

# *Legislative Activities*

# 2021

Legislative Assembly of  
New Brunswick



# Legislative Activities

2021



## New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Bill Oliver

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick





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January 31, 2023

The Honourable Bill Oliver  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 31, Legislative Building  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3B 1C5

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the thirty-third annual report of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Shayne Davies  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

## *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Shayne Davies*

The year 2021 was dynamic for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The First Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature continued into a second year and in total, the House held 48 sittings during the calendar year and committees held 101 meetings. The year was marked by significant procedural firsts, the resignation of two Members, the passing of two former employees of the Legislative Assembly, and the appointment of three new legislative officers.

The First Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature, which adjourned on December 18, 2020, sat for one day on February 12 and resumed on March 16, when Finance and Treasury Board Minister Ernie Steeves delivered the Progressive Conservative majority government's first budget. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on March 18 by Official Opposition Finance and Treasury Board Critic Robert McKee.

In an historic first, Members were able to participate virtually in House proceedings after Motion 60 was passed on May 11 following a free vote in the House. The motion proposed that the Legislative Assembly adopt a Special Order to allow Members to participate in proceedings, either in person or by virtual means using the Zoom platform, in emergency or extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the Speaker, following consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and with the agreement of all House Leaders. The Special Order expired on July 30 when the COVID-19 state of emergency came to an end. In total, the House had 12 hybrid sitting days over three weeks during the spring sitting. On May 19, the first hybrid recorded vote occurred at the passing of the second reading of Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*. Following a new emergency declaration in September due to COVID-19, the House adopted another Special Order permitting virtual proceedings on November 5.

Legislation of note introduced during the spring sitting related to the Legislature or its Officers included Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*, which would allow permanent residents of Canada to vote in municipal elections; Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Auditor General Act*, which would amend the definition of "auditable entity" to include Vestcor Corp., a private not-for-profit entity that manages the public service pension plan; and Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Municipal General Elections in 2021*, which made it possible for a municipal electoral officer to suspend candidate nominations and voting in any provincial health zone related to the May 10 municipal elections, should a lockdown have occurred from a COVID-19 outbreak.

On August 16, Lisa Harris resigned as the Member for Miramichi Bay-Neguac to run as the federal Liberal candidate for the Miramichi-Grand Lake riding. First elected in the 2014 general election, Ms. Harris was re-elected in 2018 and 2020. Ms. Harris served as Deputy Speaker, Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care, Minister responsible for Celtic Affairs, and Deputy Government House Leader. Ms. Harris also served on various committees and was the first woman to chair the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

On August 18, Jake Stewart resigned as the Member for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin to run as the federal Conservative candidate for the Miramichi-Grand Lake riding. He was elected as a Member of Parliament in the September 2021 federal election. First elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 2010 general election, Mr. Stewart was re-elected in 2014, 2018 and 2020. Mr. Stewart served as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and on various committees.

In September, following an increase in COVID-19 infections in the province, all full-time and part-time employees of the Legislative Assembly, including political staff, contractors, volunteers, and onsite vendors and suppliers, were required to provide proof of full vaccination to Human Resource Services. Those who did not provide proof were required to wear a mask in the workplace at all times, except when they were alone in their personal workspace, and to follow





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COVID-19 testing requirements. In October, all visitors to the Legislative Assembly were required to provide proof of full vaccination, or medical exemption, and government-issued identification to security upon entry.

The year 2021 was marked by the passing of two former employees of the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Alfred R. Landry, Q.C., passed away on October 6. He was a retired Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick and served as Conflict of Interest Commissioner from 2013 until 2015. He will be remembered for his kindness and gentle nature. David L.E. Peterson, Q.C., passed away on December 24. He was Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from 1978 until 1993, serving six Speakers during this time. Staff remember him as a gentleman who was always supportive.

On October 18, Speaker Oliver advised Members that the Lieutenant-Governor had issued a Proclamation to prorogue the First Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature and open the Second Session on November 2. On November 1, Speaker Oliver gave notice that the Proclamation had been revoked by the Lieutenant-Governor and that the House would reconvene on November 2 for the purpose of resuming the First Session. The resumption of the House coincided with on-going labour negotiations between the provincial government and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Negotiations reached an impasse in late October, leading to a strike by the employees. Prior to the matter being resolved, the Green Party House Leader requested that the matter be brought forward for an emergency debate in the House. The Speaker denied the request once the House declined to debate a motion on the same topic. The strike ended after a tentative agreement was reached on November 13. The normal practice is for the House to start a new session each fall, reconvening for prorogation in the morning, followed by a throne speech in the afternoon. The continuation of the First Session into a second year marked a departure from the normal practice.

The Legislative Assembly launched a new website on November 18 ([www.legnb.ca](http://www.legnb.ca)). The site was designed and built in-house by Legislative Library staff. In particular, Anthony Lovesey, the Legislature's Applications Systems Analyst, was critical in its design and implementation.

The 2022-2023 Capital Budget was tabled on December 7 and as the consideration of estimates in committee is limited by rule to 80 hours per session, the House adopted Motion 87 to allocate an additional 80 hours to accommodate a second budget during the same session.

On December 8, the Assembly recommended the appointment of Marie-France Pelletier as Ombud and Kelly Lamrock as Child, Youth and Senior Advocate. On the same day, Paul Martin was recommended as Auditor General.

The House adjourned on December 17, after 62 sitting days during the session. Thus far in the First Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature, a total of 85 bills were introduced, 65 of which received Royal Assent. The standings in the House at year end were 26 Progressive Conservatives, 16 Liberals, three Greens, two People's Alliance, and two vacancies.



## NOTABLE EVENTS

### Passing of the Duke of Edinburgh

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, passed away peacefully the morning of April 9 at Windsor Castle in England. On the same day, a memorial table was placed in the rotunda of the Legislative Assembly to provide Members and those visiting the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity to pay their respects and offer condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, and all members of the Royal Family.

