

Legislative Activities

2020

Legislative Assembly of
New Brunswick



Legislative Activities

2020



New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Bill Oliver

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick



December 2, 2021

The Honourable Bill Oliver
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 thirty-second annual report of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2020.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of the staff who assisted with the production and translation of this report. In particular, I wish to recognize the contribution of Ms. Alicia Del Frate, who has been integral in the creation of these annual reports for the past several years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' and 'D'.

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Shayne Davies

The year 2020 was historic for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The third and final session of the 59th Legislature concluded and the first session of the 60th Legislature began. In total, the House sat for 29 days during the calendar year and committees held 55 meetings. The year was marked by the adoption of new protocols due to COVID-19, the first provincial general election held in Canada during the pandemic, the election of a Speaker, significant staffing changes and the first virtual hybrid meeting of a committee.

January 29 marked the commencement of the New Brunswick Legislative Internship Program, developed by the Department of Political Science at St. Thomas University with support of the FutureReady Initiative of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. The four-month nonpartisan program is designed to retain highly educated and capable New Brunswick students in the province after graduation by demonstrating the possibilities of a stimulating career in the public service. The selected Intern assisted Members and Officers of the Legislative Assembly with research relating to bills, motions, committee work and other initiatives as requested.

On February 14, Robert Gauvin announced his departure from the Progressive Conservative caucus and cabinet to sit as an Independent Member. A cabinet shuffle ensued and on February 24, Mr. Gauvin's portfolios were reassigned in a swearing-in ceremony of the Executive Council: Bruce Fitch became the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture and Glen Savoie became the Minister responsible for La Francophonie.

The third session of the 59th Legislature, which adjourned on December 20, 2019, resumed sitting on March 10, 2020. Finance and Treasury Board Minister Ernie Steeves delivered the Progressive Conservative minority government's second budget. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on March 12 by Official Opposition Finance and Treasury Board Critic Roger Melanson. After three days of debate, it was agreed by Members to conclude the budget debate and expedite other House business following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in New Brunswick. The *Appropriations Act 2020-2021* and the Main and Capital Estimates were adopted by the House on March 13.

On March 17 and April 17, the Legislative Assembly met again with only a quorum present to maintain physical distancing in the Chamber. With unanimous consent, Routine Proceedings were dispensed with and certain emergency legislation was introduced and received Royal Assent the same day. Legislation of note included Bill 38, *An Act Respecting Elections in 2020*, which postponed the dates for various spring elections, including provincial by-elections and municipal, district education council, regional health authority, and local service district elections, in light of COVID-19. Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, protected the employment of private and public sector workers requiring leave due to issues related to the pandemic. Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Emergency Measures Act*, provided emergency childcare services and suspended limitations and deadlines related to court and tribunal proceedings.

The House resumed sitting on May 26 and unanimously passed four resolutions to modify the Chamber and proceedings in response to COVID-19. Physical alterations to the Chamber included reducing the number of desks on the floor from 49 to 28. Members without a desk on the floor were permitted to vote from the gallery and participate in debate using one of two stationary microphones. Proceedings became essentially paperless, as the use of electronic documents and devices by Members in the Chamber was permitted during proceedings. Pages could no longer enter the Chamber and the Clerk's table was reconfigured to only allow two of the three Clerks to be seated at the table in order to reduce the number of people in the Chamber. The House also adopted a sessional calendar with reduced sitting days and hours to reduce potential exposures and to ensure that custodial staff had the necessary time to sanitize the Chamber after every



sitting. Due to the closure of the building to the public and press, media scrums were held in an adjacent building and conformed with physical distancing requirements.

The House adjourned on June 18, sitting for 31 days during the session, for a total of 91.5 hours. This compares to 41 days during the previous session, or 149 hours. A total of 56 bills were introduced during the session, 33 of which received Royal Assent.

In August, Patrick Dunn joined the Office of the Clerk as Committee Clerk and Acting Law Clerk. He was admitted to the Law Society of New Brunswick in 2012 and practised with an Atlantic regional law firm before assuming his position at the Legislative Assembly.

The 59th Legislature was dissolved on August 17 and a provincial general election was held on September 14. At dissolution, the standings in the House were 20 Progressive Conservatives, 20 Liberals, three Greens, three People's Alliance, one Independent Member and two vacancies. The 40th provincial general election produced a majority government led by Blaine Higgs, Member for Quispamsis and Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. The results were 27 Progressive Conservatives, 17 Liberals, three Greens, and two People's Alliance.

The general election was historic as it was the first Canadian election held during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite quarantine and other public health measures throughout the province, the election had a voter turnout of 66.1%. As well, a record number of women were elected to the Legislature: 14 women were elected across all four parties represented in the House, representing 28.6% of its membership. It was also the first time since 2003 that a Premier held their position for two consecutive terms.

Both David Coon, Leader of the Green Party, and Kris Austin, Leader of the People's Alliance, retained their seats in the Legislature. Kevin Vickers did not win the seat in the riding of Miramichi and resigned as Leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick following the election. Following a career as a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer, Mr. Vickers served as the House of Commons' Sergeant-at-Arms and later as the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland before becoming leader of the provincial party.

On the same day, Roger Melanson was named Interim Leader of the Official Opposition. Since his election in 2010, Mr. Melanson has served as Minister of Finance and Chair of the Treasury Board, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, and Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs.

On September 29, the Lieutenant-Governor presided over the swearing-in of the members of the Executive Council in a modified ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Mr. Higgs was sworn-in to continue as Premier, along with a Cabinet consisting of: Margaret Johnson, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries; Arlene Dunn, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Dominic Cardy, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; Gary Crossman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Daniel Allain, Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform; Ernie Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Dorothy Shephard, Minister of Health; Hugh J. A. Flemming, Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Public Safety; Trevor Holder, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Mary Wilson, Minister of Service New Brunswick; Bruce Fitch, Minister of Social Development; Tammy Scott-Wallace, Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; Jill Green, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure; and Glen Savoie, Minister responsible for la Francophonie. Mike Holland, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development, was sworn-in on October 7.

The first session of the 60th Legislative Assembly convened on the afternoon of October 7 to elect a new Speaker. Two Members allowed their name to stand for election but one Member withdrew his candidacy before the election, which resulted in Progressive Conservative Member William (Bill) Oliver being declared Speaker.



On November 13, the Legislature was marked with the retirement of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Donald J. Forestell, following a distinguished 27-year career. Mr. Forestell began his career at the Legislative Assembly in 1993 as Clerk Assistant and was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by resolution of the House in 2012. Shayne Davies, Deputy Clerk, was appointed Acting Clerk on November 27 by the Legislative Administration Committee and was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by resolution of the House on December 18.

On November 17, the Lieutenant-Governor delivered the first Throne Speech of the Higgs Progressive Conservative majority government. That same day, the House appointed Sherry Wilson and Andrea Anderson-Mason as Deputy Speakers. Other appointments were as follows: Glen Savoie as Government House Leader, Jeff Carr as Government Whip, Bill Hogan as Government Caucus Chair, Guy Arseneault as Official Opposition House Leader, Denis Landry as Official Opposition Whip and Francine Landry as Official Opposition Caucus Chair.

On November 18, a motion was adopted by the House to suspend the definition of “recognized party” in the Standing Rules for the duration of the 60th Legislature. Subsequently, the Green and People’s Alliance caucuses were granted certain rights under the Standing Rules despite not having elected the requisite five Members.

