attacks.**



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## STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Legislative Seminar was held April 24 to 26. A total of 49 students from Francophone and Anglophone high schools participated, representing all areas of the province. The seminar is a non-partisan program open to grade 11 and 12 students. The objectives of the seminar are: to provide a comprehensive understanding of the functions and operations of government; to encourage the use of the model Parliament forum in high schools; to promote positive relations between Anglophone and Francophone students in New Brunswick; and to develop informed and responsible Canadian citizens. Selection of participants is based upon leadership qualities, scholastic record, responsibility, interest in community and current affairs, and willingness to share experiences with others. Students are recommended by school principals, guidance counselors and teachers.

The students were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly by Speaker Chris Collins. Throughout the weekend, the students attended various lectures which focused on the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

Deputy Premier Hon. Stephen Horsman spoke on the role of the Premier and the challenges and responsibilities of that office, as well as the role of Cabinet. The Member for Fredericton-West Hanwell, Brian Macdonald, spoke on the role of the Opposition; the Deputy Speaker and Member for Miramichi Bay-Neguac, Lisa Harris, spoke on the role of an MLA; and the Member for Saint John Lancaster, Dorothy Shephard, spoke about women in politics. Hon. Julian A.G. Dickson, Judge of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick, spoke on the role of the judicial branch.

The students attended various workshops led by the Clerks-at-the-Table in preparation for the highlight of the weekend: a model Parliament held in the Legislative Assembly's historic Chamber. Students sat in the seats normally occupied by their MLAs and had use of the Legislative Assembly's simultaneous interpretation system. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly presided over the model Parliament as students used the information gained through the workshops to proceed through periods of oral questions and Members' statements. The participants also debated and voted on numerous motions and legislation, all of which they had written themselves around topics of concern.



**Participants of the 2015 Student Legislative Seminar**



## PAGE PROGRAM

A Page has a valued and integral role in the functioning of the Legislative Assembly. A prevalent belief is that Canada's use of Pages, which dates back to the mid-1800s, was based on the practice in the United States, where the word "runner" was in use as early as 1827. The designation of "House Page" first appeared in Canada in 1841. By the time of Confederation in 1867, the position of Page in Canadian legislative institutions was well established.

Today, Pages are young people selected to serve as messengers of the House and to perform various duties to assist Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly. Pages are chosen from university-aged students of high academic standing. They must be in full-time attendance at a post-secondary institution and be available for at least 12 hours each week while the House is in session, usually from November to June.

The presence of Pages in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly is required for all regular sitting days, and for various meetings of select and standing committees. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, Pages distribute the daily *Order and Notice Paper* to Members and legislative staff. While the House is sitting, Pages deliver documents on behalf of Members and staff to the Speaker, the Clerks, and to other Members, as requested.

To serve as a Page offers an opportunity to learn about the political and legislative processes. Persons interested in working as a Page may download an application form from the Legislative Assembly Web site at <<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/education/page/page-e.asp>>.



*The following individuals served as Pages during the fall sitting: (first row) Lauren Colter, Katie Avery, Andrea Robertson, Conor Munroe, Samantha Bizimungu, Amy Baldwin, Clara Simpson, and Phoebe Marmura Brown.*

*In the second row, Gopi Krishna Adhikari, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), Nathaniel Wallace, Brandon Seagrave, Ben Graham, and Tyler Williams.  
(Corben Parker not pictured)*

The Pages who served for the spring 2015 sitting were Daniel Curwin, Kate Deveau, Julie Frigault, Ben Graham, Lindsay Hodd, Phoebe Marmura Brown, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), and Jack Simpson.



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## BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has been televising its legislative proceedings since 1988. New Brunswick was among the first Canadian provinces to bring video cameras into its Legislature. In 1988, the Legislature televised the previously recorded Routine Proceedings of each sitting day on the community-access cable television channel 10. Coverage of the proceedings of the Legislature went live in 1989.

In the 1990s, the live coverage on channel 10, or channel 9 in some communities, was expanded to include almost an entire sitting day. In 2005, a committee of the Legislative Assembly resolved to launch the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service on a channel dedicated solely to the broadcast of legislative proceedings. The channel would provide gavel-to-gavel television coverage of all sitting days while the Legislature was in session. On March 28, 2006, the first broadcast took place on the dedicated channel.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service broadcasts the daily proceedings each sitting day in both official languages. In 2015, the proceedings were broadcast on Rogers digital cable television channel 70 in select New Brunswick communities served by the cable television company. On channel 70 in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Miramichi, and surrounding communities, English, whether spoken on the floor of the House or translated from French, was the primary audio feed. On channel 70 in Bathurst, Edmundston and surrounding communities, French was the primary audio feed. Secondary Audio Programming is also available in all communities.

In 2015, Rogers continued to televise, at a designated time each sitting day, daily Question Period on various community channels. In addition, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service continued to televise repeats of the daily proceedings of the Legislature, usually commencing within 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

In 2015, discussions commenced with Bell Aliant to broadcast the daily proceedings each sitting day as a video on-demand on Bell Aliant's Fibre Op. It is anticipated that this will lead to the proceedings being televised on Bell Aliant sometime in 2016.

The proceedings of the Standing Committees on Economic Policy and Estimates and Fiscal Policy were also broadcast on channel 70 in 2015, as they took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The committees were mandated to review government legislation and the estimates of various government departments.

In 2015, the video and audio of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continued to be streamed live on the Internet for webcasting purposes in both official languages. In addition, the audio of meetings of the Standing Committees on Public Accounts; Crown Corporations; Law Amendments; Private Bills; and Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers was streamed live on the Internet.

When the Legislature was not in session, a graphics computer generated a rotating sequence of textual messages pertaining to the following: next scheduled sitting of the House; regular Tuesday-to-Friday sitting schedule; particulars of the channel's distribution; tour information; upcoming Legislature events, including committee meetings; and several specially produced sequences on the Legislature's function, history, traditions, and other subjects of interest to the public within the mandate of the channel. A photograph of each Member continued to be shown with accompanying information on party affiliation, ministerial portfolio (where applicable), riding, and contact information.