A message was presented in the House by Premier Blaine Higgs and Official Opposition Leader Roger Melanson on the next sitting day, May 11, to convey the Legislative Assembly's profound condolences and to remember "His Royal Highness and his many visits to our Province, both on his own and with [Her] Majesty, and the special efforts he made to meet with New Brunswickers from all walks of life who strive to make valuable contributions to their communities."

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh's legacy continues through the thousands of youth who challenge themselves each year to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award, established in 1956. The Legislative Assembly has hosted the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Ceremony in its main Chamber in previous years, with the Lieutenant-Governor traditionally presiding over it.



*A memorial table was placed in the rotunda of the Legislative Assembly to honour His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.*

### Appointment of Legislative Officers

The Legislative Assembly recommended to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the appointment of three new Legislative Officers by resolutions of the House on December 8. All three appointments were then agreed to by Order in Council on December 16.

Paul Martin was named New Brunswick's next Auditor General for a term of ten years effective January 1, 2022. Marie-France Pelletier was named New Brunswick's next Ombud for a term of seven years effective January 1, 2022. Kelly Lamrock, Q.C., was named New Brunswick's next Child, Youth and Senior Advocate for a term of seven years effective February 7, 2022.



**Pictured in the Speaker's Office signing their swearing-in documents, from left to right, are Paul Martin, sworn-in on December 22, 2021; Marie-France Pelletier, sworn-in on January 7, 2022; and Kelly Lamrock, Q.C., sworn-in on February 9, 2022.**



# 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



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

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.

## 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.



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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.<br>1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday  | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.<br>1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. |
| Friday    | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.<br>1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. |

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

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



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## **Routine Business**

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

### **Prayers**

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

### **Introduction of Guests**

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

### **Statements by Members**

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

### **Oral Questions**

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

### **Tabling of Documents**

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

### **Statements by Ministers**

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

### **Presentations of Petitions**

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

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

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

### **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.



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## **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. In 2021, by motion of the House, this item was considered by the House following Prayers.



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 Seating Arrangement

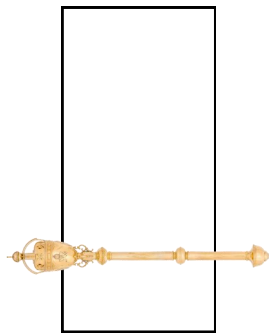
|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  <b>Jeff Carr</b><br>New Maryland-<br>Sunbury |  <b>Ross Wetmore</b><br>Gagetown-<br>Petitcodiac                           |  <b>Gary Crossman</b><br>Hampton                                  |  <b>Trevor Holder</b><br>Portland-Simonds                     |
|  <b>Greg Turner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

|   |    |
|---|----|
|  | PC |
|  | L  |
|  | GP |
|  | PA |

*Note: There are two vacancies following the resignations of Lisa Harris and Jake Stewart on August 16 and August 18, 2021, respectively.*



**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



**Robert Gauvin**  
Shediac  
Bay-Dieppe



**Roger Melanson**  
Dieppe



**Chuck Chiasson**  
Victoria-La Vallée




**Eric Mallet**  
Shippagan-  
Lamèque-Miscou



**Robert McKee**  
Moncton Centre



**Benoît Bourque**  
Kent South



**Denis Landry**  
Bathurst East-  
Nepisiguit-  
Saint-Isidore



**Francine Landry**  
Madawaska Les  
Lacs-Edmundston



**Gilles LePage**  
Restigouche West




**Daniel Guitard**  
Restigouche-  
Chaleur



**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





## HOUSE STATISTICS

|                                      | 59 <sup>th</sup> Legislature  |                                     |                                    | 60 <sup>th</sup> Legislature       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                      | <i>First Session<br/>2018</i> | <i>Second Session<br/>2018-2019</i> | <i>Third Session<br/>2019-2020</i> | <i>First Session<br/>2020-2021</i> |
| <i>Daily Sittings</i>                |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Number of Sitting Days               | 9                             | 41                                  | 31                                 | 62                                 |
| Evening Sittings                     | 0                             | 0                                   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| <i>Government Bills</i>              |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Introduced                           | 2                             | 31                                  | 46                                 | 68                                 |
| Received Royal Assent                | 0                             | 26                                  | 33                                 | 60                                 |
| <i>Private Bills</i>                 |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Introduced                           | 0                             | 1                                   | 1                                  | 5                                  |
| Received Royal Assent                | 0                             | 1                                   | 0                                  | 4                                  |
| <i>Private Members' Public Bills</i> |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Introduced                           | 0                             | 8                                   | 9                                  | 12                                 |
| Received Royal Assent                | 0                             | 1                                   | 0                                  | 1                                  |
| <i>Government Motions</i>            |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Total                                | 5                             | 14                                  | 12                                 | 26                                 |
| Number debated                       | 0                             | 4                                   | 2                                  | 8                                  |
| Number agreed to                     | 5                             | 13                                  | 11                                 | 24                                 |
| Number withdrawn                     | 0                             | 0                                   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| <i>Private Members' Motions</i>      |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| Total                                | 7                             | 50                                  | 64                                 | 68                                 |
| Number debated                       | 2                             | 10                                  | 8                                  | 12                                 |
| Number agreed to                     | 1                             | 8                                   | 8                                  | 8                                  |
| Number withdrawn                     | 0                             | 0                                   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| <i>Committee of Supply</i>           |                               |                                     |                                    |                                    |
| In House (Days)                      | 0                             | 3                                   | 3                                  | 3                                  |
| In Committee on Estimates            | 0                             | 13                                  | 3                                  | 14                                 |
| In other Committees                  | 0                             | 0                                   | 0                                  | 0                                  |
| <i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>         | 15                            | 86                                  | 48                                 | 85                                 |
| <i>Petitions</i>                     | 4                             | 18                                  | 29                                 | 40                                 |
| <i>Written Questions</i>             | 0                             | 0                                   | 0                                  | 0                                  |



