

**PROCEEDINGS FOR THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Legislative Assembly Chamber

Tuesday, July 29, 2003

1. At 3.00 o'clock p.m., the Clerk, the Clerks Assistant and the Sergeant-at-Arms will enter the Assembly Chamber, the Sergeant-at-Arms placing the Mace under the Clerk's Table.
2. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly will address the House as follows:

I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that she doth not think fit to declare the causes for which she has summoned this Legislative Assembly until a Speaker thereof shall have been chosen.

It is therefore Her Honour's will that you, the Members of the Legislative Assembly do proceed forthwith to choose a fit and proper person to be your Speaker, and that you present the person so chosen to Her Honour in this Assembly Chamber this afternoon for Her Honour's approbation.
3. The Clerk of the House will preside over the election of the Speaker.
4. If only one Member stands for election to the Office of Speaker, the Clerk of the House shall announce in the Chamber that candidate's name and without any vote declare that Member to be elected Speaker.
5. If there are two or more candidates for election to the Office of Speaker, the election will be conducted by secret ballot.
6. If any Member receives a majority of votes cast, the Clerk will announce the name of the successful candidate and declare him or her elected Speaker.
7. The newly elected Speaker will be escorted to the Chair by colleagues, where he or she returns thanks for the appointment.

8. The newly elected Speaker, standing on the dais, will say:

“Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is my pleasure today to express my grateful and humble acknowledgement to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience of parliamentary procedure, I should have hesitated before accepting a position involving so much responsibility were it not for the fact that I shall be able at all times to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance and kindness of every Member of the Assembly. Again thanking you, I now submit myself to the House.”

9. The Sergeant-at-Arms will place the mace on the Table and the new Speaker will take his/her seat in the Chair.
10. The Sergeant-at-Arms will retire to inform Her Honour that the House is now ready and to ask if Her Honour is now ready to enter the Assembly Chamber.
11. The Sergeant-at-Arms will return to the Assembly Chamber and inform the Speaker that Her Honour has arrived by saying:

“Mr./Madam Speaker, Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is without.”

The Speaker will then say to the Sergeant-at-Arms:

“Admit Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.”

12. The Sergeant-at-Arms will then bow and take the Mace from the Table, the Speaker will rise and leave the chair, and, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the Mace and followed by the Clerk and Clerks Assistant will leave the Assembly Chamber.
13. Her Honour will then enter the Assembly Chamber, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and take her place on the Throne.

Her Honour: *“Pray be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.”*

14. Then the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the Mace, the Speaker and the Clerks will enter the Assembly Chamber by the main door. They will walk to the Clerk's Table and all five will bow to the Lieutenant-Governor.

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15. The Speaker will address Her Honour as follows:

"May It Please Your Honour:

Your Honour having communicated your pleasure to the House, they proceeded to choose a Speaker. They have elected me to that important and honourable position, and I am now presented for Your Honour's approval."

16. The Clerk will then move to the side of the Clerk's Table, bow to Her Honour, turn to face the Speaker, and say:

"_____ , I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that she is fully sensible of your zeal for the public service and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected by the Legislative Assembly, and she doth readily approve of their choice, and allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

17. The Speaker then addresses her Honour in the following words:

"May It Please Your Honour:

Your Honour having been pleased to approve the choice of the Assembly in electing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all their ancient and accustomed rights and privileges, especially freedom from arrest, freedom of speech in debate, access to Your Honour when they think the public service requires it, and that the most favourable construction be put on all their proceedings and on my own behalf I have to request that any error of mine may not be imputed to the Assembly.

18. To which the Clerk of the House will reply:

"Mr./Madam Speaker, Her Honour hath the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of this Assembly of Her Majesty's person and government and in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will

accompany all their proceedings, and she doth most readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

With respect to yourself, Mr./Madam Speaker, though Her Honour is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, Her Honour will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.

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19. The Clerk will then resume her place on the Speaker's right. All five will bow to the Lieutenant-Governor and they will take the seats provided for the occasion.

20. At this point, the Premier will leave his seat in the House and take the chair at the right of the Throne. The Sergeant-at-Arms takes a seat, holding the Mace.

Her Honour will then deliver her Speech from the Throne.

21. At the conclusion of the speech, the Premier will bow to the Lieutenant-Governor and resume his seat in the House. The Speech from the Throne will be handed by the Lieutenant-Governor's Aide to the Clerk. The Speaker, Clerks and Sergeant-at-Arms will bow and the Speaker will replace his hat. They then retire from the House preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms and return to the Speaker's office.

The Sergeant-at-Arms returns to escort the Lieutenant-Governor's party from the Chamber.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor and her party then retire from the Assembly Chamber. As soon as the Lieutenant-Governor's party has retired, the Speaker again preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the Mace and followed by the Clerk and Clerks Assistant, re-enter the Assembly Chamber by the main door. Mr. Speaker takes his place on the Throne and the Sergeant-at-Arms places the Mace on the Clerk's Table.

23. The Speaker will table the Returns of votes polled in the general election held on June 9, 2003.

24. The Premier will move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Green, that the returns be entered in the Journals of the House.

25. The Premier will then ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "*An Act to Perpetuate A Certain Ancient Right.*" The Bill is sent to the Speaker who puts the motion and hands the Bill to the Clerk who reads the title of the Bill and returns to the Table.

26. The Speaker will then rise and inform the House that in order to prevent mistakes he

has procured a copy of Her Honour's speech which he offers to read. The Premier will say "Dispense".

27. Mr. Carr will move, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Speech of Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be forthwith taken into consideration. Mr. Carr sends the motion to the Speaker by a Page. Mr. Speaker reads the motion and puts it to the House.

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28. Mr. Carr will then move that the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

*To Her Honour,
The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme Counsell,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.*

May It Please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

29. After reading the motion, Mr. Carr delivers his speech in support of the motion. At the end of his speech he sends the motion to the Speaker by a Page and resumes his seat.

30. Mr. Williams will then deliver his speech seconding the motion. At the conclusion of his speech, the Speaker reads the motion and puts it to the House. If when the motion is put, a member moves the adjournment of the debate, the motion for adjournment is put by the Speaker and carried.

(If no member moves the adjournment of the debate, the motion for the Address is carried and the Premier moves, seconded by the Minister of Finance, that the Address be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker and presented to Her Honour by a committee of the House. The Speaker puts this motion which is carried and then announces that he appoints Mr. Carr, Mr. Williams, and the Honourable Mr. Lord to be the committee to wait upon Her Honour with the Address and present the same).

31. The Premier will move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Green, that Cy (Richard) LeBlanc,

Member for the electoral district of Dieppe-Memramcook and Trevor Holder, Member for the electoral district of Saint John Portland be appointed Deputy Speakers. The motion for the election of the Deputy Speakers is put by the Speaker and carried.

32. The Premier then moves the adjournment of the House. The Speaker puts the motion which is carried and then declares the House adjourned. The Speaker, Sergeant-at-Arms and the Clerks leave the Assembly Chamber.