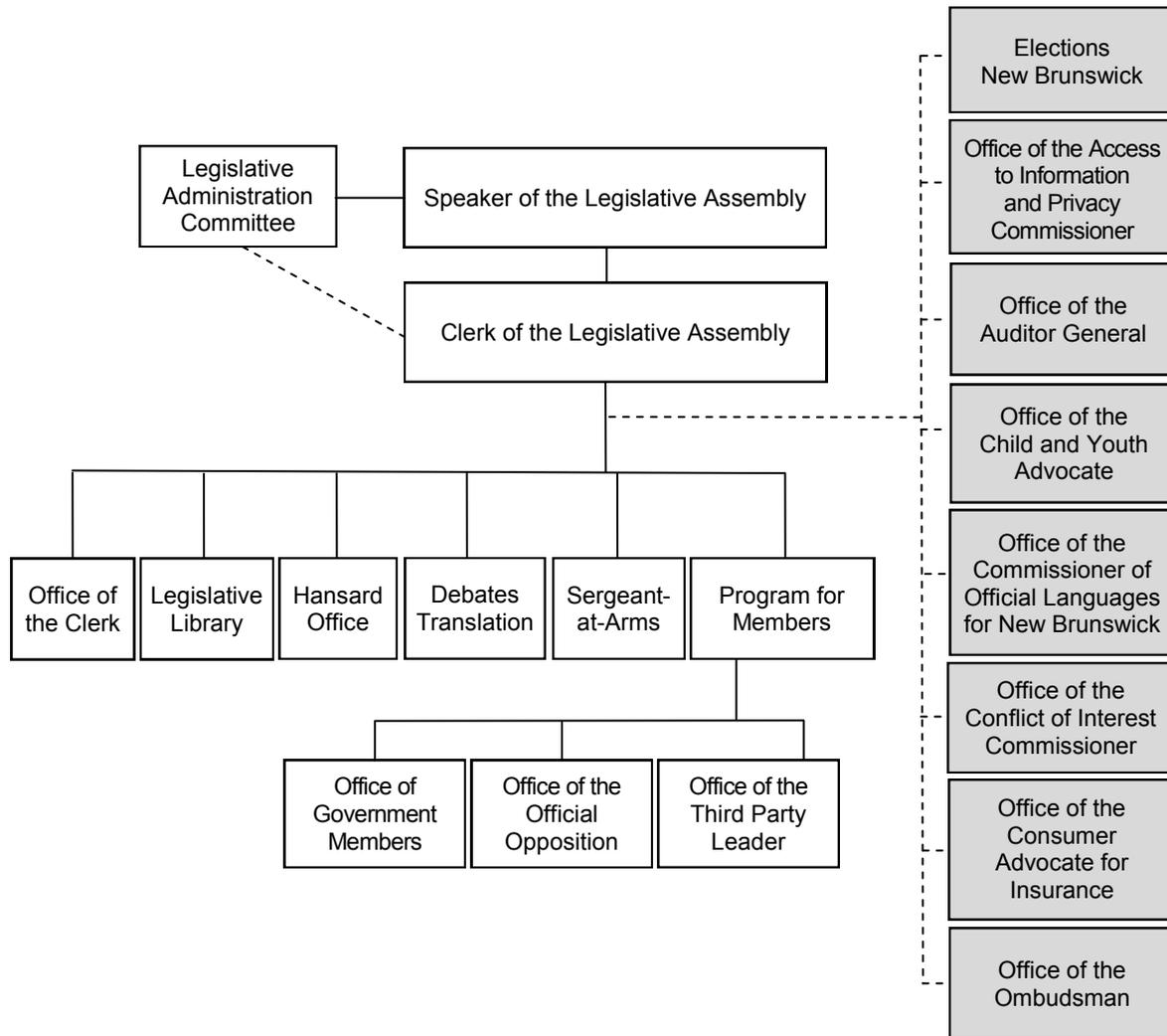


# OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## MISSION STATEMENT

- To assist the Legislative Assembly in fostering respect for the institution and privileges of parliamentary democracy.
- To provide assistance and support to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, their staff and the public.
- To provide impartial and confidential service to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- To record the proceedings and maintain the records of the Legislative Assembly.
- To provide public education and information services on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.
- To provide administrative, financial, and human resource services to certain statutory offices reporting to the Legislative Assembly.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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## FUNCTIONAL STATEMENTS

### Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

The Clerk is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker and to the Members and acts as Secretary to the Legislative Administration Committee. Appointed by resolution of the House, the Clerk is responsible for a wide range of administrative and procedural duties relating to the work of the House and its Committees. The Clerk of the Legislature is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a Deputy Minister of a government department.

### Office of the Clerk

- Produces the Journal, Orders of the Day and maintains the official permanent records of the Assembly.
- Provides advice to the Speaker and Members on questions of parliamentary law, procedure, and interpretation of the rules and practices of the House.
- Provides procedural advice and support services to the chairs and members of committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides public education and information services to Members, to government, and to the private sector.
- Provides administrative support to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides financial and human resource management services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides administrative, financial and human resources support to Elections New Brunswick, Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and Office of the Ombudsman.

### Legislative Library

Provides information and reference services to Members of the Legislative Assembly.

### Hansard Office

Records and transcribes House proceedings (Hansard) for the Members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; records and transcribes legislative committee proceedings for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

### Debates Translation

Translates House proceedings (Hansard) and the Journal for Members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; translates speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly, reports for legislative committees, and procedural and administrative material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

### Sergeant-at-Arms

- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides Page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

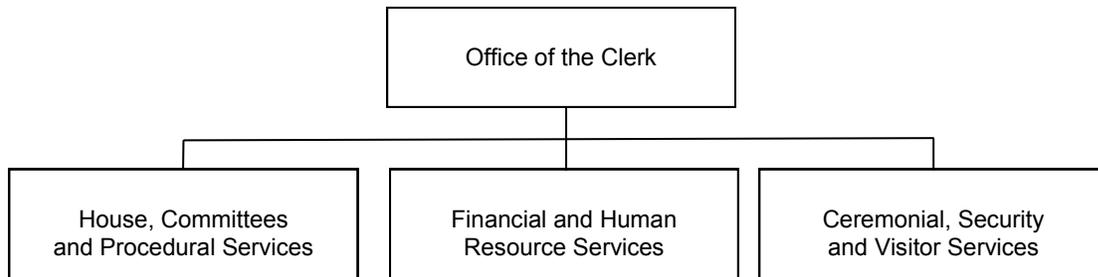
### Program for Members

Provides financial and administrative support to the private Members of the Legislative Assembly.



## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

### *Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — Shayne Davies*



In 2015, the staff of the Office of the Clerk met the primary goal of the office, which is to assist Members in carrying out their parliamentary functions. The dedicated work of the staff ensured that the office was able to assist Members and provide the necessary services to allow Members to fulfill their role as legislators and represent their constituents.

### **Procedural Services**

All Members of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature were supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered with impartiality by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. As the senior permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly and chief procedural adviser, the Clerk advised the Speaker and Members on administrative matters, questions of parliamentary law and procedure, and the interpretation of the Standing Rules, precedents and practices of the House.

The Office of the Clerk and its staff supports the activities of the Clerk. The Clerk and Clerks Assistant served as Table Officers and Law Clerks in the House. They assisted Members with the interpretation and application of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and other applicable legislation, and drafted or reviewed floor amendments, private Members' public bills and private legislation.

During the course of the year, the Clerk and Clerks Assistant met regularly with the Speaker and other presiding officers to provide advice as required, draft rulings and prepare procedural documentation. In addition, the Clerks met with committee Chairs to advise on committee procedure, arrange meetings and public hearings, and prepare documentation and reports to the House.

### **Journals and Publications**

In 2015, the Journals Clerk compiled 64 unrevised journals making up the spring sitting of the first session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature and the opening and fall sitting of the second session. The journals of the House are the official record of matters considered and decisions taken by the House. Unrevised journals are posted online as soon as they are available in both official languages. At the conclusion of a session, unrevised editions of the journal are finalized, indexed and published. The 2013-2014 bound version of the *Journals of the Legislative Assembly* was published in 2015.

First reading bills continued to be published online in PDF format. Since 2004, the online PDF version of a first reading bill has been the official version. During the 2015 calendar year, 64 bills were introduced. The online status of legislation, which tracks the progress of bills as they proceed through various stages in the House, was produced and regularly updated.



The Assembly continued to archive online proceedings. The 2015-2016 budget speech and reply thereto, the Premier's closure of the budget debate, the December 1 throne speech and reply thereto, and the Premier's closure of the throne speech debate were all archived to the website. In addition, oral question period continued to be archived online, allowing the public to view the daily question period online, either live or as video-on-demand webcasts.

Biographical information and photographs of Members of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature were updated during the year. Any changes to the executive council, shadow cabinet and seating plans were reflected in published and online updates. The Legislature's calendar was updated to reflect daily sittings and special events. Committee memberships were also updated when necessary and reports were posted online.

## Legislature Renovations

The restoration of the Legislative Assembly continued in 2015. During the summer months, the fire suppression system was updated with the installation of a new sprinkler system throughout the building. A digital sound and interpretation system was installed in the Chamber, replacing an antiquated and unreliable system which had begun to fail during the spring session. The new system mirrored and was compatible with the sound and interpretation system installed in the Legislative Council Chamber in 2014. In addition, two digital timing monitors were mounted in the Chamber to assist the Speaker and Members with tracking individual speaking times.



The National Assembly of Quebec provided the software for the project, which was modified by a staff person from the Legislative Library to meet the procedural requirements of the New Brunswick Legislature. The timing monitors were installed for the opening of the second session on December 1.

## Portrait Restoration



The portrait of the Hon. John B. McNair, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Premier of New Brunswick, was sent out for restoration on March 31. The painting (oil on Masonite board, 116,9 cm x 91,4 cm) was affected by a varnish, produced and applied by the artist, Bernard Safran, which caused the black paint to run over time. The Arts Branch of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture arranged for the restoration to be done through the Fine Art Conservation Program at the Art Conservation Lab, located at the Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, which is the only painting Conservation Lab in the Maritimes. The conservation treatment was done over three weeks by Adam Karpowicz, the Provincial Fine Art Conservator, and consisted of cleaning and local inpainting to hide the damages.



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## Interparliamentary Relations

In addition to regular duties, staff of the Clerk's Office prepared itineraries and coordinated business session topics for Members attending the annual Presiding Officers Conference; the Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which included meetings of the Canadian Regional Council and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar; the annual meeting and regional policy forum of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference; conferences of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF); and the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees.

The Legislative Assembly also hosted two parliamentary study groups. A delegation of parliamentarians from the Republic of Fiji and a group from the Kingdom of Bhutan met with various staff and officials of the Legislative Assembly with the goal of examining the parliamentary system in New Brunswick.

## Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada is an organization composed of the Table Officers from every provincial and territorial legislature in Canada, as well as the House of Commons and the Senate. The objective of the Association is to advance the professional development of its members by enabling them to expand their knowledge of the foundations and principles of the parliamentary system and procedure in Canada.

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table list server (CATS) was launched in 1998, to allow an open exchange of ideas and information. CATS is used by members of the Association to contribute information, pose questions, conduct surveys and seek advice on a wide variety of procedural and administrative issues.

In 2015, Clerks responded to numerous inquiries posted to the CATS system. Topics canvassed during the year included such diverse matters as: simultaneous interpretation, accreditation of journalists, royal consent, access to constituency records, reports of statutory officers, prayers, security screening, and unelected representatives on standing committees.

## Canadian Parliamentary Review

Staff of the Clerk's Office prepared quarterly submissions to the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The publication was founded in 1978 to inform Canadian legislators about activities of the federal, provincial and territorial branches of the Canadian Region of the CPA and to promote the study of and interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. In 2015, staff ensured that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick was included in each edition under the "Legislative Reports" section.

## Tributes

One former Member passed away in 2015:

**J. Alfred Roussel** (Liberal) on November 8. Mr. Roussel was elected on October 26, 1970, to represent the constituency of Restigouche. He was re-elected in 1974 and 1978 to represent the riding of Restigouche West. During his time at the Legislature he served on several standing and select committees.



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## FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

*Acting Director — Ken Fitzpatrick, CPA, CMA*

The Finance and Human Resources Branch is accountable for the proper and effective management of the financial and human resource services of the Legislative Assembly. In addition, the Branch provides financial and human resources support to the following statutory offices: Elections New Brunswick, Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and the Office of the Ombudsman.