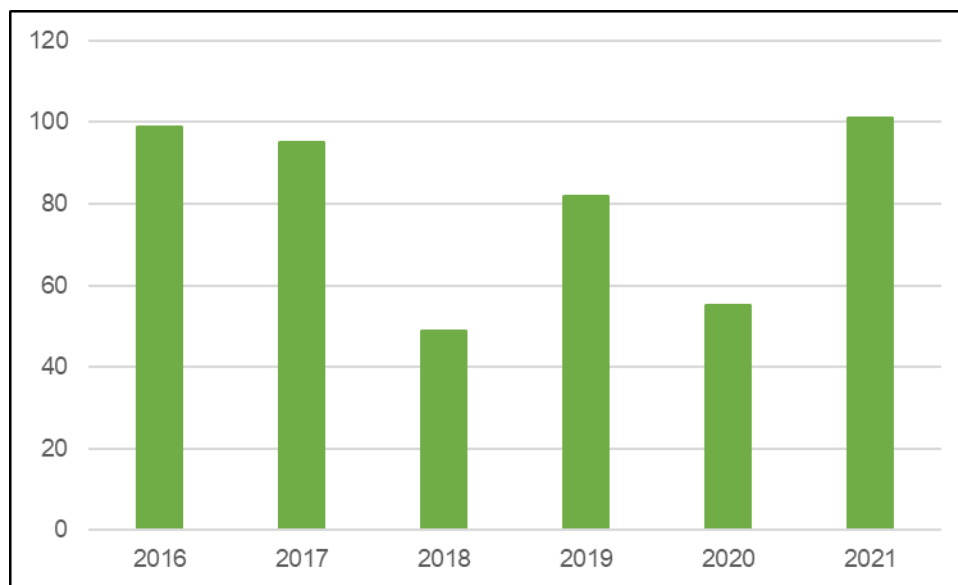
## COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



### *Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — 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 2021, there were 9 standing committees and 2 select committees, which held a total of 101 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 December 31, 2021.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Legislative Administration Committee

|                |                          |                |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Hon. Mr. Oliver (C)      | Mr. Melanson   |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson            | Mr. Arseneault |
|                | Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. | Mr. Coon       |
|                | Hon. Mr. Savoie          | Mr. Arseneau   |
|                | Hon. Ms. Green           | Mr. Austin     |
|                | Mr. Hogan                | Ms. Conroy     |
|                | Mr. Turner               |                |

#### Mandate

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

#### Activities

The Committee held 7 meetings, on February 17 and 18, April 6, 12 and 29, June 3 and October 13 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature.

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### Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

|                |                   |             |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. Hogan (C)     | Ms. Landry  |
|                | Ms. Bockus (VC)   | Mr. Mallet  |
|                | Hon. Mr. Holland  | Mr. LeBlanc |
|                | Hon. Ms. Johnson  | Ms. Mitton  |
|                | Hon. Mr. Crossman | Ms. Conroy  |
|                | Mr. Cullins       |             |
|                |                   |             |

#### Mandate

The Committee receives updates from the Department of Environment and Local Government on progress towards the implementation of New Brunswick's *Climate Change Action Plan*; calls on specific departments, agencies, key stakeholders and subject matter experts to provide updates on implementation efforts; and gathers factual information on climate change, environmental stewardship and any other related issues by engaging with experts and stakeholders in the fields of natural environment and natural resource management.

#### Activities

The Committee held 19 meetings, on March 8, 11, 12 and 30, April 16, June 11, 22, 23, 24 and 25, September 7, 10, 21, 22 and 23, October 1 and 27, November 30 and December 7. The Committee met on March 8 and 11 and decided to resume its study of the use of pesticides and herbicides, including glyphosate, in the Province. On March 12 the Committee received an updated presentation from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries regarding glyphosate use in New Brunswick agriculture and posed questions to the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development regarding herbicide use in forestry. The Committee held public hearings from June 22 to 25, September 7, 10, and 21. The Committee heard 23 presentations from conservation groups, forestry and agricultural industry representatives, academics, government agencies, individuals, and Indigenous representatives. The Committee also received 26 written submissions from individuals and organizations in New Brunswick and



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across Canada. The Committee met from September 21 to 23 and October 1 and 27 to consider the input received during the consultation process and to formulate a report, which was tabled on November 2 and contained the result of the Committee's deliberations and 20 recommendations.

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## Standing Committee on Economic Policy

|                |                |                 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. Turner (C) | Mr. LePage      |
|                | Mr. Carr (VC)  | Mr. K. Chiasson |
|                | Mr. Cullins    | Mr. LeBlanc     |
|                | Mr. Ames       | Mr. Arseneau    |
|                | Mr. Wetmore    | Mr. Austin      |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson  |                 |

### Mandate

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

### Activities

The Committee held 28 meetings, on February 2 and 3, March 24, May 5, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27 and 28, June 4, 8 and 9, November 5, 9, 10, 12, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 30, December 1, 7, 8, 10, 14 and 15. The Committee presented reports to the House on February 12, March 25, May 11 and 19, June 1, 8, 9 and 10, November 12 and December 2, 8, 9, 14 and 16.

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## Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

|                |                     |              |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Hon. Mr. Savoie (C) | Mr. Legacy   |
|                | Mr. Ames (VC)       | Mr. Bourque  |
|                | Mr. Turner          | Mr. LeBlanc  |
|                | Mr. Carr            | Mr. Arseneau |
|                | Ms. Bockus          | Mr. Austin   |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson       |              |

### Mandate

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

### Activities

The Committee held 14 meetings, on April 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 29. The Committee presented a report to the House on May 11.

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## Standing Committee on Law Amendments

|                |                               |              |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Hon. Mr. Flemming, Q.C. (C)   | Mr. D'Amours |
|                | Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. (VC) | Mr. Legacy   |
|                | Mr. Hogan                     | Mr. McKee    |
|                | Ms. Bockus                    | Mr. Coon     |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson                 | Ms. Conroy   |
|                | Mr. Cullins                   |              |



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## 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 held a meeting on October 5. The Committee was referred Bill 61, *An Act to Amend the Human Tissue Gift Act*, and met with representatives from the Department of Health, the New Brunswick Medical Society and a transplant recipient to discuss the subject matter of the bill.