Mr. Melanson delivered his reply to the Throne Speech on November 19. The House was then forced to adjourn for two weeks due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. When the House reconvened to allow for the full six days of debate, Premier Higgs closed the Throne Speech debate on December 15. During the adjournment, on December 4, legislative proceedings were held for the first time using a virtual hybrid model. On that day, it was agreed by the members of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy who were present in the Chamber to allow other members, not present, to participate virtually from outside of the Chamber. The House adjourned again on December 18, after 14 sitting days. During the fall sitting, a total of 31 bills were introduced, 19 of which received Royal Assent before adjournment.

The year 2020 will be remembered as a challenging period for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The pandemic significantly affected both our professional and personal lives. But the year will also be remembered for the challenges overcome and the dedication and professionalism exhibited by the Members and staff of the Office.



Due to the state of emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislative Assembly’s Chamber was modified to allow all 49 Members to fully participate in proceedings while maintaining the recommended physical distance by removing desks from the floor of the House. Members without a desk exercised their vote from the gallery and spoke using one of two stationary microphones.



NOTABLE EVENTS

Swearing-in of Members

Lieutenant-Governor Hon. Brenda Murphy presided over the swearing-in ceremonies for the Members of the 60th Legislative Assembly on September 28. Members took their Oath of Allegiance during four separate modified ceremonies to allow for physical distancing in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

Her Honour Brenda Murphy is pictured here signing the Members' Roll, which is a register signed by Members in witness of their oath as required by the *Constitution Act, 1867*. Once they have taken the oath and signed the roll, Members may take their seats in the House.



Election of Speaker

The first session of the 60th Legislative Assembly convened on October 7 for the purpose of electing a new Speaker. On that day, William (Bill) Oliver was elected Speaker of the House. Speaker Oliver was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 2014 general election and again in the general elections of 2018 and 2020 to represent the riding of Kings Centre.

His political career began in 1999 as Executive Assistant to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and he later served in the same role for the Minister of Supply and Services and the Minister of Finance. During his time as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, he served as deputy whip for the Official Opposition, as WorkSafe NB critic, and as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure from 2018 until 2020.

Speaker Oliver has been very active in his community, serving on a district school board, as a member of the Hampton Rotary Club, and on various community committees in the Belleisle region. He also represented New Brunswick at the National Curling Championships on five occasions.



**Speaker Oliver addresses the House
at the formal opening of the Legislature on November 17.**



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.

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.



*Hon. Bill Oliver,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

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. 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. Under the Constitution, at least one sitting of the Legislature must be held each year. 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.



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.



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 House Leader. The Government House Leader 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

	58 th Legislature		59 th Legislature	
	<i>Fourth Session 2017 - 2018</i>	<i>First Session 2018</i>	<i>Second Session 2018-2019</i>	<i>Third Session 2019-2020</i>
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	39	9	41	31
Evening Sittings	0	0	0	0
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	42	2	31	46
Received Royal Assent	41	0	26	33
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	1	0	1	1
Received Royal Assent	0	0	1	0
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	4	0	8	9
Received Royal Assent	0	0	1	0
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	13	5	14	12
Number debated	6	0	4	2
Number agreed to	12	5	13	11
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	27	7	50	64
Number debated	16	2	10	8
Number agreed to	13	1	8	8
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	3	0	3	3
In Committee on Estimates	12	0	13	3
In other Committees	0	0	0	0
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>				
	59	15	86	48
<i>Petitions</i>				
	16	4	18	29
<i>Written Questions</i>				
	7	0	0	0



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF JUNE 18, 2020 Seating Arrangement

 Bruce Northrup Sussex-Fundy- St. Martins	 Ross Wetmore Gagetown- Petitcodiac	 Sherry Wilson Moncton Southwest	 Trevor Holder Portland-Simonds
 Stewart Fairgrieve Carleton	 Mary Wilson Oromocto-Lincoln- Fredericton	 Hugh Flemming Rothesay	 Glen Savoie Saint John East
 Gary Crossman Hampton	 Jeff Carr New Maryland- Sunbury	 Andrea Anderson-Mason Fundy-The Isles- Saint John West	 Blaine Higgs Quispamsis
	 Mike Holland Albert	 Bruce Fitch Riverview	 Ernie Steeves Moncton Northwest
	 Carl Urquhart Carleton-York	 Jake Stewart Southwest Miramichi- Bay du Vin	 Dorothy Shephard Saint John Lancaster
	 Bill Oliver Kings Centre	 Dominic Cardy Fredericton West- Hanwell	

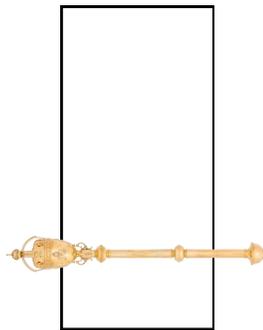
	PC
	L
	GP
	PA
	IND

 Richard DeSaulniers Fredericton-York	 Kris Austin Fredericton-Grand Lake
 Michelle Conroy Miramichi	

Note: There are two vacancies following the passing of Greg Thompson, P.C., on September 10, 2019, and the resignation of Brian Gallant on October 7, 2019.



Daniel Guitard
Speaker
Restigouche-Chaleur

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk

Shayne Davies
Deputy Clerk

John-Patrick McCleave
Clerk Assistant

Guy Arseneault
Campbellton-
Dalhousie



Roger Melanson
Dieppe



Denis Landry
Bathurst East-
Nepisiguit-
Saint-Isidore



Cathy Rogers
Moncton South



Andrew Harvey
Carleton-Victoria



Lisa Harris
Miramichi Bay-
Neguac



Brian Kenny
Bathurst West-
Beresford



David Coon
Fredericton South



Megan Mitton
Memramcook-
Tantramar



Benoît Bourque
Kent South



Francine Landry
Madawaska Les
Lacs-Edmundston



Isabelle Thériault
Caraquet



Gilles LePage
Restigouche West



Chuck Chiasson
Victoria-La-Vallée



Monique LeBlanc
Moncton East



Kevin Arseneau
Kent North



Robert Gauvin
Shippagan-
Lamèque-Miscou



Jacques LeBlanc
Shediac-
Beaubassin-
Cap-Pelé



Keith Chiasson
Tracadie-Sheila



Stephen Horsman
Fredericton North



Gerry Lowe
Saint John Harbour



Robert McKee
Moncton Centre



Jean-Claude D'Amours
Edmundston-
Madawaska Centre





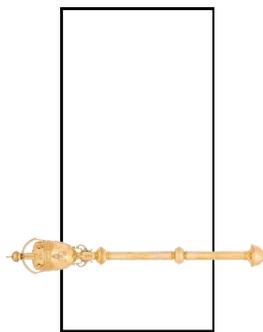
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020 Seating Arrangement