### Financial Services Overview

Financial Services include the following responsibilities:

- Members' and Committee Expenses
  - Ensure timely and accurate payment of expenses.
  - Provide advice on the application of various rules and guidelines for eligible expenses for members.
- Purchasing of and Payment for Goods and Services
  - Ensure compliance with Acts and Regulations
  - Ensure transactions are properly recorded for financial statement presentation
- Financial Analysis and Expenditure Projections
  - Review the financial position of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and its various offices.
  - Advise clients of various issues related to expenditures
- Budget Process
  - Coordinate budget process, prepare budget submissions and liaise with related departments or agencies.
- Reporting
  - Prepare quarterly and annual expenditure reports as prescribed by the *Legislative Assembly Act* and Department of Finance.

### Financial Services Section

The House sat a total of 55 days during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, compared to 87 days in 2013-2014 and 52 days in 2012-2013. Since the annual budget of the Legislative Assembly only provides for expenses and allowances associated with approximately 40 sitting days in a fiscal year, additional funding was required for 2014-2015. In total, supplementary estimates in the amount of \$225,000 were approved to fund expenditures associated with the additional sitting days.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$13,170,700 based on a revised total budget of \$13,835,000 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$13,762,100 based on a budget of \$14,213,100 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.



**Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2015**  
**(in \$ 000s)**

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>		
Allowances to Members	8 366.0	8 207.2
Legislative Committees	231.0	69.0
Subtotal	<u>8 597.0</u>	<u>8 276.2</u>
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	663.0	565.5
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1 497.0	1 402.7
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	221.0	202.4
Hansard Office	576.0	578.1
Debates Translation	703.0	693.6
Subtotal	<u>3 660.0</u>	<u>3 442.3</u>
<i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	719.4	674.2
Office of the Official Opposition	784.6	704.0
Office of the Third Party Leader	74.0	74.0
Subtotal	<u>1 578.0</u>	<u>1 452.2</u>
<i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i>	13 835.0	13 170.7

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Buildings were approximately \$530,800 in 2014-2015. Major projects included: continuation of the multi-phased roll-out of fire suppression and fire alarm systems upgrades throughout the legislative complex; landscaping and hardscaping of the main front grounds and the general maintenance and preservation of legislative buildings.

The budgetary process for the Legislative Assembly's 2015-2016 fiscal year provided a challenge by requiring a \$270,000 reduction (net of special appropriations in 2014 – 2015 of \$465,000) in the operating budget of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. This budget reduction must be met while maintaining a reasonable level of services to the Members, legislative staff, and the public, as well as providing support services to the statutory officers reporting to the Assembly. A total operating budget of \$13,100,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Pursuant to the *Auditor General Act*, a qualified auditor is appointed annually by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to audit the accounts of the Office of the Auditor General. Finance and Human Resources staff facilitated this process for the financial statements of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, including inviting and reviewing a proposal from the audit firm, coordinating the audit process with the auditor and officials from the Office of the Auditor General, and ensuring receipt of the auditor's report by the Speaker.

Pursuant to a decision of the Legislative Administration Committee, the Legislative Assembly provides direct payment service of constituency office rent on behalf of all Members.



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## Human Resource Services Overview

Human Resource Services provide services to Ministers, Members, employees of the Legislative Assembly and Statutory Offices. The responsibilities include:

- Payroll and Benefits
  - Ensure timely and accurate payment of salaries and benefits.
  - Provide payroll and benefit orientation to all new Members and employees.
  - Administer and track employee leave.
- Personnel Administration
  - Assist in recruitment process.
  - Ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits of staff.
  - Maintain of payroll and personnel records.
  - Communicate of policies and benefits.
- Human Resource Development
  - Facilitate staff training for both professional and personal development.
  - Administer and promote the Employee and Family Assistance Program.
- Personnel Policies
  - Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province and the Legislative Administration Committee.

## Human Resource Services Highlights

In 2015, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 5 permanent competitions and 1 casual competition from various statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered the commencement of 16 employees and the termination arrangements for 22 employees who either retired, resigned or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

There were no economic or cost of living increases to be processed for employees during 2015 and the Members and Ministers indemnities and salaries were not adjusted during the same period. Eligible employees did receive merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance and current salary level. The section also processed the new pay adjustments prescribed by the *Executive Council Act* which requires a reduction in pay for the Premier and Ministers when the province reports a deficit.

The section continued to provide a payroll service on behalf of Private Members for their constituency office staff. Constituency office employees of Private Members are paid bi-weekly using the Province's Human Resources Information System (HRIS). Constituency Office employees are paid from the Constituency Office Allowance as prescribed in the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

A total of 51 students and other individuals were employed under various casual or term employment programs administered by the Finance and Human Resources section, including 16 Pages. Responsibilities included coordination of the employment programs and the commencement (payroll setup and notices of hiring), payment (weekly time sheet input) and subsequent termination (removal from payroll and issuance of a Record of Employment) of each of the related employees.

In 2015, the section hosted an orientation session on the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) to promote the program and raise awareness of the available resources. Regular wellness sessions will be continued to be offered to employees. Staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by UNB, GNB, the Human Resources Association of New Brunswick, and the Financial Management Institute, as well as French



second language training to facilitate financial and human resource services in both official languages.

As a result of the September 2014 General Election, staff finalized the outstanding workload with regards to the Members who were not re-elected, including payment of the Transition Allowance and Retraining Allowance. One Member resigned in 2015, and one Member was elected via by-election.

### Human Resource Summary—Legislative Assembly

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Sessional</i>	<i>Casual</i>	<i>Payroll Constituency Offices</i>
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	5	0	0	0	0
General Administration	0	0	0	1	0
Finance and Human Resources	5	0	0	5	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0
Sergeant-at-Arms	3	0	1	6	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</i>	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Legislative Library</i>	8	0	0	2	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>	9	0	0	5	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	13	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	4	0	0	4	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	10	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Third Party Leader</i>	2	0	0	2	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	16	0	0
<i>Members</i>	0	49	0	0	56
<i>Total</i>	65	49	17	27	56



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## LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

### *Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey*

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff of departments of government in order that they may better serve the people of New Brunswick. The Legislative Library may acquire by gift, bequest, loan or purchase any book, periodical, newspaper, film or publication that may serve the Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly or the departments in the performance of their duties.

The Legislative Library is designated as the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications. The Queen's Printer and each government department are required to deposit with the Library four copies of every government publication issued under its authority within 30 days of its printing date. The Library has broadened its mandate to receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications. A repository for electronic government publications has been established whereby selected publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access. It should be noted that the Library still maintains a print collection of all government documents. A significant challenge over the past few years has been adapting to the rapid expansion of electronic information resources. The Library continues to stress the importance of producing print copies, as well as electronic versions, of government publications for future generations and for members of today's public who might not own a computer.