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## Standing Committee on Private Bills

|                |                          |                 |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. Cullins (C)          | Mr. C. Chiasson |
|                | Mr. Ames (VC)            | Mr. Guitard     |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson            | Mr. Mallet      |
|                | Mr. Hogan                | Ms. Mitton      |
|                | Ms. Bockus               | Mr. Austin      |
|                | Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. |                 |

## Mandate

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

## Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on February 5, June 1 and November 16. The Committee presented reports to the House on February 12, June 1 and November 23.

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## Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

|                |                 |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. Carr (C)    | Mr. D'Amours   |
|                | Mr. Turner (VC) | Mr. Arseneault |
|                | Mr. Wetmore     | Ms. Thériault  |
|                | Mr. Ames        | Mr. Coon       |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson   | Ms. Conroy     |
|                | Mr. Cullins     |                |

## 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 9 meetings, on February 16 and 19, March 10, April 1, 20 and 30, May 4 and 28 and October 26. The Committee reviewed reports from the Commissioner of Official Languages; the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate and the Chief Electoral Officer. On February 19 and March 10 the Committee discussed virtual sittings of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly. The Committee presented a report on March 17.



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On March 25 the Legislative Assembly adopted a motion that the Committee undertake a review of initiatives that will encourage more women to offer as candidates to represent New Brunswickers in the Legislative Assembly. Consultations with experts were held on April 20. The Committee heard from six different women's advocacy organizations and one independent expert. The Committee met on April 30 and May 4 to consider input received during the consultation process and to formulate a report, which was presented on June 11.

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## **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

|                |                          |            |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. C. Chiasson (C)      | Mr. Ames   |
|                | Mr. Wetmore (VC)         | Mr. Legacy |
|                | Ms. Anderson-Mason, Q.C. | Mr. McKee  |
|                | Mr. Carr                 | Ms. Mitton |
|                | Mr. Turner               | Ms. Conroy |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson            |            |

### **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 12 meetings, on February 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 25 and 26, September 14, 15, 16 and 17 and October 7. The Committee reviewed the annual reports and Auditor General recommendations pertaining to the following entities: Extra-Mural/Ambulance New Brunswick Inc.; Horizon Health Network; New Brunswick Forest Products Commission; New Brunswick Power Corporation; Regional Development Corporation; Service New Brunswick; Vestcor Inc.; Vitalité Health Network; WorkSafeNB; and the Departments of Aboriginal Affairs; Education and Early Childhood Development; Environment and Local Government; Finance and Treasury Board; Health; Natural Resources and Energy Development; and Social Development. The Committee reviewed Reports of the Auditor General of New Brunswick on February 9 and 23 and October 7. On February 16, the Auditor General held an orientation on the principles of an effective Public Accounts Committee. Following the resignation of the Chair, Ms. Harris, and the Vice-Chair, Mr. Stewart, the Committee elected a Chair and Vice-Chair on September 14.

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## **Standing Committee on Social Policy**

|                |                  |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Ms. Bockus (C)   | Mr. Guitard     |
|                | Mr. Wetmore (VC) | Mr. K. Chiasson |
|                | Mr. Hogan        | Mr. Gauvin      |
|                | Mr. Carr         | Ms. Mitton      |
|                | Mr. Turner       | Ms. Conroy      |
|                | Mr. Ames         |                 |

### **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 2021.

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## SELECT COMMITTEES

### Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick

|                |                |               |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Ms. Bockus (C) | Ms. Thériault |
|                | Mr. Hogan (VC) | Mr. Bourque   |
|                | Hon. Mr. Fitch | Mr. LePage    |
|                | Mr. Ames       | Mr. Coon      |
|                | Mr. Cullins    | Ms. Conroy    |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson  |               |

#### Mandate

The Committee was appointed by the House on June 9 to conduct consultations with community stakeholders and government departments involved with the disability community, and report to the House with recommendations.

#### Activities

The Committee held 5 meetings, on June 10 and October 19, 20, 21 and 22. The Committee held public hearings with the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; the New Brunswick Health Council; the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission; the Premier's Council on Disabilities; and 14 other stakeholders who presented their comments and recommendations on their areas of expertise. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on June 10.

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### Select Committee on Public Universities

|                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Members</b> | Mr. Hogan (C)   | Mr. C. Chiasson |
|                | Ms. Bockus (VC) | Mr. Legacy      |
|                | Ms. S. Wilson   | Ms. Thériault   |
|                | Mr. Cullins     | Mr. Coon        |
|                | Mr. Ames        | Ms. Conroy      |
|                | Mr. Turner      |                 |

#### Mandate

The Committee was appointed by the House on June 10 to invite representatives of New Brunswick's publicly funded universities and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission to appear before the Committee to discuss and provide insight into university administration, programming, performance measurement, accountability and transparency.

#### Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on June 10 and September 28 and 29. The Committee heard from the four public universities in the province and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. The Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at a meeting held on June 10.



## CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



## VISITORS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Parliament Square, which includes the Legislative Assembly Building, 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 Building 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. Bilingual guided tours or self-guided tours of the building are offered year-round and focus on the craftsmanship of the structure, artifacts and artwork on the site, and the functioning of New Brunswick's parliamentary system. In 2021, however, to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the buildings within Parliament Square remained closed to visitors.

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building as a way for organizations to promote a charitable cause. In 2021, the Legislative Assembly participated in the following campaigns: 211 Day, World Tuberculosis Day, Daffodil Month, National Organ and Tissue Donation Week, Lyme Awareness Month, Light Up in Blue (Walk for Alzheimer's), National Injury Prevention Day, Food Day Canada, Make Canada Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, World Duchenne Awareness Day, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Living Donation Week (Centre for Living Organ Donation), Jumpstart Day, World Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week, World Cerebral Palsy Day, International Dyslexia Awareness Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, National Unity Day of India, Family Violence Prevention Month, World Diabetes Day, World Pancreatic Cancer Day, National Children's Grief Awareness Day, and World AIDS Day.