 <p>Jeff Carr New Maryland- Sunbury</p>	 <p>Ross Wetmore Gagetown- Petitcodiac</p>	 <p>Gary Crossman Hampton</p>	 <p>Trevor Holder Portland-Simonds</p>
 <p>Greg Turner Moncton South</p>	 <p>Sherry Wilson Moncton Southwest</p>	 <p>Mike Holland Albert</p>	 <p>Glen Savoie Saint John East</p>
	 <p>Kathy Bockus Saint Croix</p>	 <p>Jill Green Fredericton North</p>	 <p>Blaine Higgs Quispamsis</p>
	 <p>Ryan Cullins Fredericton-York</p>	 <p>Arlene Dunn Saint John Harbour</p>	 <p>Ernie Steeves Moncton Northwest</p>
	 <p>Andrea Anderson-Mason Fundy-The Isles- Saint John West</p>	 <p>Dominic Cardy Fredericton West- Hanwell</p>	 <p>Dorothy Shephard Saint John Lancaster</p>
	 <p>Bill Hogan Carleton</p>	 <p>Tammy Scott-Wallace Sussex-Fundy- St. Martins</p>	 <p>Hugh Flemming Rothesay</p>
	 <p>Jake Stewart Southwest Miramichi- Bay du Vin</p>	 <p>Daniel Allain Moncton East</p>	 <p>Bruce Fitch Riverview</p>
	 <p>Richard Ames Carleton-York</p>	 <p>Margaret Johnson Carleton-Victoria</p>	 <p>Mary Wilson Oromocto- Lincoln- Fredericton</p>

	PC
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	GP
	PA



Bill Oliver
Speaker
Kings Centre



Shayne Davies
Clerk

John-Patrick McCleave
Clerk Assistant

Patrick Dunn
Law Clerk



Guy Arseneault
Campbellton-
Dalhousie



Jacques LeBlanc
Shediac-
Beaubassin-
Cap-Pelé



René Legacy
Bathurst West-
Beresford



Isabelle Thériault
Caraquet



Keith Chiasson
Tracadie-Sheila



Daniel Guitard
Restigouche-
Chaleur



Roger Melanson
Dieppe



Chuck Chiasson
Victoria-La-Vallée



Robert Gauvin
Shediac
Bay-Dieppe



Robert McKee
Moncton Centre



Benoît Bourque
Kent South



Eric Mallet
Shippagan-
Lamèque-Miscou



Francine Landry
Madawaska Les
Lacs-Edmundston



Gilles LePage
Restigouche West



Denis Landry
Bathurst East-
Nepisiguit-
Saint-Isidore



Lisa Harris
Miramichi Bay-
Neguac



**Jean-Claude
D'Amours**
Edmundston-
Madawaska
Centre



David Coon
Fredericton South



Megan Mitton
Memramcook-
Tantramar



Kevin Arseneau
Kent North



Kris Austin
Fredericton-
Grand Lake



Michelle Conroy
Miramichi



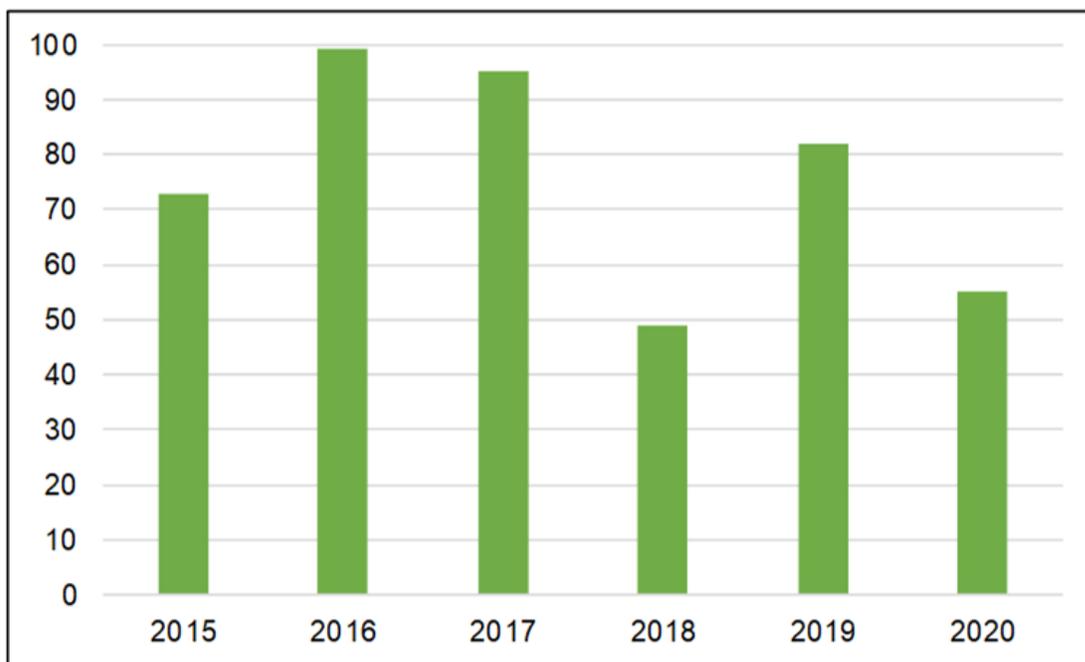
COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk — John-Patrick McCleave

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 2020, there were 9 standing committees and 1 select committee, which held a total of 55 meetings. Standing committees are appointed by the House and exist for the life of a Legislature. Select committees are appointed by the House 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



The following is a list of committees, their membership, mandate and activities, as of dissolution of the 59th Legislature on August 17. Additional activities and changes to memberships post-election are also noted.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative Administration Committee

Members	Hon. Mr. Guitard (C)	Mr. Arseneault
	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. D'Amours
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Coon
	Hon. Mr. Steeves	Mr. Arseneau
	Hon. Mr. Oliver	Mr. Austin
	Hon. Mr. Savoie	Ms. Conroy
	Mr. Fairgrieve	

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 9 meetings, on January 16, February 11, 12 and 18, May 6, 14 and 22, July 9 and August 4 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature. The Committee also appointed a subcommittee, which met on February 18. The Committee, composed of new members, held 4 meetings, on October 27, November 27 and December 3 and 17. Following the September 14 provincial election, the House ratified the new Committee membership on December 16 as follows: Hon. Mr. Oliver (C), Ms. S. Wilson, Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C., Hon. Mr. Savoie, Hon. Ms. Green, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Melanson, Mr. Arseneault, Mr. Coon, Mr. Arseneau, Mr. Austin and Ms. Conroy. The Committee presented a report to the House on December 18.

Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

Members	Hon. Mr. Fitch (C)	Ms. Rogers
	Mr. Arseneau (VC)	Mr. Harvey
	Hon. Mr. Carr	Mr. C. Chiasson
	Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. LeBlanc
	Hon. Mr. Wetmore	Mr. DeSaulniers

Mandate

The Committee receives updates from government departments and agencies, key stakeholders and subject matter experts on progress towards the implementation of New Brunswick's *Climate Change Action Plan*; and gathers information on climate change, environmental stewardship and any other related issues by engaging with experts and stakeholders.



Activities

The Committee held 4 meetings, on January 16 and February 4, 5 and 6. In February, the following entities appeared to present updates concerning New Brunswick's *Climate Change Action Plan*: Climate Change Secretariat; New Brunswick Power Corporation; Service New Brunswick; the departments of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries; Environment and Local Government; Natural Resources and Energy Development; Public Safety; and Transportation and Infrastructure. Public hearings scheduled on the subject of pesticide and herbicide use, including glyphosate, were cancelled due to the pandemic. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Mr. Stewart (C), Mr. Hogan (VC), Hon. Mr. Holland, Hon. Ms. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Crossman, Ms. Bockus, Ms. Landry, Mr. Mallet, Mr. LeBlanc, Ms. Mitton and Ms. Conroy. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.