The Library strives to serve Members, Legislative Assembly staff, civil servants and the public in an efficient and accommodating manner. All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a nonpartisan fashion. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. When the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

### **Government Documents**

The New Brunswick Government Publications collection is housed separately in a small building located across the street from the main Library. Documents staff manage a physical collection of catalogued print items numbering over 8,000, as well as a large collection of uncatalogued print materials including duplicate copies. In addition, staff also manage the electronic repository of New Brunswick documents. During 2015, a total of 244 electronic government documents, including both monographs and annual reports, were added to the repository. To date, over 2,100 documents are available.

Weeding of the Library's huge, defunct collection of Canadian federal government documents continued in 2015. The libraries of the University of New Brunswick continue to be the main beneficiaries of the weeding.



## Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and an incredible resource for the province. In 2015, several publishers, associations, groups, and individuals donated materials to the Library. The Legislative Library is grateful to the following who donated books during the past year:

### Publishers, Associations, and Groups

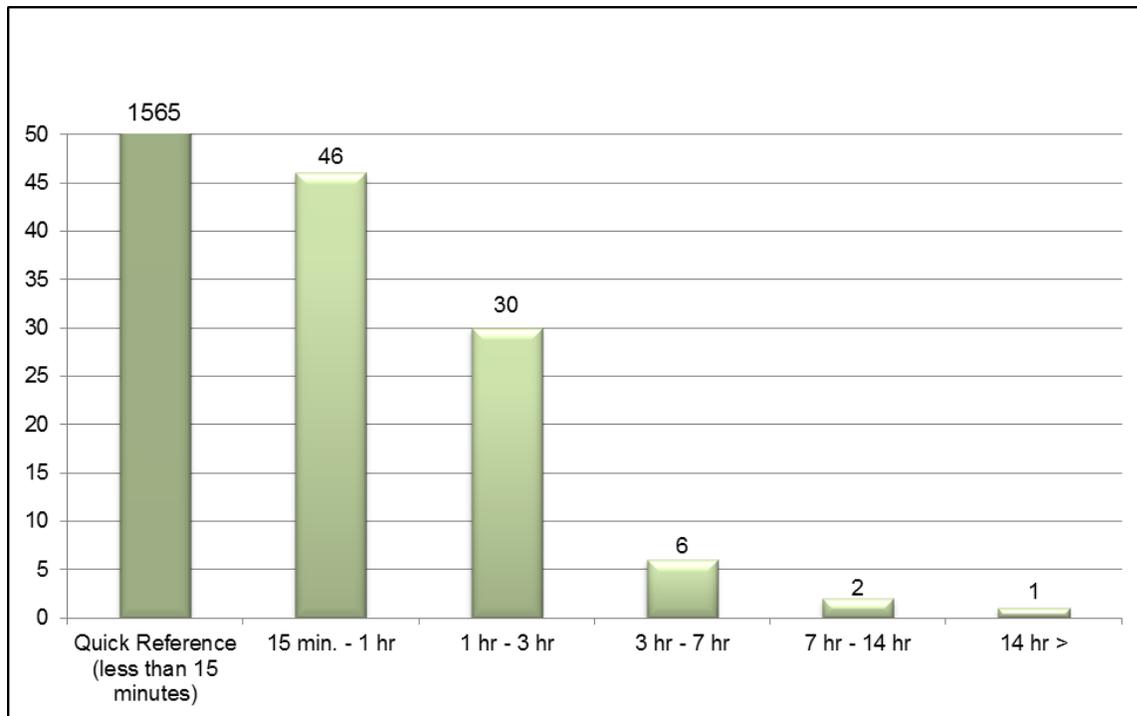
Boutons d'Or Acadie, Goose Lane Editions, La Grande Marée, and the Legislative Library of Nova Scotia.

### Individuals

Pamela and Wendell Fulton, Eugene Jackson, Murielle King, Jennifer Lockhart, Margaret Pacey, Jean-Guy Plourde, Corey Redekop, and Alain Robert Savoie.

## Reference, Library Services, and Outreach

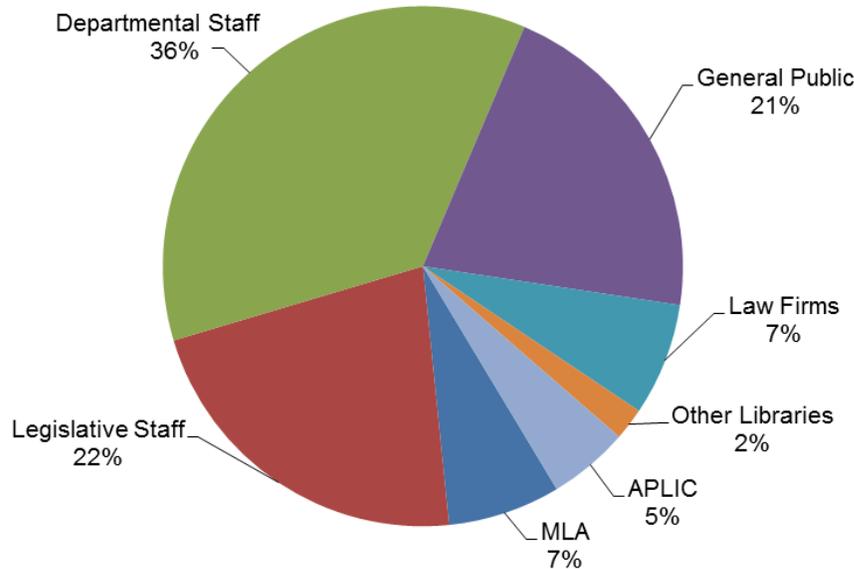
Reference staff members were busy in 2015, responding to 1,650 requests. Several of these were large research questions which took numerous hours to answer. The Library's statistics reporting system allows staff to record the amount of time spent to answer each question. The following graph shows the number of questions corresponding to various time ranges.



Number of Questions Per Time Range



The following chart shows a breakdown of the types of patrons requesting information from the Library, in person or otherwise, in 2015.



**Patron Types Requesting Information**

There were four displays mounted in the Library's display case. They were: the anniversary of the Canadian and New Brunswick flags, wildflowers of New Brunswick, locations related to/named for Lord Beaverbrook, and 2015 UN Year of Soil.