On June 3, in recognition of National Deafblind Awareness month in Canada and Disability Awareness Week, the New Brunswick chapter of the Canadian Deafblind Association yarn bombed a tree on the Legislature's grounds. The initiative symbolizes the coming together of people in the field of deafblindness by increasing awareness and knowledge of deafblindness as a unique disability.

On June 21, the Wolastoqey Tribal Council Inc., the Joint Economic Development Initiative, and Mawiw Council Inc. organized a day of events on the grounds of the Legislature in celebration of Aboriginal Day. Allyship was the day's theme and members of the public honoured the day by listening to drums;



*The portico of the Legislature was illuminated in orange from June 1 to 9 to honour the memory of 215 Indigenous children whose unmarked graves were found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.*





singing and chanting; raising the Wolastoqey, Migmaq, and Peskotomuhkati flags; and observing a moment of silence.

Marking the first official visit by a diplomat to the Legislative Assembly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Speaker met with the Consul General of Israel in Montreal, Mr. David Levy on July 22.

An “Official Opening Ceremony” occurred on August 2, New Brunswick Day, in light of the removal of all provincial pandemic-related restrictions at midnight on July 30. Hosted on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant-Governor Brenda Murphy, Speaker Bill Oliver, Premier Blaine Higgs, Official Opposition Leader Roger Melanson, Green Party Leader David Coon, and People’s Alliance Leader Kris Austin welcomed approximately 3,000 members of the public as they raised the New Brunswick flag and observed a moment of silence to remember the individuals who lost their lives to COVID-19. These events were followed by all-day activities on the grounds and surrounding green spaces, where artisans were set up to sell their made-in New Brunswick products.

Lieutenant-Governor Murphy and Speaker Oliver held a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and lit a 25-foot fir tree on December 2 for New Brunswickers to enjoy during the holiday season.



**From left to right, Green Party Leader David Coon, Premier Blaine Higgs, City of Fredericton Mayor Mike O’Brien, People’s Alliance Leader Kris Austin, Speaker Bill Oliver, and Official Opposition Leader Roger Melanson planted a red oak tree on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly on May 20 to commemorate Arbor Day.**



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## 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 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 fall 2021 sittings were Nora Ahmed, Bradley Doucet, Maggie Jardine, Brock Johnson, Rosalind Keyes, Jane Landry, Emily Simon, Claudia Ruiz Valdes, Emma Wagner, and Graci Young (Head Page).



**The following individuals served as Pages during the spring 2021 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.  
(Curtis Kelly and Jane Landry not pictured)**



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## 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 channels 1 and 401. In 2021, the channels were available to all New Brunswickers with access to Bell Aliant, as well as those individuals with access throughout Atlantic Canada.

Following the adoption of a Special Order to allow Members to participate in legislative proceedings by virtual means using the Zoom platform, LMB Interpretation Systems and Services Inc. was hired to provide technical support. On May 18, the audio and video of the hybrid House proceedings was broadcast for the first time from the Main Chamber on Rogers channel 70 and Bell Aliant channels 1 and 401. The Special Order expired on July 30 when the COVID-19 state of emergency came to an end and was adopted again in November following the new emergency declaration. In total, the House had 16 hybrid sitting days over four weeks.

Proceedings of the Legislature and its committees continued to be streamed live on the Internet in 2021. 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.

