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Wednesday, November 20, 2002.

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Ms. Weir, Member for Saint John Harbour, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of New Brunswick who request that the House set up a commission to examine future rate increases by insurance companies. (Petition 1)

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Mr. Richard stood on a point of order to complain that the written copy of a statement made by the Minister of Transportation was received in one language only.

The Honourable the Premier spoke on the point of order and noted that the statement was made and distributed in both official languages.

Mr. Speaker advised that in keeping with the practices of the House, copies of written documentation such as Statements by Ministers should be distributed in both official languages at the same time.

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Mr. Speaker introduced the pages for the session: Returning from last session are Nicholas Ouellette, Hatfield Point; who will serve as Head Page; Jarrette Bannister, Elgin; Andy MacNeil, Durham Bridge and Janice Linton, of Perth-Andover.

The new Pages are Jonathan Taylor, Glencoe; Joel Rodgers, Grove Hill; Joel Graham, Woodstock; Jessie Davis, Guelph, Ontario; Zita Nyarady, Fredericton; Jill Meade, Long Reach; Rose Campbell, Fredericton; Michelle Sarchfield, Scotch Lake and Melissa MacKinley, of Miramichi.

Mr. Speaker welcomed to the House Ms. Anne Lehmann, a legislative exchange student, from Neustrelitz in Germany.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

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The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mrs. Jardine,

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act.*

By Hon. N. Betts,

Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Mesheau,

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act.*

Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act.*

Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Financial Corporation Capital Tax Act.*

Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.*

By Hon. P. Robichaud,

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Tourism Development Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Green,

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act.*

By Mr. Shawn Graham,

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills be read the second time at the next sitting.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

WHEREAS debt load for graduates of medical schools is extremely high;

AND WHEREAS other provinces and the United States are offering significant debt reduction incentives to new physicians;

AND WHEREAS there are communities where there are severe shortages of physicians;

AND WHEREAS there is a known shortage of health care providers including nurses, nurse practitioners and others;

AND WHEREAS New Brunswick's best chance at dealing with this shortage comes from training New Brunswickers in these professions;

AND WHEREAS the cost of these programs may be prohibitive for young people wanting to pursue careers in health care provision;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Legislature urge the government to establish a New Brunswick Healthcare Bursary Program to students entering their last 2 years of study in one of the health care professions identified as experiencing a shortage who agree to work in the province after graduation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Legislature urge government to establish a Debt Assistance Plan for new physicians to establish a medical practice in a designated community.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

WHEREAS an Act introducing nurse practitioners was adopted during the last session of the Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS the University of New Brunswick only offers a part-time nurse practitioner program;

WHEREAS there is no Francophone nurse practitioner program at the Université de Moncton;

WHEREAS nurse practitioners are in very high demand across the country;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to set up a dedicated fund for a nurse practitioner program at the Université de Moncton and at the University of New Brunswick.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kennedy:

WHEREAS enrolment is dropping in the New Brunswick school system;

AND WHEREAS dropping enrolment affords us the opportunity to improve the ratios of teaching staff to students and to provide more resources to children with learning disabilities;

AND WHEREAS improved ratios have a beneficial effect on academic performance;

AND WHEREAS the government is currently cutting teaching positions;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to implement a freeze on the number of teaching positions in the education system for three years.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 4 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

WHEREAS all New Brunswickers are shareholders in NB Power;

AND WHEREAS public consultation conducted by the Official Opposition indicated overwhelmingly that New Brunswickers favour retaining control of NB Power as a publicly-owned utility;

AND WHEREAS deregulation in Ontario has led to rate shock which has led the Ontario government to introduce legislation capping the price of wholesale electricity;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to adopt the policy of retaining control and ownership of generation and transmission infrastructure of NB Power.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS northeastern New Brunswick has an economic development deficit compared to the rest of the province;

WHEREAS the unemployment rate, especially the seasonal unemployment rate, is very high in the northeastern part of the province;