Standing Committee on Economic Policy

Members	Mr. Crossman (C)	Mr. K. Chiasson
	Mr. Fairgrieve (VC)	Mr. Lowe
	Hon. Mr. Savoie	Ms. Thériault
	Mr. Northrup	Mr. Arseneau
	Mr. C. Chiasson	Mr. Austin

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 10 meetings, on January 21 and 22, May 26, June 9, 10, 16 and 17 and July 8, 9 and 14. The Committee presented reports to the House on March 11, May 27 and June 11, 17 and 18. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Mr. Turner (C), Mr. Carr (VC), Mr. Cullins, Mr. Ames, Mr. Wetmore, Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. LePage, Mr. K. Chiasson, Mr. Gauvin, Mr. Arseneau and Mr. Austin. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on November 20. The Committee, composed of new members, held 6 meetings, on December 4, 9, 11, 15, 16 and 17. The Committee presented reports to the House on December 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

Members	Hon. Mr. Savoie (C)	Ms. Harris
	Mr. Crossman (VC)	Mr. Harvey
	Hon. Mr. Fitch	Ms. Landry
	Mr. Northrup	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Bourque	Mr. DeSaulniers

Mandate

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



Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on June 24, 25 and 26. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Hon. Mr. Savoie (C), Mr. Ames (VC), Mr. Turner, Mr. Carr, Ms. Bockus, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Legacy, Mr. Bourque, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Arseneau and Mr. Austin. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Members	Hon. Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. (C)	Mr. Landry
	Mr. Northrup (VC)	Ms. Landry
	Hon. Mr. Stewart	Mr. McKee
	Hon. Mr. Fitch	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. DeSaulniers

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.

Activities

The Committee did not meet in 2020 prior to the dissolution of the 59th Legislature. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C. (C), Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. (VC), Mr. Hogan, Ms. Bockus, Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Cullins, Mr. D'Amours, Mr. Legacy, Mr. McKee, Mr. Coon and Ms. Conroy. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Members	Mr. Crossman (C)	Mr. LeBlanc
	Mr. Northrup (VC)	Mr. McKee
	Hon. Mr. Carr	Ms. Thériault
	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. Landry	Ms. Conroy

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 did not meet in 2020 prior to the dissolution of the 59th Legislature. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Mr. Cullins (C), Mr. Ames (VC), Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. Hogan, Ms. Bockus, Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C., Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. Guitard, Mr. Mallet, Ms. Mitton and Mr. Austin. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10. The Committee, composed of new members, held a meeting on December 15 and presented a report to the House on that date.



Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

Members	Mr. Fairgrieve (C)	Mr. LePage
	Hon. Mr. Savoie (VC)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Melanson
	Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Kenny	Mr. DeSaulniers

Mandate

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 reports of Legislative Officers.

Activities

The Committee held a meeting on August 4 to receive a briefing from the Chief Electoral Officer on potential costs associated with operating a safe provincial election during a pandemic. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Mr. Carr (C), Mr. Turner (VC), Mr. Stewart, Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Ames, Ms. S. Wilson, Mr. D'Amours, Mr. Arseneault, Ms. Thériault, Mr. Coon and Ms. Conroy. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Members	Mr. Melanson (C)	Ms. Harris
	Mr. Fairgrieve (VC)	Mr. LeBlanc
	Mr. Northrup	Ms. Rogers
	Hon. Mr. Savoie	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. Crossman	Mr. Austin

Mandate

The Committee reviews reports to the House of the Auditor General, Public Accounts, and annual reports of government departments, provincial agencies, boards and commissions.

Activities

The Committee held 7 meetings, on February 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. The Committee also appointed a subcommittee, which met on January 13. The Committee reviewed the annual reports and Auditor General recommendations pertaining to the following entities: Horizon Health Network; New Brunswick Energy Solutions Corporation; New Brunswick Power Corporation; Opportunities New Brunswick; Regional Development Corporation (Provincial Holdings Limited); Vitalité Health Network; and the departments of Health; Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Public Safety; Social Development; and Transportation and Infrastructure. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Ms. Harris (C), Mr. Stewart (VC), Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C., Mr. Cullins, Mr. Turner, Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Carr, Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. McKee, Ms. Mitton and Ms. Conroy. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.



Standing Committee on Social Policy

Members	Mr. Northrup (C)	Mr. Harvey
	Mr. Crossman (VC)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Mr. Fairgrieve	Ms. Thériault
	Hon. Mr. Savoie	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. C. Chiasson	Ms. Conroy

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee did not meet in 2020 prior to the dissolution of the 59th Legislature. Following the election, the House appointed a new Committee with the following membership: Ms. Bockus (C), Mr. Wetmore (VC), Mr. Hogan, Mr. Carr, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Ames, Mr. Guitard, Mr. K. Chiasson, Mr. Gauvin, Ms. Mitton and Ms. Conroy. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on December 10.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Public Universities

Members	Hon. Mr. Savoie (C)	Ms. Thériault
	Hon. Ms. Shephard (VC)	Mr. McKee
	Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. Landry
	Hon. Mr. Steeves	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. Horsman	Mr. DeSaulniers

Mandate

The Committee was appointed by the House on May 17, 2019, to invite representatives of New Brunswick's publicly funded universities to appear before the Committee to discuss and provide insight into university administration, programming, performance measurement, accountability and transparency.

Activities

The Committee did not meet in 2020.



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



VISITORS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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 typically 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.

In 2020, from March until year end, the buildings within Parliament Square were closed to visitors and the public to limit the spread of COVID-19. As a result, only 296 people visited the Legislature in 2020, compared to 5,580 people in 2019.



In keeping with provincial regulations regarding large social gatherings during the pandemic, the annual Provincial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was cancelled. However, an eight-foot Christmas tree was lit on December 4 for New Brunswickers to enjoy during the holiday season.

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building as a way for organizations to promote a charitable cause. In 2020, the Legislative Assembly participated in the following campaigns: Alzheimer's Awareness Month; Bell Let's Talk Campaign; Lyme Awareness Month; Make Canada Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; Jumpstart Day; World Cerebral Palsy Day; Mark it Red for Dyslexia Awareness Campaign; Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month; National 4-H Month; World Pancreatic Cancer Day; National Children's Grief Awareness Day; International 16 days of Activism to end Gender Based Violence, including the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; and World AIDS Day.

On January 30, the Legislative Assembly hosted Pallmer, a musical act from New Brunswick in the rotunda as part of the Shivering Songs Festival in celebration of the festival's tenth anniversary. John Leroux, Manager of Collections and Exhibitions at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, walked participants through three historic architectural locations with music at each stop before the festival's opening show.



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 post-secondary students who express an interest in the legislative process.

The presence of Pages in the Legislative Assembly is required for all regular sitting days, and for various meetings of standing and select 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 website.

The Pages who served during the spring 2020 sittings were Sarah Albert-Bélanger, Andie Amaya, Lauren Colter, Khanh Do, Marie-Laurence Filion, Brittany Fracker, Wasiimah Joomun, Jane Landry, Corben Parker (Head Page), Fabiana Rosado, Andreea Soare, Elizabeth Tuck and Charles White.