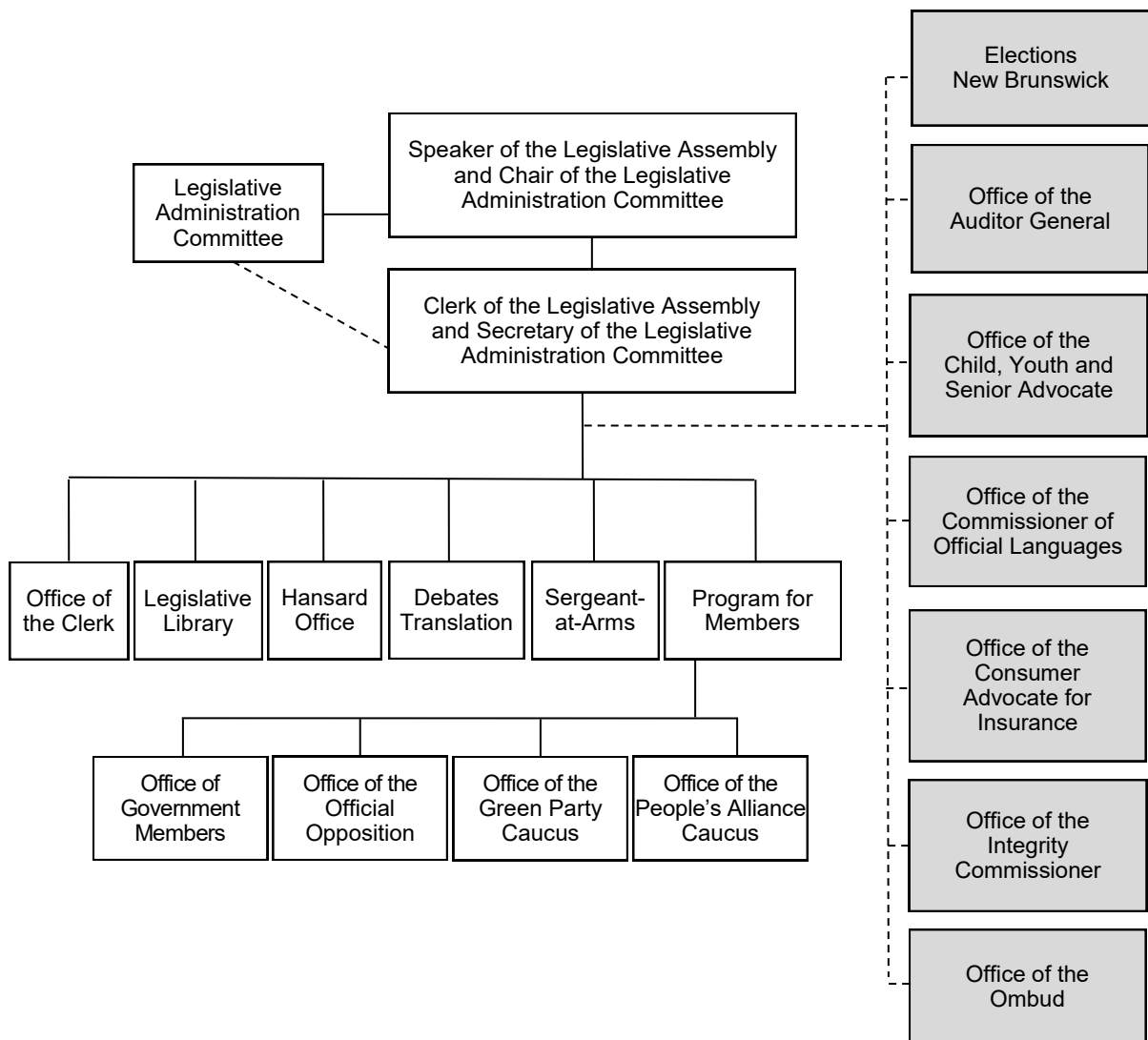


# OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 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.

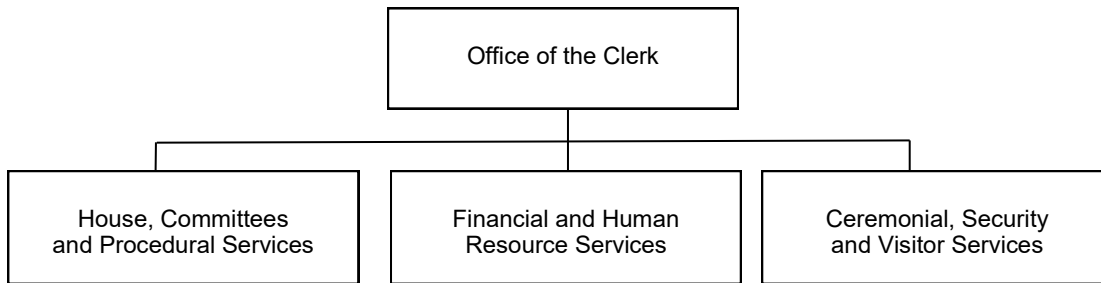
## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

### *Law Clerk and Committee Clerk — Patrick Dunn*



In 2021, 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 Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a Deputy Minister of a government department. The Office of the Clerk and its staff supported the activities of the Clerk.

The Clerk Assistant and the 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 and 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.

### **Journals and Publications**

In 2021, the Clerk Assistant compiled 48 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 2019-2020 bound version of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly was published in 2021.

First reading bills continued to be published online. During the 2021 calendar year, 54 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 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature were also updated during the year. Changes to the shadow cabinet and seating plans were reflected in published



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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**

The focus of ongoing restoration work in the Legislative precinct has been extensive renovations to the Departmental Building. Built in 1888, this Romanesque Revival-style building located on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly first housed the departments of government. In later years, it was home to Members' offices, Hansard and the Press Gallery. In January 2021, the building was vacated to allow for interior renovations. This was an extensive operation which involved the relocation of approximately 50 offices. While maintaining the historic integrity of the building, the refurbishment has included a new roof and windows as well as the restructuring of office space. The project is due to be complete by mid-2023.

Other renovations undertaken in 2021 included the beginning of a project to install more energy-efficient windows in the Legislative Assembly Building, repointing and replacement of the roof of the Old Education Building, replacement of the roof of the Government Documents building, and electrical upgrades including installation of an auxiliary power supply for the Legislative Assembly Building.

## **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 2021 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 2021, Clerks responded to numerous inquiries posted to CATS. Topics canvassed during the year included: relevance in debate, infants and young children in the Chamber, respectful workplace policies, mandatory vaccination policies for Members, gendered forms of address, motions to suspend a Member, oral question period rules and practices, re-opening legislative buildings to the public, and paperless legislatures.

## **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 2021, staff ensured that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick was included in each edition under the "Legislative Reports" section.



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## Tributes

Four former Members passed away in 2021:

**R. Donald Kinney** (Progressive Conservative) on March 4. Mr. Kinney was elected on June 7, 1999, to represent the riding of York. During his time at the Legislature, he served as a member on several standing committees.

**Hazen Elmer Myers** (Progressive Conservative) on May 24. Mr. Myers was first elected in 1978 to represent the riding of Kings East and again in 1982 and 1991. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Minister of Agriculture.

**Gertrude Ann Breault** (Liberal) on September 26. Ms. Breault was first elected in the general election of 1987 to represent the riding of St. Stephen-Milltown and again in 1991. In 1995, she was re-elected to represent the electoral district of Western Charlotte. During her time at the Legislature, she served as a member on several standing committees and as Minister of Income Assistance; Minister of Human Resources Development; Minister of State for Literacy; Minister of Municipalities, Culture and Housing; and Minister of Health and Community Services.

**John P. Flynn** (Liberal) on December 4. Mr. Flynn was elected in a general election on September 11, 1995, to represent the riding of York.



## 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 Section

The House sat a total of 33 days during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, compared to 42 days in 2019-2020 and 28 days in 2018-2019.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$13,618,600 based on a revised total budget of \$15,107,400 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$14,027,200 based on a budget of \$15,112,300 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

#### Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly For the Year Ended March 31, 2021 (in \$ 000s)

|   | Budget   | Actual   |
|---|----------|----------|
| <i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>         |          |          |
| Allowances to Members   | 8 906.2  | 8 143.3  |
| Legislative Committees  | 231.0    | 101.6    |
| Subtotal  | 9 137.2  | 8 244.9  |
| <i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>                     |          |          |
| Legislative Library   | 592.6    | 588.3    |
| Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)               | 1 815.8  | 1 597.5  |
| Hansard Office  | 610.8    | 601.9    |
| Debates Translation   | 745.5    | 657.8    |
| Subtotal  | 3 764.7  | 3 445.5  |
| <i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i> |          |          |
| Office of Government Members                                  | 576.7    | 574.7    |
| Office of the Official Opposition                             | 977.4    | 769.5    |
| Office of the Green Party Caucus                              | 332.6    | 284.7    |
| Office of the People's Alliance Caucus                        | 319.0    | 299.3    |
| Subtotal  | 2 205.7  | 1 928.2  |
| <i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i>                           | 15 107.6 | 13 618.6 |

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly buildings were approximately \$46,565 in 2020-2021. 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 was increased by \$109,000 to account for economic increases and election reallocations for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (net of special appropriations in 2020-2021 of \$46,600). A total operating budget of \$15,170,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.