WHEREAS the northeastern part of the province is experiencing an exodus of young people from the area, who leave to attend university or to pursue better job opportunities;

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia government has been very proactive in setting up, with federal government assistance, the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and the Pictou Regional Development Commission;

WHEREAS both these economic development programs have proved their worth, and several jobs have been created thanks to the commitment of the Nova Scotia government, which has innovated on these issues;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to cooperate with the federal government with a view to setting up an inclusive economic development program for the northeastern part of the province, similar to the Enterprise Cape Breton Commission.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

WHEREAS auto insurance rates are escalating at an alarming rate;

AND WHEREAS seniors, who are often on fixed incomes, are being hurt by large increases in premiums;

AND WHEREAS other provinces have been able to bring stability to auto insurance rates;

AND WHEREAS the Select Committee on Private Passenger Automobile Insurance has been provided with much information on the problem;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to take immediate steps to deal with the escalating costs of auto insurance.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 7 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

WHEREAS one in 500 children is affected by autism;

AND WHEREAS in the case of *Auton v. British Columbia*, the BC Court of Appeal ruled that British Columbia's failure to provide effective treatment for a child with autism was a violation of that child's rights under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

AND WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick is in possession of the report *A Framework for an Integrated Service Delivery System for Persons with Autism in New Brunswick* from the Interdepartmental Committee on Services to Persons with Autism;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to implement the recommendations of *A Framework for an Integrated Service Delivery System for Persons with Autism in New Brunswick*.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

WHEREAS the ceiling levels for transfers for coverage of the cost of prescription drugs from the provincial Prescription Drug Program for seniors to the Blue Cross plan for seniors were established in 1992 to be \$17 198 for a single senior and \$26 955 for married seniors and have remained at that level;

AND WHEREAS inflation over the years reduces the purchasing power of seniors' earnings;

AND WHEREAS the government has recognized this in its provincial income tax legislation with a provision to prevent "bracket creep";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ask the government to examine the feasibility of making an adjustment to this ceiling in the coming year to reflect the above index of inflation in the intervening years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ask the government to consider adopting a policy that would automatically adjust the ceilings for the provincial Prescription Drug Program based on an appropriate index of inflation to prevent bracket creep from imposing hardship on seniors.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 9 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS on June 1, 2000 the Minister of Family & Community Services stated, “the long-term care review is currently under way and is scheduled to be completed by the fall;”

AND WHEREAS more than two years have passed without the release of a long-term care strategy;

AND WHEREAS there are many concerns about the availability, sustainability and quality of long-term care in the province of New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to bring forward and implement a Long-Term Care strategy for New Brunswickers requiring long-term care in our province.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 10 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS women’s average hourly wage is 79 % of men’s in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the Advisory Council on the Status of Women states that approximately half the wage gap is “caused by the age-old tradition of paying ‘women’s’ jobs less than jobs usually held by men”;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick government must show leadership in the area of pay equity;

WHEREAS there are still parts of the public service which are not covered by the *Pay Equity Act* and which include New Brunswick government employees;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to amend the *Pay Equity Act* so that it applies to all parts of the public service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the New Brunswick government to actively pursue an objective of ensuring that the *Pay Equity Act* applies to the private sector.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 11 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS New Brunswick universities will receive nearly \$168 million in funding from the provincial government in 2001-02;

WHEREAS there is no mechanism requiring the universities to be accountable to the Legislative Assembly for how this money is spent;

WHEREAS the Select Committee on Education was formed at the commencement of the First Session of the 54th Legislative Assembly to address the many issues and concerns involving the education of New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly authorize the Select Committee on Education to invite representatives of the province's universities to appear before the committee to review their spending and outline their plans and priorities.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 12 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS the "Children Come First" report was released in June 2000;

AND WHEREAS the report contained 84 recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the "Children Come First" report recommended that 177 new social workers be hired into Child Protection, Child in Care, Children's Residential Services and Adoption Services;

AND WHEREAS that hiring has not occurred;