The inter-library loan service the Library offers was active in 2015. A total of eleven requests were sent to other libraries for material on behalf of our patrons. The Library received one loan request from another library wishing to borrow our material.

## Initiatives

In the fall the Library completed development on and deployed a second interactive information kiosk. Whereas the first kiosk presents users with information on the Legislature, the new one consists of a composite of current Members as well as a historical listing of Speakers. Users can read biographical information about Members and navigate a political riding map of the province with the ability to view the local representative. For Speakers, a brief biography and listing of the dates they served are available. Both kiosks have proven very popular with visitors to the Legislature.

The Library completed a redesign of its printed quarterly accessions list, switching from a basic list format to a more eye catching, multi-page spread. This full-colour design is intended to better promote new books to Members in a format that is easier to browse.

During the summer the Library also completed the annual upgrade of its open source integrated library system, Koha, to version, 3.20. As part of this process, the Library moved from a physical



server maintained by Library staff to a virtualized server. A primary advantage of this change is that the Library eliminates the costly need to continuously replace and upgrade a physical server every 4-5 years.

In the spring the Library finished its private act digitization project. Once this was completed it was decided that the Library would start digitizing the Royal Gazettes from 1972 – 1997. At the end of 2015 there was only one remaining year to be digitized. All files have been processed with OCR software so they are keyword searchable.

Another new project the Library started was the creation of a new electronic Resource Management System. This new web based application will permit Library and Legislature staff to easily upload and catalogue a variety of media including documents, images, videos and audio clips with custom metadata added for easy searching and browsing. The goal of this project is to help better organize the large and disparate collection of electronic files that have been created or digitized in recent years.

## Staffing

In March the Library staff learned that the Researcher position that had been created in 2014 would not be funded in the upcoming budget. In April the Library staff said goodbye to Neill McKay who held the position.

The Library was able to hire a summer student for eight weeks starting in mid-May. Emma-Jayne Orser-Kooistra worked on a variety of projects including inventory, proofing text for kiosks as well as pamphlets, and searching for articles of historical value in newspapers.

## Library Renovations

In mid-June the Library was closed for seven weeks for sprinkler upgrades. Preparing for the upgrades involved moving several shelving units out of the Library as well as moving everything from the middle of the floor in order to place staging high enough to reach the 30 foot ceiling. While access to the stacks was limited, Library staff worked from their individual offices monitoring e-mails and phone calls. An area was set up in the government documents building for patrons to consult materials and do research.



**The New Brunswick Legislative Library underwent an upgrade to the sprinkler system, ensuring it complied with modern regulations. The library was established by a Joint Committee of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly in 1841.**



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## HANSARD OFFICE

### *Official Reporter — Linda Fahey*

Thomas Hansard, who was a printer and publisher of the Debates of the British Parliament in the early 1800s, initially based the content of the debates on press reports and then on the reports of his staff. In time, he added his surname to the title page of the debates, which led to his name eventually being adopted by most jurisdictions in the British Commonwealth to refer to their official reports. The New Brunswick Hansard Office records and publishes print and electronic versions of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in both official languages and records and distributes transcripts of the standing and select committees.

### **Recording and Console Operation**

Hansard staff operate the sound and recording consoles throughout sittings of the House and committee meetings and special events. Details of events are registered in both primary and backup digital recording systems located in the Hansard Office, and the resulting audio recordings, in the form of five-minute takes, are accessed for transcription through software that resides on staff computers.

During console operation, the priority of the staff is to open and close the microphones, following directions given by the presiding officer. Staff also dub the names of speakers and other information and assemble electronic logs of the proceedings. As well, with the assistance of the pages, staff collect copies of documents that have been referenced during the proceedings and obtain the names of guests who have been introduced.

Staff who transcribe the audio and edit the transcripts use the dubbing, logs, and documentation and information collected to assist them in producing accurate transcripts quickly. The electronic console logs are also posted on the Legislative Assembly network and are updated throughout each sitting and meeting. These logs, at one time used exclusively by the Hansard Office, are now used by other offices; thus, considerable effort is expended to ensure their accuracy, completeness, and consistency.

During the year, staff attended, recorded, and logged 415 hours of proceedings: 241 hours during 64 sittings of the Legislative Assembly and 174 hours during 60 meetings of the standing committees. In comparison with the previous year, there was a 43% increase in the number of sittings and meetings and, accordingly, a 9% increase in the overall hours.

Staff undertook console work throughout the course of 18 meetings of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy and 11 meetings of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, including 11 evening meetings. By motion carried, the transcripts of these particular 29 committee meetings were included in the *Journal of Debates (Hansard)*. Staff also provided console support during meetings held by the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the Standing Committee on Law Amendments, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Standing Committee on Private Bills, and the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers.

The Hansard Office continued to maintain a record of appearances of departments and offices before the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy and the Committee of Supply. This record, containing the date, time, and duration of appearances, was updated frequently and posted to the Legislative Assembly network.



## Transcript Production

For each daily sitting and committee meeting, staff produce blues transcripts—those that have had a first edit—from each of the five-minute audio files. When all transcripts of a sitting or meeting have been completed, they are combined into one transcript. For the House transcripts, staff proofread and edit the entire transcript, add opening pages, and send it for translation. The original text and the translation are later formatted by Hansard staff for the dual-column bound volumes.

Throughout 2015, staff focused on producing blues transcripts of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 daily sittings and committee meetings. As displayed in the following table, by year's end, staff had transcribed and edited approximately 3.2 million words—500 000 words more than in the previous year. Staff also worked on transcript finalization, completing the remaining 6 transcripts of the 2013 estimates-related committees and 20 daily sitting transcripts from 2013-14.

TRANSCRIPTION COMPLETED			
TRANSCRIPTS	ENGLISH	FRENCH	TOTAL
House Word Counts	1 759 197 (82%)	395 217 (18%)	2 154 414
Committee Word Counts	840 864 (82%)	179 637 (18%)	1 020 501

Throughout the session, the completion of full daily sitting transcripts is suspended while question period, message, and request transcripts are produced each day. The following table indicates the total number of high-priority transcripts that were produced throughout 2015, in addition to routine work and transcript production.

TRANSCRIPTS PRODUCED DAILY DURING SESSION		
Question Period	Message Transcripts	Request Transcripts*
56	790	284-plus

\*Not all requests are recorded.