## Human Resource Services Highlights

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present many unique challenges in 2021. Human Resource Services staff facilitated the implementation of a vaccination policy and 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 2021, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 16 permanent competitions of statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered payroll services for approximately 120 positions, including the commencement of 18 full-time employees and the termination arrangements for 19 employees who either retired, resigned or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

Economic increases and retroactive wage payments were processed for employees during 2021 as a result of the implementation of new pay plans effective April 1, 2019. Eligible employees also received merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance and current salary level. The Members' and Ministers' indemnities and salaries were not adjusted during this period.

Throughout the year, a total of 55 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), recognized National Public Service Week, and spearheaded the 2021 GNB United Way campaign for the Legislative Assembly. Staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by the Province, the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources New Brunswick, and the CPA New Brunswick, as well as 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<br/>Constituency<br/>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                | 0             | 0   |
| <i>Debates Translation</i>                    | 10               | 0              | 0                | 1             | 0   |
| <i>Office of Government Members</i>           | 5                | 0              | 0                | 6             | 0   |
| <i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>      | 3                | 0              | 0                | 2             | 0   |
| <i>Office of the Green Caucus</i>             | 4                | 0              | 0                | 2             | 0   |
| <i>Office of the People's Alliance Caucus</i> | 4                | 0              | 0                | 1             | 0   |
| <i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>       | 0                | 0              | 15               | 0             | 0   |
| <i>Members</i>                                | 0                | 49             | 0                | 0             | 52  |
| <i>Total</i>                                  | 61               | 49             | 15               | 15            | 52  |



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## LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

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

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff of departments of government in order that they may better serve the people of New Brunswick.

The Legislative Library 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**

Regular library services were available to Members, staff of the Legislative Assembly as well as departmental staff throughout the year. Even though the Legislative Assembly remained closed to the general public in 2021, the Library staff continued offering services by phone and e-mail to external Library patrons.

### **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 2021, many publishers and individuals donated materials. The Legislative Library is grateful to the following publishers and individuals who donated books during the past year: Bouton d'or Acadie, Goose Lane, La Grande Marée, Wilfred Allister, Michael Boudreau, Bonnie Huskins, Clint St. Peter, Lloyd Salomone and Marilyn Shaw-Guisset.

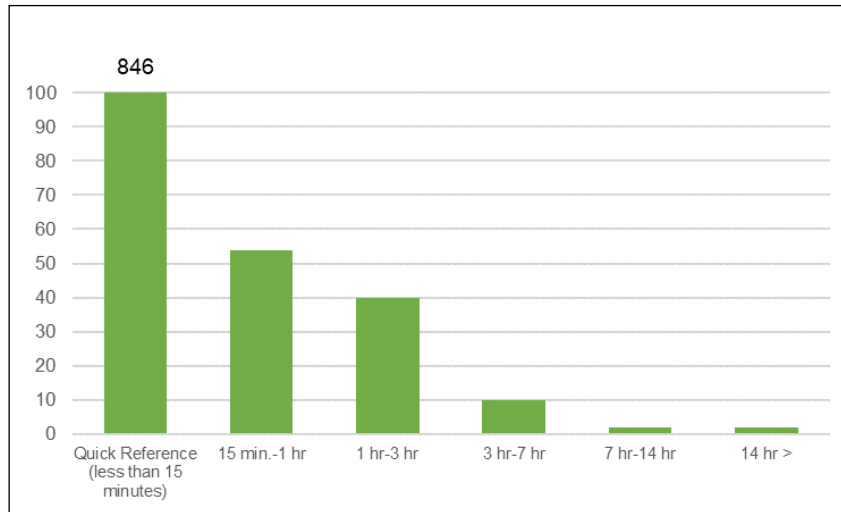
### **Government Documents**

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 2021, 258 electronic documents were added to the Library's electronic repository. These documents included monographs as well as annual reports.

### **Outreach and Reference Services**

Library outreach was very limited due to the pandemic. Since the Legislative Assembly 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.

Library staff saw an increase in the number of questions received in 2021. According to Library statistics, there were 954 requests. 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 graph shows the number of questions corresponding to the time ranges.



**Number of Questions Per Time Range**

## Initiatives and Projects

As part of a scheduled maintenance project, the Library completed a migration of its online catalogue platform, Koha; the first major upgrade to the system in seven years. The system was relocated to the Legislature's Amazon Web Services (AWS) infrastructure from Service New Brunswick, providing greater access and configurability options to Library technology staff going forward. This change will also ensure that continued updates to security and feature enhancements can be deployed in a quicker fashion.

The Library continued with its document digitization and archival projects, focusing on processing Consolidated Acts material. So far, nearly 300 records have been added to this new digital collection.

In January, due to renovations in the Departmental Building, Library staff removed the contents of two vaults containing Library materials. The materials were boxed, labeled and moved to storage until the renovations are completed.

## Research Services

Over the past year, the Research Officer fielded 44 requests from Members and Legislative staff. The Research Officer saw an increase in Committee work in 2021, and prepared presentation summaries and reports for the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers, the Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship, and the Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick.

In January, the Legislative Assembly welcomed two interns, whom the Research Officer supervised. Together, the interns responded to 36 requests from Members of all parties, the Clerk's Office, and Legislative Officers.

## Staffing

Jonathan Bowie, the Government Documents Assistant since 2006, resigned in December.