AND WHEREAS workload was a key issue during the recent strike by social workers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to act on implementing recommendations regarding social workers in the "Children Come First" report.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 13 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS the report "Children Come First" was released in June 2000;

AND WHEREAS that report recommended the establishment of a Child / Youth Advocate as a "champion to give a voice to children.";

AND WHEREAS the report recommended the position be an "impartial body to support the vision for child well-being in New Brunswick and would report directly to the Legislature, and in the case of the First Nations, to the Tripartite Committee";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to establish a Child / Youth Advocate.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 14 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS the report "Children Come First" was released in June 2000;

AND WHEREAS that report raised concerns about services for youth 16-18 who are falling through holes in the social safety net;

AND WHEREAS the New Brunswick Foster Families Association is currently circulating a petition in favour of better, more consistent services to youth 16-18;

AND WHEREAS no action has been taken to this point on these recommendations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to review provision of services to youth age 16 - 18 to ensure that they receive the services and support they require.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 15 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

WHEREAS coastal communities are vitally dependent on sustainable and renewable resources of the sea for their prosperity;

AND WHEREAS coastal economies are now more diversified with aquaculture and tourism added to activities in commercial fishing;



AND WHEREAS at Public Accounts recently the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Aquaculture confirmed that the provincial government has no policy for the commercial fisheries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to consult with stakeholder representatives of coastal communities in all regions of New Brunswick and develop a "Coastal Resource Policy" to assist government in decisions affecting the various sectors of the coastal economy to assure harmony among the sectors and sustainable and prosperous coastal communities.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 16 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS a key aim of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is to "increase awareness of the population on issues, programs and services;"

AND WHEREAS the Advisory Council on the Status of Women has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the issue of the need for pay equity;

AND WHEREAS one of the targets for this campaign is young New Brunswickers and in particularly girls;

AND WHEREAS one piece of campaign material will not be placed in New Brunswick classrooms because the Department of Education is concerned that it is not presented in the context it requires;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the Department of Education and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women take a cooperative approach in implementing this important awareness campaign in our schools.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 17 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lee:

WHEREAS the province of New Brunswick has a *Days of Rest Act*;

AND WHEREAS the *Days of Rest Act* states "it is desirable to provide, as much as is practicable, that such days of rest be uniform;"

AND WHEREAS exemptions to the *Days of Rest Act* are now being given frequently and inconsistently;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, business and individuals have called upon government to outline a consistent Sunday shopping policy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to refer the *Days of Rest Act* to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to obtain public input on possible amendments to the Act.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

WHEREAS it has been acknowledged by government that good transportation infrastructure is essential for economic growth;

AND WHEREAS growth of the Grand Manan economy is being constrained by lack of opportunity to increase capacity of the ferry service due to the 37-year old terminal in Blacks Harbour that will not permit ferries of sufficient size to be docked there;

AND WHEREAS economic activity on Grand Manan has positive benefits for much of southern New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS while the North Head terminal was being replaced in the spring of 1999, plans were being made to start the process for replacement of the Blacks Harbour Wharf, plans that were cancelled when the present government took office;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Transportation noted in his Estimates this year his hope to see money in the capital budget this fall to build the Blacks Harbour terminal;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature ask the government to attach a very high priority to building the Blacks Harbour wharf in time to have it in service before the 2004 biennial refit of the ferry *Grand Manan V*.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 19 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Allaby:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, memos, reports, studies, letters and/or e-mails relating to the status of the future of the Minto Hospital and/or a Community Health Centre for the Minto area including a breakdown of the budget including capital costs, operating costs and any offsets from existing facilities.

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Mr. Shawn Graham gave Notice of Motion 20 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, correspondence, letters, memos, studies, reports, and/or assessments regarding the future of the Hôpital Stella-Maris-de-Kent, located in Sainte-Anne-de-Kent.