**The following individuals served as Pages during the fall 2020 sitting:
(from left to right) Graci Young, Kurvin Silvio, Andie Amaya (Head Page),
Anna Sirois, Nora Ahmed, Sarah Albert-Bélanger, Emma Wagner and Khanh Do.**



BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has been televising its 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 a community-access channel. Coverage of the proceedings went live in 1989.

In the 1990s, the live coverage was expanded to include almost an entire sitting day. In 2006, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service was launched to provide gavel-to-gavel television coverage of all sitting days on a channel dedicated solely to the broadcast of legislative proceedings.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service broadcasts the daily proceedings each sitting day in both official languages. In 2020, the proceedings continued to be televised on Rogers cable channel 70 in New Brunswick communities served by the 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 was also available in all communities.

In 2020, Rogers continued to televise daily Question Period on various community channels. In addition, repeats of the daily proceedings were televised on the dedicated channel, usually commencing within 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

Bell Aliant also continued to broadcast the daily proceedings of the Legislature in both official languages as a video on-demand on Bell Aliant's community television channel 1 and 401. In 2020, the channels were available to all New Brunswickers with access to Bell Aliant, as well as those individuals with access throughout Atlantic Canada.

In 2020, video cameras were installed in the Legislative Council Chamber, where most committees meet. For the first time, on December 15, the audio and video of a committee meeting was broadcasted from the Council Chamber on Rogers channel 70 and Bell Aliant channel 1 and 401.

Proceedings of the Legislature and its committees continued to be streamed live on the Internet in 2020. With the assistance of iSi Live, the Legislature also continued to permanently archive its proceedings online. This included the audio and video of all House sittings and, when available, all public committee meetings.

When the Legislature was not in session, a graphics computer generated a rotating sequence of messages on sitting schedule; tour information; upcoming events; and the Legislature's function, history and traditions. A photograph of each Member was shown with accompanying party affiliation, ministerial portfolio (where applicable), riding and contact information.

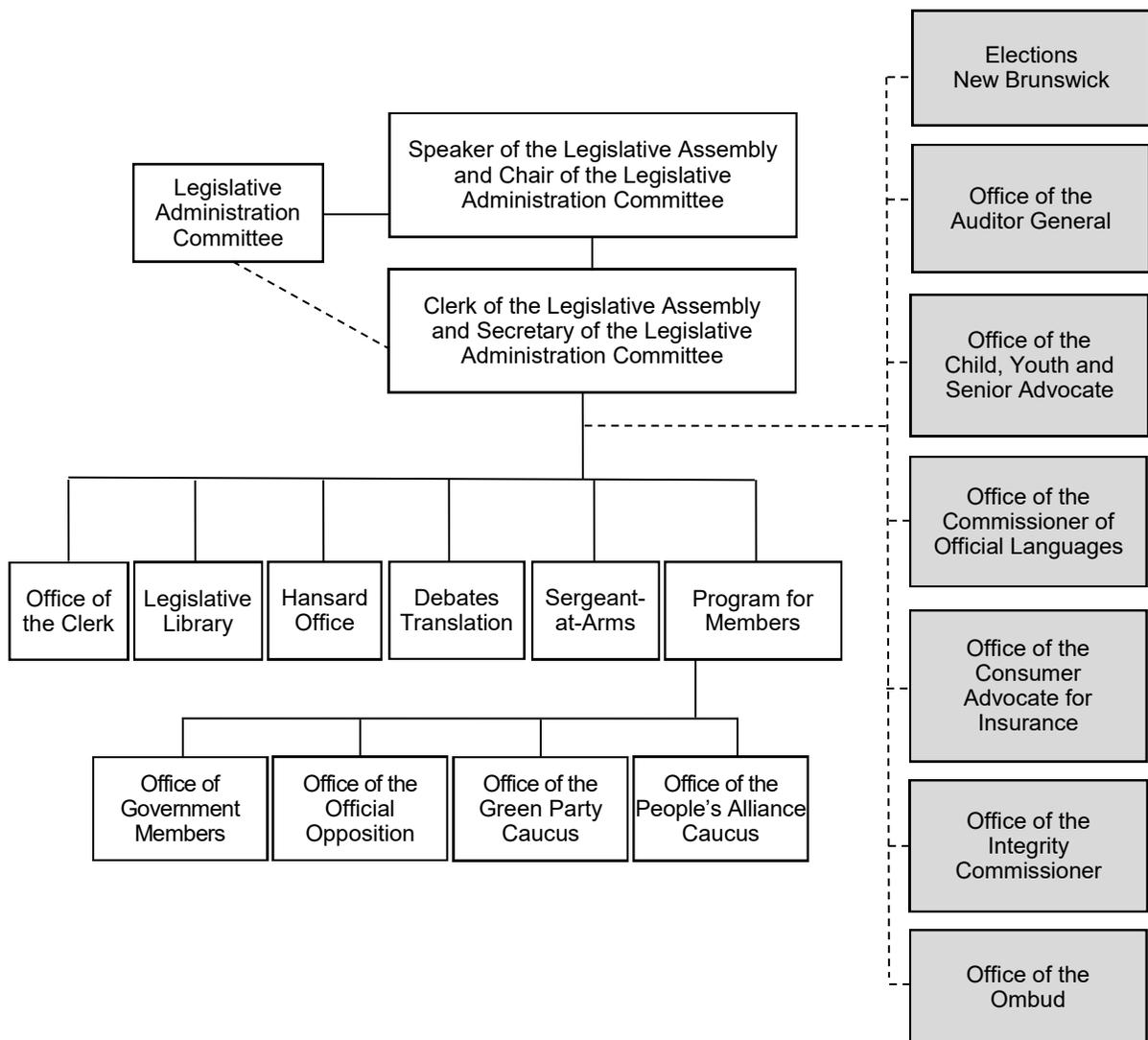


OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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





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 Auditor General; Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate; Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages; Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance; Office of the Integrity Commissioner; and Office of the Ombud.

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.

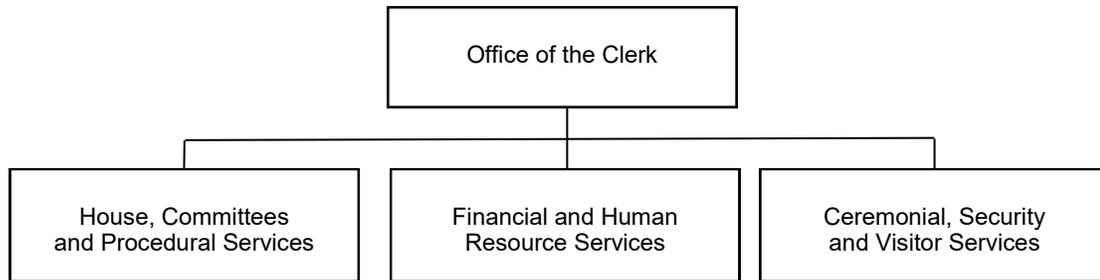
Program for Members

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



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Shayne Davies



In 2020, the dedicated staff of the Office of the Clerk met the primary goal of the office: to assist Members in carrying out their parliamentary functions as legislators and representatives of their constituents.

Procedural Services

Members 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 supported the activities of the Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk, Clerk Assistant, and Acting Law Clerk served alongside the Clerk as Table Officers in the House, providing advice to Members and presiding officers on parliamentary procedure and House operations. In addition to their duties as Table Officers, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Acting Law Clerk served as Law Clerks in the House. They assisted Members in the interpretation and application of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and other legislation, and in the drafting and review of floor amendments, Private Members' Public Bills, and Private Bills.