Each sitting day, within approximately three hours of the conclusion of question period, the transcripts were edited, posted to the Legislative Assembly network, and distributed. Message transcripts—206 introduction of guests, 360 messages of congratulations and recognition, and 224 condolences and messages of sympathy—were transcribed, edited, and posted to the Legislative Assembly network on the day of delivery or soon thereafter. In 2015, message segments related to congratulations and condolences were moved from the beginning of the sitting day to the time of adjournment, and production of transcripts for these messages was addressed at the start of the next workday. Transcript requests were received either directly or through the Legislative Library, whose staff assist clients who are seeking Hansard transcripts or research.

## Research

Staff undertake research to ensure the accuracy of transcripts, and the office routinely receives documents and information from other offices. In 2015, the office received hundreds of electronic documents as well as hard copies of documents that were then scanned into electronic format by the Hansard staff. Throughout the year, 174 minister statements and 559 member statements were presented in the House and copies of many of these statements were received by the office. All documents received are checked against delivery so that the transcripts reflect the spoken word.



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Electronic and paper research documents are kept on file for further reference during the processing of transcripts. Once the transcripts of a session have been finalized, the reference material is forwarded to the Debates Translation Office so that the translators can also make use of the documents and research obtained by Hansard staff.

## **Professional Activities—Hansard Association of Canada**

The role of the Hansard Association of Canada is to enhance the expertise of those who produce Hansard, to serve as a channel of communication among reporting services across Canada and the Commonwealth, to provide assistance regarding Hansard production, and to inform and educate others about Hansard.

Throughout 2015, the New Brunswick Hansard Office remained active in the association by contributing to its annual newsletter, by responding to individual queries as well as to those questions received through the association's list server, and by participating in the annual conference.

## **Human Resources and Activities**

Throughout the year, staff maintained and updated the in-house reference materials and records of House business that are used extensively during transcript production. Staff meetings were held regularly to plan for upcoming sittings and events, to implement, review, and refine work systems, and to keep colleagues informed of the progress being made on all segments of Hansard production.

Staff attended a training session with respect to the new sound system that was installed in the Legislative Council Chamber. Staff later developed instructional data for console operation with the system and provided in-house training, as needed, for all console operators.

Throughout 2015, staff recorded all proceedings on the VIQ Murf system as well as on a new VIQ upgrade, Netscribe, and a new backup logger. Staff were trained on the Netscribe system, and they then tested it for transcription purposes and provided feedback and recommendations to VIQ, whose staff continued to refine and improve it.

Staff participated in the annual orientation session for new pages, explaining the mandate of the Hansard Office and how the assistance of the pages in the Chambers is helpful in the production of transcripts. A question and answer segment was held, and handouts were distributed.

Throughout the year, the Hansard Office supplied console operation services for ceremonies, conferences, and special events hosted by the Legislative Assembly. These events included a swearing-in ceremony for a new Member of the Legislative Assembly, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Student Legislative Seminar, the Queen's Counsel ceremony, and the Canada Cord ceremony.

The year 2015 was productive for the Hansard Office, and the staff look forward to the implementation of new technology, which will help them to continue to implement efficiencies and to improve the services that the office provides to the Legislative Assembly.



## DEBATES TRANSLATION

### *Chief Translator — Rebecca Colborne*

Debates Translation provides professional translation services for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Debates Translation team includes 4 autonomous translators, 3 intermediate translators, and 1 junior translator, as well as the Chief Translator and an executive secretary.

The mandate of Debates Translation arises from the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick. Under section 8 of the Act, “The records, journals and reports of the Legislative Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published in English and French”. This requirement is enshrined in subsection 18(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: “The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.”

More specifically, Debates Translation translates statements and speeches delivered by members in the House, the daily Journal, the proceedings of the House (Hansard), committee reports, and procedural and other material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

### House

There were 64 daily sittings of the House in 2015, including 52 daily sittings in the first session of the 58th legislature and 12 daily sittings in the second session of the 58th legislature, compared to 58 daily sittings in 2014.

Debates Translation staff members translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings (Hansard and Journal), as well as motions introduced in the House, the *Order and Notice Paper*, Speaker’s rulings, and other documents. Translation of Hansard accounted for 55.5% of total production in 2015, the percentage remaining essentially unchanged from the previous year. About 25% of this translation was into English.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Days	58	55	58	70	64
Words	2 031 901	2 204 380	2 049 070	2 627 731	2 153 215

Table 1 provides comparative statistics on the number of words for the past five sessions.

In 2015, translation of the daily Journal represented 6.3% of output, accounting for 2.2% more of the annual production of the office than the previous year. Translation is usually completed shortly after the session ends. The increase is due to the higher number of daily sittings. The Order Paper and notices of motions accounted for 15.1% of production. These documents are translated the same day.

### Members of the Legislative Assembly

Debates Translation is responsible for the translation of statements and speeches delivered in the House by members, including Cabinet ministers and opposition members. The material translated includes messages of condolence, congratulations, and the introduction of guests, statements by ministers and members, the introduction of bills and speeches on second reading, speeches related to debatable motions, speeches on the tabling of special documents, and, of course, the speech from the throne, speeches related to the debate on the speech from the throne, and the



closure of the debate, as well as the budget speech, speeches related to the budget debate, and the closure of the debate. Speeches on budget estimates for the various departments are also translated.

Translation for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for 16.2% of total production in 2015. The number of words translated increased by about 1% from the previous year. During the 64 daily sittings in 2015, 377 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed, for a total of 667 pages. This represents a 8.5% increase in the number of requests over the preceding year. Documents translated included the budget speech for the first session of the 58th legislature and the speech from the throne for the second session, as well as 230 statements and 147 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. The average speech length was 3 pages. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 99% of production. Approximately 95% of the translation was into French.

During the intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members included correspondence and press releases. The number of words indicated in Table 2 represents the translation of press releases related to the budget speech and throne speech, as well as requests from members' offices and other branches of the Legislative Assembly.

<b>Table 2: Debates Translation Output, in words 2015 Calendar Year</b>	
HOUSE	
Notices of Motions and Order Paper	185 017
Journal	77 789
Hansard	687 471
MEMBERS	
Speeches and Statements	198 187
Correspondence and press releases	1 109
COMMITTEES	8 891
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	74 516
TOTAL	1 226 980

Translation for Members of the Legislative Assembly is generally done on the same day or the day after, as resources allow.