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Mr. MacKenzie gave Notice of Motion 21 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS testing of New Brunswick student in both the Francophone and Anglophone systems over many years has consistently shown evidence that there is room for improvement; and

WHEREAS this Government has taken measures to improve the quality of learning available to children participating in both the Anglophone and Francophone K-12 education systems; and

WHEREAS every New Brunswick student deserves the opportunity to take part in and benefit from the highest possible quality learning environment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government of New Brunswick continue to develop and implement programming, curriculum, and governance options which will have a positive impact on the quality of learning opportunities available to New Brunswick students.

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Ms. Dubé gave Notice of Motion 22 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Keddy:

WHEREAS the training, recruitment, and retention of physicians, particularly family doctors and specialists, have become an issue of great concern across North America;

WHEREAS the training, recruitment, and retention of nurses, particularly licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and nurse practitioners, have become an issue of great concern across North America;

WHEREAS the training, recruitment, and retention of other health care professionals, particularly physiotherapists, occupational

therapists, and speech-language therapists, have become an issue of great concern across North America;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the government of New Brunswick continue to emphasize the training, recruitment, and retention of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals and make special efforts in that regard.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 23 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of all initiatives funded by the economic renewal fund since it was set up and the funding sources for these initiatives.

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At the request of Hon. Mr. Green, it was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting through the noon recess.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 24 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Shawn Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a breakdown of the cost to the province of New Brunswick of commercials and advertisements broadcast and printed on behalf of the provinces of Canada concerning the federal government's role in funding health care.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 25 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kennedy:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, memos, reports, studies, letters and/or e-mails between Elena Scraba and the Department of Education.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 26 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Shawn Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, memos, reports, studies, letters or e-mails from November 1, 2001 to November 1, 2002 relating to autism.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, correspondence, letters, electronic mail, working papers, reports, assessments, and/or contracts relating to the translation of municipal bylaws of the municipalities affected by the new *Official Languages Act*

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Shawn Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documents, memos, reports, expenses, studies, letters or e-mails containing the name of Gilles Verret, the New Brunswick Representative in Ottawa.

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Mr. McGraw gave Notice of Motion 29 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Cosman:

WHEREAS there are 347 more full-time nursing positions since the change of government;

WHEREAS there are 82 more physicians in New Brunswick since June 1999, resulting in the largest number of physicians ever to work in the province;

WHEREAS this government has invested record sums in health;

WHEREAS the government will open four community health centres, in Lamèque, Saint John, Doaktown, and Minto, by June 2003;

WHEREAS this government has ensured that nurse practitioners become a reality in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly recognize the excellent work of the government in meeting its

commitment to renew health care in New Brunswick and to New Brunswickers.

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Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 30 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kennedy:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of all the reports that have been commissioned but have not been released by this government since it took office in June 1999.

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Mr. Allaby gave Notice of Motion 31 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Shawn Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all correspondence, letters, e-mails, studies, reports, analyses, contracts, plane log and/or expenses filed regarding an activity for the New Brunswick Club held in Ottawa on November 12, 2002.

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Mr. Holder gave Notice of Motion 32 that on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McGraw:

WHEREAS the Government has tabled with the people of New Brunswick a ten-year Prosperity Plan, known as Greater Opportunity, which sets the framework for economic and social prosperity for all citizens of the Province; and

WHEREAS the ten-year Prosperity Plan is focused on the very specific thrust toward Global Competitiveness through the development of our Innovation capacity, Productivity and Export orientation; and

WHEREAS the ten-year Prosperity Plan is focused on Implementation Strategies including Economic diversification and clustering, Community economic development, and Strategic partnerships; and

WHEREAS the ten-year Prosperity Plan is focused on the four Building Blocks for social and economic prosperity which include Investing in people, Creating a competitive fiscal and business environment, Embracing Innovation, and Building strategic infrastructure;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly endorses the ten-year Prosperity Plan, including its goal, thrust, implementation strategies and building blocks.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly commits to supporting the ten-year Prosperity Targets and the ten-year Competitiveness Targets included in Greater Opportunity: New Brunswick's Prosperity Plan.

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And then, 1.17 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.