During the year, the Clerks 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. Following the general election, Clerk's Office staff, together with representatives of other branches of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, provided orientation sessions for newly elected Members.

Journals and Publications

In 2020, the Clerk Assistant compiled 29 unrevised journals. 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 journals are finalized, indexed and published. The 2018-2019 bound version of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly was published in 2020.

First reading bills continued to be published online. During the 2020 calendar year, 56 bills were introduced. The online status of legislation, which tracks the progress of bills as they proceed through various stages in the House, continued to be produced and regularly updated.

The online archiving of daily sittings and committee meetings continued to be regularly updated. Biographical information and photographs of Members of the 59th Legislature were also updated during the year. Following dissolution, the information was removed from the website and



archived. Biographical information and photographs of the newly elected Members of the 60th Legislature were prepared and posted online following the election. 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.

Renovations and Security Initiatives

Routine maintenance was carried out to the buildings adjacent to the Legislative Assembly Building in the Legislative Precinct. Interior painting and flooring work was completed in the Old Education Building, and roofing work began in December. The Departmental Building's roof and third floor windows were replaced, and scaffolding was erected around the perimeter of the building to facilitate this work. The fire alarm system in the Government Publications Building was upgraded to a fully automated system and integrated into the Legislative Assembly Building's systems.

In June 2020, *An Act Respecting Security for the Legislative Assembly* received Royal Assent. It provides the Sergeant-at-Arms with the same powers, authority, rights and immunities of a peace officer as defined in the Criminal Code and enables sheriffs and deputy sheriffs to provide security services within the Legislative Precinct. In the fall of 2020, deputy sheriffs under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms began providing security services within the Legislative Precinct through an arrangement with the Department of Public Safety.

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. Other interparliamentary activities were curtailed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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) allows 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 2020, Clerks responded to numerous inquiries posted to CATS. Topics canvassed during the year included: presence of children during parliamentary proceedings, non-confidence motions, premature disclosure of reports or other documents to be tabled in the House, responses to COVID-19, virtual sittings, review of Members' salaries, committee engagement of external expertise, and responses to petitions.

Canadian Parliamentary Review

Staff of the Clerk's Office prepared quarterly submissions to the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The purpose of the publication is to inform Canadian legislators about the activities of the various branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to promote interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. In 2020, staff ensured that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick was included in each edition under the "Legislative Reports" section.



Tributes

Four former Members passed away in 2020:

James Albert Doyle (Liberal) on April 15. Mr. Doyle was elected in a by-election on November 17, 1997, to represent the riding of Miramichi-Bay du Vin.

Roland Haché (Liberal) on April 24. Mr. Haché was first elected in 1999 to represent the riding of Nigadoo Chaleur and again in 2003, 2006 and 2010. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Minister of Environment and Minister of Education and was a member on several standing and select committees.

John W. Turnbull (Liberal) on May 19. Mr. Turnbull was first elected in a by-election on June 25, 1973, then in the general election of 1974 to represent the electoral district of Saint John Centre. During his time at the Legislature, he served as a member on several standing and select committees and was later appointed a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick.

Hon. Brenda Mary Robertson (Progressive Conservative) on September 23. Hon. Ms. Robertson was the first woman elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1967 and again in 1970 to represent the constituency of Albert County. She was re-elected in 1974, 1978 and 1982 to represent the electoral district of Riverview. During her time at the Legislature, she was the first woman to serve as a cabinet minister in 1970 as the Minister of Youth and later as the Minister of Youth and Social Service and as the Minister of Health. In 1984, Hon. Ms. Robertson was appointed to the Senate where she served until 2004.



FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Director, Finance and Human Resources — Katie Hill, CPA, CA

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 Auditor General; Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate; Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages; Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance; Office of the Integrity Commissioner; and Office of the Ombud.

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 and Treasury Board.

Financial Services Section

The House sat a total of 42 days during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, compared to 28 days in 2018-2019 and 48 days in 2017-2018.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$14,027,200 based on a revised total budget of \$15,112,300 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$12,732,400 based on a budget of \$13,552,100 for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2020
(in \$ 000s)

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>		
Allowances to Members	8 906.2	8 131.4
Legislative Committees	<u>231.0</u>	<u>234.0</u>
Subtotal	9 137.2	8 365.4
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	593.2	591.2
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1 817.9	1 713.0
Hansard Office	613.3	612.3
Debates Translation	<u>749.6</u>	<u>717.6</u>
Subtotal	3 774.0	3 634.1
<i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	515.5	420.3
Office of the Official Opposition	1 021.9	1 000.2
Office of the Green Party Caucus	332.2	311.4
Office of the People's Alliance Caucus	<u>331.5</u>	<u>295.8</u>
Subtotal	2 201.1	2 027.7
<i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i>	15 112.3	14 027.2

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Buildings were approximately \$43,029 in 2019-2020. Major projects included: continuation of the multi-phased roll-out of fire suppression and fire alarm systems upgrades throughout the legislative complex; and the general maintenance and preservation of legislative buildings.

The operating budget for the Legislative Assembly remained the same for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (net of special appropriations in 2019-2020 of \$51,300.) A total operating budget of \$15,061,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2020-2021 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 2019-2020 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.



Human Resource Services Overview

Human Resource Services provide services to Ministers, Members, and 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 and administration for all Members, employees and Constituency Office Assistants.
 - Administer and track employee leave.
- Personnel Administration
 - Assist in recruitment process.
 - Ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits of staff.
 - Maintain payroll and personnel records.
 - Communicate 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

The COVID-19 global pandemic presented many unique challenges in 2020. Human Resource Services staff played an important role in the facilitation of and communication surrounding the transition to maintaining critical programs and services through to the subsequent safe return to the workplace.

In 2020, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 12 permanent competitions of statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered the commencement of 17 full-time employees and the termination arrangements for 14 employees who either retired, resigned or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

The 2020 provincial general election resulted in the election of 12 new Members, the defeat of 4 Members, and 6 Members who did not reoffer. Finance and Human Resource staff processed the workload associated with the Members not re-elected including finalizing their payroll, benefits and expenses as an elected Member, closing their constituency offices, and terminating constituency staff. In addition, staff administered the payroll, benefits and expenses of newly elected Members, as well as opening their constituency offices and commencing constituency staff. Subsequently, staff administered the changes to Members of the Executive Council, Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Leader of the Official Opposition, Caucus Chairs, Whips, and House Leaders.

No economic increases were processed for employees during 2020. The Members' and Ministers' indemnities and salaries were also not adjusted during this period. Eligible employees received merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance and current salary level.



Throughout the year, a total of 63 individuals were employed under various casual or term employment programs administered by the Finance and Human Resource section. 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.

The section continued to host employee wellness sessions provided by the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), and recognized Bell Let's Talk Day and National Public Service Week. Staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by GNB, the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources New Brunswick, and the CPA New Brunswick, as well as French second language training to facilitate financial and human resource services in both official languages.