## **Committees**

Debates Translation staff members translate reports, agendas, and notices of meetings for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. Translation for committees represented 0.7% of total production in 2015, which is a significant decrease compared to the previous year, when demand was much higher due to the work of the Legislative Administration Committee and the Standing Committee on Procedure.

## **Office of the Legislative Assembly**

The Debates Translation office is responsible for translating material of a procedural and administrative nature for the Speaker's Office, the Office of the Clerk, the Hansard Office, the Legislative Library, Finance and Human Resource Services, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as



correspondence, disclosure statements, and reports for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Translation for the Office of the Legislative Assembly represented 6.1% of total production in 2015. The number of words translated decreased significantly compared to the previous year, when demand from the Office of the Clerk and the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner was high because of the election. Documents translated during the year included the annual report of the Legislative Assembly, the annual report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and a procedural manual for the Hansard Office.

## **Human Resources**

In 2015, the Debates Translation office had an exceptional year in terms of human resources. In late January and early February, a competition was planned and held to fill three potential vacancies due to the Chief Translator's planned retirement and succession, as well as the anticipated departure of a senior staff member. Examinations and interviews with candidates were held in April and May. An eligibility list was established, consisting of four candidates who passed the examination and interview stages.

In early June, one of the two junior translators was promoted to the intermediate level, in recognition of her enhanced skills and diligent efforts. In July, an autonomous translator with many years of experience within the provincial government was hired, and she became a permanent employee at the end of the year. In early September, a second autonomous translator was hired, also from within the provincial government, and her probationary period continued through the remainder of the year.

The 2015 year was also characterized by the extended absence of two senior translators. The remaining staff members continued to train junior and intermediate staff members and the two new senior translators also received intensive training in all aspects of Debates Translation functions.

Debates Translation team members continued to show considerable devotion during the session by working nights, often until the early hours of the morning, and weekends, after a full work week, to ensure that members received timely, true, and accurate translations of their statements and speeches.

## **Conclusion**

In 2015, production totalled 1 232 980 words. During the year, 888 written translation requests were processed, and frequent requests for prompt translation made by telephone and email were also dealt with. New staff members were trained and prepared to continue providing the services for which the office is known, meeting the highest standards of professional translation for the Legislative Assembly of our bilingual province.



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## SPECIAL PROJECT

### *Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc*

When Debates Translation was established in 1977, its mandate was to translate House proceedings (“Hansard”) before the next session. This differs from other legislatures in Canada, where proceedings are usually made available within 24 to 48 hours. A translation backlog of Hansard developed in the early nineties, and the Legislative Administration Committee approved in September 1997 a strategy to address the issue. This strategy had three components.

The first component was to seek outside funding to assist catch-up efforts. During the year in review, no outside funding for translation outsourcing was available.

The second component was internal funding for translation outsourcing. During the year in review, no internal funding for outsourcing was available.

The third component was designation of a senior staff member as Special Project Officer, reporting to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, to focus full-time on reducing the translation backlog. Duties also included updating the *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* and leadership in setting standards and quality control.

The special project has three objectives.

#### **Objective 1: Maintain the Hansard translation workflow.**

##### **Results**

- Hansard translation demand was 2.15 million words, compared to 2.09 million words in the previous year, an increase of 3%.
- Hansard translation output totaled 0.68 million words, compared to 0.86 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 21%.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 1.47 million words, compared to 1.23 million words in the previous year. Over the past five years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.19 million words per year.

#### **Objective 2: Provide translation of daily sittings at an earlier date.**

##### **Results**

- Online translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 18.83 years earlier than the published volumes.
- At year’s end, translation of dailies up to June 17, 2004, was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly.
- A total of 619 Hansard dailies in dual-column PDF format are available for the 1993 to 2003-04 sessions, including 23 replies to the throne speech and budget speech up to December 2015. These finalized, translated dailies can be viewed, printed, and are fully searchable electronically.



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### **Objective 3: Reduce the Hansard translation backlog to 12 months.**

#### **Results**

- The Hansard translation backlog rose by 1.47 million words, compared to 1.24 million words during the previous year, an increase of 19%.
- During the year in review, 64 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 19 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 45 sitting days, compared to 31 sitting days in the previous year.
- Hansard translation was trailing by 138 months (or 685 dailies), compared to 127 months (or 640 dailies) at the end of the previous year.

#### **Quality Control**

The *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* was updated monthly during the year. It serves as a repository of over 52 000 research findings that pertain mostly to national and provincial organizations and programs. All entries are fully referenced, and some provide hyperlinks. The *Parliamentary Stylebook* was also updated.

Both the stylebook and directory are available for consultation and download at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>.

#### **Conclusion**

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the nine other parliamentary translators and the executive secretary at Debates Translation, in close cooperation with staff at the Hansard Office. Efforts will continue to offer a product that not only meets high-quality standards but that is also provided on a more timely basis for members and staff of the Legislative Assembly, government departments, and New Brunswickers.



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## **PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS**

### **Program for Members**

The other components or branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Office of the Government Members, the Office of the Official Opposition, and the Office of the Third Party Leader.

Each party grouping or caucus of elected Members is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office. The Speaker has authority over the administration of each caucus office; however, for obvious reasons, these branches operate with considerable autonomy.

These branches received financial, administrative and personnel services, as well as other support services from other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office under the direction of the Clerk.

### **Funding**

Under the Program for Members, the private Members of the Legislative Assembly are provided with furnished offices in the Legislative complex in Fredericton.

Under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Legislative Administration Committee approves annual funding for private Members for secretarial, research and other assistance incidental to the performance of their duties. Members of each political party combine this funding to obtain and share research, secretarial and receptionist personnel.

Under the Act, funding is approved annually for the leaders of registered political parties represented in the House (Leader of the Opposition and Third Party Leader) to be used for salaries of staff, salaries and expenses of the leaders, and other expenses related to the operation of the respective offices.

### **Research and Administrative Support**

The staff of each office provides primary and secondary research support with respect to topics and issues of interest to the Members. The office helps handle correspondence relating to Members' legislative and public duties and provides many other support functions.

### **Office of Government Members**

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, secretarial and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Government Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the second and third floors of the Departmental Building.

### **Office of the Official Opposition**

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties to support the elected Members of the Official Opposition Caucus. The offices of the Members and staff of the Official Opposition are located in the Old Education Building.

### **Office of the Third Party Leader**

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties to support the Leader of the Third Party. The Member and staff of this office occupy the third floor of the Departmental Building.