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	0	0
Finance and Human Resources	7	0	0	1	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0
Sergeant-at-Arms	3	0	0	1	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Legislative Library</i>	8	0	0	1	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>	8	0	0	3	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	9	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	5	0	0	7	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	4	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Green Caucus</i>	4	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the People's Alliance Caucus</i>	4	0	0	2	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	15	0	0
<i>Members</i>	0	49	0	0	54
<i>Total</i>	61	49	15	18	54



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 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 government departments are required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication issued under their authority within 30 days of its printing date. The Legislative Library has broadened its mandate to automatically receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications. An e-repository for New Brunswick 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. The Legislative Library continues to stress the importance of producing print copies, as well as electronic versions of government publications for future generations and for today's public.

Library Operations

On March 17, Library staff were informed that they would be working from home due to the pandemic. During this period, reference and research staff answered questions that were received by e-mail or phone. Files and databases were copied to allow access to information, and in some cases, several physical volumes of frequently used resources were taken home in order to continue providing library services.

Once staff returned to work in late May, the Legislative Assembly building remained closed to the public; however, Library materials could still be borrowed by patrons and sent out through inter-office mail. As well, there were times when departmental employees and the public, were able to make an appointment to visit the library and use its resources. Any materials used were set aside for 72 hours before they were checked in or shelved.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and is an incredible resource for the province. In 2020, many publishers and individuals donated materials. The Legislative Library is grateful to the following who donated books during the past year:



Publishers

Bouton d'or Acadie, Goose Lane and La Grande Marée.

Individuals

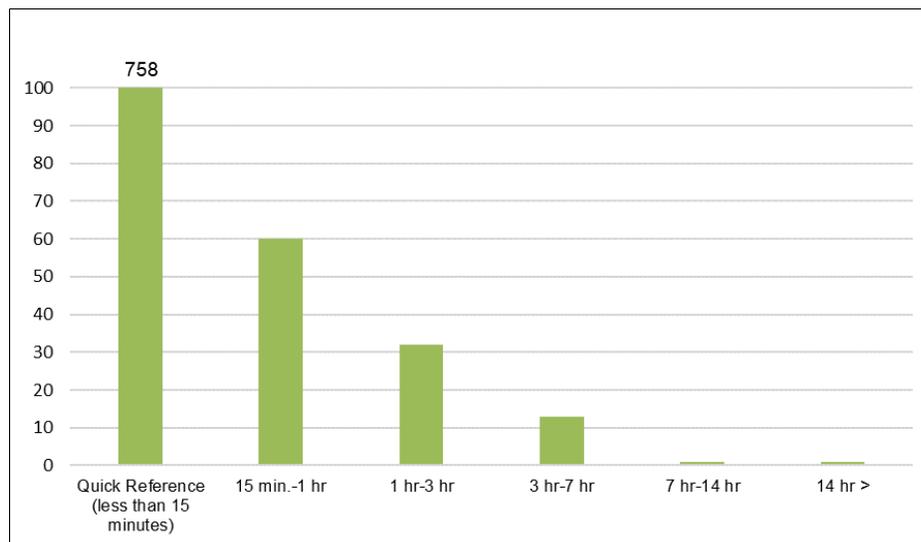
Bill Cockburn, Evans Estabrooks, Wayne Madden, Matthew Maguire, Joseph Owens, Marilyn Shaw-Guisset, Franz Weissenhorn and William Bliss White.

Government Documents

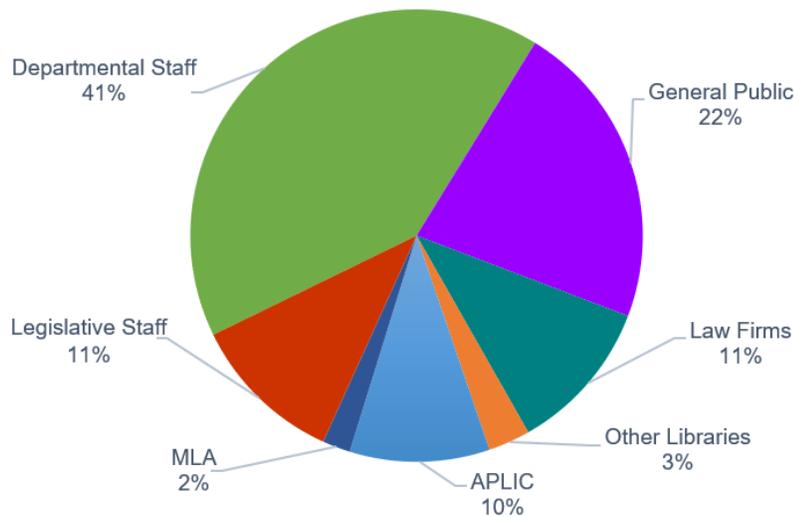
In addition to physical copies of government documents being added to the Library's collection, Library staff continued to add electronic government documents as well. In 2020, 242 electronic documents were added to the Library's electronic repository. These documents included monographs, Environmental Trust Fund reports as well as annual reports.

Reference Services

Even though the Library was not operating as usual for most of 2020, many questions were received by reference staff. According to Library statistics, there were 865 requests in 2020. Several of these questions were large, 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 graphs show the number of questions corresponding to the time ranges as well as a breakdown of the types of users the Library serves.



Number of Questions Per Time Range



Patron Types Requesting Information

Library Outreach

Library outreach was very limited due to the pandemic. Since the building was closed, there were no displays prepared for the rotunda display case. Two Selected Accessions Lists were published as well as Periodical Contents for the Members. The Legislative Librarian participated in an information session for new Members explaining the Library's services.

Initiatives and Projects

Staff continued with the Library's "DocVault" digitization project, focusing on the Consolidated Acts collection. Upon completion, over 300 acts from 1973 were scanned and catalogued, with their contents being fully keyword searchable.

Library staff also devoted considerable time to helping prepare and update information on almost 1,400 legislative bills for the new Legislative Assembly website. In addition to verifying bill details, staff have reconstructed bill timelines, noting dates of importance as the bills moved through various stages in the legislative process.

Research Services

The Library's research branch provides confidential, non-partisan support in a broad range of policy areas. At the request of individual Members, legislative committees and legislative staff, the Research Officer delivers research and analysis of complex public policy issues in the form of concise written reports or briefings.

Over the past year, the Research Officer fielded 51 requests from Members and legislative staff. The Research Officer also prepared summaries of departmental submissions to the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship on the issue of pesticide spraying (including glyphosate) in the province.



HANSARD OFFICE

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey

In New Brunswick, as in many British Commonwealth jurisdictions, the Journal of Debates is referred to as Hansard. The name originated in the 1800s when publisher Thomas Curson Hansard added his own name to the title page of the report of the British parliamentary debates, which he called *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*.

The New Brunswick Hansard Office is responsible for producing the transcripts of House sittings and committee meetings and for providing recording and audio services prior to and during legislative proceedings and special events.

Hansard Transcript Production

The transcripts reflect the words and language spoken during proceedings and thus contain both official languages. In 2020, the Hansard staff transcribed, edited, and researched over 2.1 million words to complete the transcripts listed in the table below.

TRANSCRIPTS COMPLETED IN 2020			
Sittings and Meetings	Number	Word Count	Percent of Word Count
Legislative Assembly	26	647,843	30%
Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy	3	69,217	3%
Standing Committee on Economic Policy	15	244,409	11%
Other Standing and Select Committees*	54	1,209,127	56%
TOTALS	98	2,170,596	100%

*Includes transcripts of 2020, 2019, 2016, 2015, 2013, and 2011 meetings.

The staff complete and post the blues of the daily sittings of the House and then the blues of the committee meetings. The blues are transcripts that have had a first edit, and for most committee transcripts, this is both the first and the last stage of production.

Once the blues have been completed, the staff finalize all House transcripts. Finalization includes a second listen to the audio, a read-through of the full transcript, the completion of a checklist, and the addition of opening pages. Finalized transcripts are posted and distributed to a list of recipients. These transcripts are later translated externally and reposted with the original text and its translation in a dual-column format.

The Hansard Office posts transcripts to the Assembly network, where they can be accessed by all legislative and some government offices. The office also distributes the question period transcript to a list of recipients, to which names are added as requested. Both the office and the Library provide Hansard transcripts upon request, with the Library being the primary point of contact.



Each day during session, priority transcripts are routinely produced by the staff, and in 2020, 314 such transcripts were produced: 19 question periods; 185 statements, and 110 requests. The question period transcripts contained a total of 348 questions, of which the most frequently recurring topics were related to Indigenous peoples, government funding, and government programs. Each complete transcript was posted and distributed within hours of question period concluding. The transcripts of statements were produced either on the day of their delivery in the House or the following day.

Audio and Recording Operations

The staff conduct audio tests in the Chambers prior to each House sitting and committee meeting, and they also conduct full audio and recording tests several times throughout the year. At the Hansard desks in the Chambers, the staff operate the microphones, maintain a log of proceedings, and dub the name of each speaker into the microphone, for reference use by the staff when transcribing.

In 2020, the staff provided audio and recording support prior to and during 71 events: 29 House sittings, 41 committee meetings, and 1 special event.

Historical Hansard Project

In 2020, the staff continued work on the historical Hansard project that was initiated in May 2018. They scanned and posted 24 years' worth of searchable pdfs, working backward from 1923 to 1900. They also completed quality control inspections on 13 years' worth of images, from 1921 to 1933.

Activities

The Hansard Office continued active membership in the Hansard Association of Canada (HAC) and the Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association (CHEA). Throughout the year, several of the staff attended virtual sessions on language training, wellness, and technology.

Hansard Highlights

When COVID-19 reached New Brunswick and the office was closed in mid-March, the staff transitioned to working in makeshift home offices equipped with VPN connections. The staff completed the current House transcription and all remaining committee transcription from 2020 to 2011. The office closure coincided with the purchase of a Sliq transcription and recording system to replace the VIQ system, which was installed in the office in 1999.

In mid-December, the Hansard staff were notified that the office would be relocated in January, after nearly four decades of being situated on the ground floor of the Departmental Building. The relocation was due to planned renovations to the building in 2021. With the additional tasks of preparing for the move, the Hansard staff once again came together to accomplish yet another challenge prior to the end of a most unusual year.



DEBATES TRANSLATION

Chief Translator — Rebecca Colborne

Debates Translation provides professional translation services for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Debates Translation team includes a senior reviser, two autonomous translators, and three intermediate translators, as well as a terminologist and the Chief Translator.

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 offices of the Legislative Assembly.

House

Debates Translation staff members translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings (Hansard and Journal), as well as motions introduced in the House, Speaker's rulings, and other documents. Translation of Hansard accounted for 75% of total production in 2020, which has varied little since the previous year. About 21% of this translation was into English. Non-Hansard work involved the translation of 282 860 words.

In 2020, translation of the daily Journal represented 6.8% of production. Translation of the Journal is usually completed shortly after the session ends. Notices of motion and amendments to motions accounted for 1% of production. These documents are translated the day the request is received.

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 throne speech debate, 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.

The translation of speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for 8% of total production in 2020. During the year, 159 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed. Translation for Cabinet Ministers accounted for all of the requests. All of the translation was from English into French.

Translation for Members, offices, and committees of the Legislative Assembly is generally done on the day the request is received or the day after, as resources allow.

Committees

Debates Translation staff members translate reports, agendas, summaries of presentations, notices of meetings, and other documents for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. Translation for committees decreased slightly compared to the previous year, representing 1.6% of total production in 2020.



Offices 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. Translation for the offices of the Legislative Assembly represented about 7.6% of total production in 2020.

Human Resources

Senior staff members continued to coach and train junior and intermediate translators and to develop tools and resources to refine procedures and enhance production. Most of the staff attended one or more online workshops during the year on topics related to their work.

In March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic led to offices shutting down in New Brunswick, all Debates Translation staff began to work from home. Laptops were acquired and prepared for translators who were not already equipped and VPNs were provided to give staff easy access to the Debates Translation network. Translators were able to access tools and resources, communicate electronically with each other, and work together effectively. In spite of the quick transition due to the pandemic, Debates Translation staff members continued during the lockdown to show considerable flexibility and dedication in ensuring that Members and other clients received timely, true, and accurate translations of their documents.

Conclusion

In 2020, 715 translation requests were processed, and frequent requests for prompt translation made by telephone and email were also dealt with. Documents translated by Debates Translation staff included 62 statements and 97 speeches for the House, 287 documents for the offices of the Legislative Assembly, 71 documents for committees, 116 documents related to motions or amendments to motions, 39 Journals, and various miscellaneous documents, as well as question period transcriptions. Staff members were trained and prepared in order to continue providing the service for which the office is known, meeting the highest standards of professional translation for the Legislative Assembly of our bilingual province.



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 0.55 million words, compared to 1.35 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 59%. Hansard translation output totaled 0.86 million words (including 0.50 million words for oral questions), compared to 0.88 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 2%. During the year in review, output exceeded demand by 0.31 million words, compared to demand exceeding output by 0.47 million words in the previous year. Over the previous five years, demand has exceeded output by an average 0.46 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 23.8 years earlier than the published volumes. At year’s end, translation of dailies up to December 13, 2005, was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly. A total of 695 Hansard dailies in dual-column PDF format are available for the 1993 to 2005-06 sessions, including 30 replies to the throne speech and budget speech up to December 2020. These finalized, translated dailies can be viewed, printed, and are fully searchable electronically.

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

Results

The Hansard translation backlog was reduced by 0.31 million words, compared to an increase of 0.47 million words during the previous year. During the year in review, 29 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 8 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 21 sitting days, compared to an increase of 33 sitting days in the previous year. Hansard translation was trailing by 180 months (or 820 dailies), compared to 174 months (or 799 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 58,100 research findings that pertain mostly to national and provincial organizations and programs. All entries are fully referenced, and most provide hyperlinks. Both the directory and the *Parliamentary Stylebook* 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 parliamentary translators 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 timelier basis for Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly, government departments, and New Brunswickers.



PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

Program for Members

The other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Office of Government Members, the Office of the Official Opposition, the Office of the Green Party Caucus and the Office of the People's Alliance Caucus.

Each 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 and Support

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

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 caucus combine this funding to obtain and share resources and personnel.

Funding is also approved annually for private Members who are leaders of registered political parties represented in the House to be used for salaries and expenses of the leaders and their staff, and other expenses related to the operation of the respective offices.

The staff of each office provides research support with respect to topics and issues of interest to the Members. Each 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 floor 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 required to support the elected Members of the Official Opposition Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the Old Education Building.

Office of the Green Party Caucus

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

Office of the People's Alliance Caucus

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the People's Alliance Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the third floor of the Departmental Building.