## HANSARD OFFICE

### *Official Reporter — Linda Fahey*

The Hansard Office produces edited, researched transcripts from the recordings of House sittings and committee meetings and provides audio and recording services for legislative proceedings and events. The *Journal of Debates* that is produced by the office is the official report of the debates of the Legislative Assembly and is commonly referred to as *Hansard*, as is also customary in other British Commonwealth jurisdictions. The Hansard name originated in the 1800s when publisher Thomas Curson Hansard titled the report of the British parliamentary debates as *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*.

In New Brunswick, there were only incomplete newspaper summaries of the debates until 1837-38, when a report of the debates and proceedings of the House of Assembly was then published. The report was compiled by a succession of contracted shorthand reporters, whose responsibilities were to print and publish the report and to forward it for newspaper publication. The report was completed only intermittently and sometimes not at all until its publication ceased in 1870.

It was in 1874 that the *Synoptic Report of the Proceedings of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick* was first published, but it was only in 1884 that it was published regularly for each session. In 1942, the Legislature established a reporter position in the Clerk's Office, ending the contracting process. On March 14, 1978, the first *Synoptic Report* to contain both the original Hansard text and its translation was published. Since the report had evolved from a summary into a full account of House proceedings, on March 11, 1980, it was renamed the *Journal of Debates*.

### Hansard Transcripts

During 2021, the Hansard Office staff processed 427 hours of House and committee audio into edited, researched transcripts. Transcript production details are shown in the following table.

| HOUSE AND COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT PRODUCTION IN 2021 |                      |           |                    |  |                        |                             |
|---|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Transcripts Processed                             | Transcripts Produced |           |                    | Audio Hours Processed into Transcripts | Transcript Word Counts | Percent of Total Word Count |
|   | Blues                | Finalized | Dual-Column Format |  |                        |                             |
| House, 2020-2021                                  | 52                   | 42        | 26                 | 181                                    | 1,458,801              | 49%                         |
| Committees pre-2021                               | 7                    | -         | -                  | 23                                     |                        |                             |
| Committees 2021                                   | 46                   | -         | -                  | 223                                    | 1,546,240              | 51%                         |
| TOTALS  | 105                  | 42        | 26                 | 427                                    | 3,005,041              | 100%                        |

The blues referred to in the preceding table are those transcripts that have had one edit, and the finalized transcripts are those that have had a second edit and opening pages added. The dual-column format refers to those transcripts that have been arranged with the original Hansard text and its translation. The Hansard transcripts are translated by the Debates Translation Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The number of transcripts produced, as reported in the table, reflects only full sitting and meeting transcripts, and the audio hours represent actual recording hours, with recess times deducted. The word counts represent all transcripts produced, including those completed in response to requests for segments of committee meetings. Completed transcripts are posted to the Legislative Assembly network.



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The blues transcripts for all House sessions have been completed and posted. Finalization of transcripts of past sessions has been achieved, except for portions of five sessions between 2015-16 and 2019-20. After finalizing 2014-15 and 2018 House transcripts, the office, as part of a pilot project, was asked in 2021 to advance the finalization work to the current session rather than continue completion of the past sessions.

Throughout 2021, the office also finalized, distributed, and posted 45 question period transcripts and completed and distributed 232 requested transcripts—105 House transcripts and 127 committee transcripts. Most requests originated from government departments and offices, political offices, and private entities.

## **Audio and Recording Operations**

In 2021, the office managed the recording and console operation services for 143 events, involving 538 recording hours: 48 House sittings totaling 178 hours and 95 committee meetings totaling 360 hours. In October, Hansard staff commenced the training of a full-time console operator, who was hired under the Legislative Library. Beginning on December 7, with the training completed, the responsibility of the Hansard Office for console operations was significantly reduced.

## **Historical Hansard Project**

The Hansard Office has made available on the network scanned issues of the *Synoptic Report* and the *Journal of Debates* dating from present day back to February 15, 1900.

## **Activities**

The New Brunswick Hansard Office continued active membership in the Hansard Association of Canada (HAC) and the Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association (CHEA). Staff also attended online second language training courses and health and professional development workshops.

## **Hansard Highlights**

The streamlining of work processes, the implementation of new technology, and the reduction in console operation responsibilities, which eliminated most overtime work, produced efficiencies that allowed staff to focus on Hansard priorities and productivity. The staff of the Hansard Office looks forward to continuing to build on the achievements of 2021.



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## 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 senior (autonomous) translators, three intermediate translators, two junior translators, a terminologist, and the Chief Translator. The office also has access to freelance translators who work on a contract basis.

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 various other documents. During the legislative session, Debates Translation gives priority to the translation of oral questions for immediate posting to the Legislative Assembly website. In 2021, 50 oral question periods were translated, posted on the website in French and English, and incorporated into Hansard. Of the 62 Hansard daily sittings for session 60-1 in 2020-21, the translation of a total of 32 daily sittings was finished and posted to the internal network of the Legislative Assembly in 2021. About 31% of this translation was into English. This represents a total of 1,227,884 words. In 2021, translation of the daily Journal represented 8.6% of production. Translation of the Journal is usually completed shortly after the session ends. Notices of motion and amendments to motions accounted for 0.8% of production. These documents are translated the day the request is received.

### **Members of the Legislative Assembly**

Debates Translation translates statements and speeches delivered in the House by Members and Ministers, upon request. In 2021, the material translated consisted primarily of statements on the second reading of bills, the budget speech, speeches related to the budget debate, and the closure of the debate. Speeches on budget estimates for the various departments were also translated. A pilot project was undertaken in the fall of 2021 to accelerate Hansard production by sharing responsibility for the translation of speeches and statements with Service New Brunswick. Debates Translation staff were therefore able to prioritize the translation of Hansard during the fall.

The translation of speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for 3.8% of total production in 2021. During the year, 125 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed. Translation for Ministers accounted for all of the requests. All of this 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, notices of meetings, and other documents for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. Following a Speaker's ruling on March 23, translation for committees increased dramatically compared to the previous year, representing 8.6% of total production in 2021. There were 159 requests for translation for legislative committees, representing a total of 160,888 words in 2021.



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## 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 4% of total production in 2021.

## 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.

A competition was held for a new translator in the spring of 2021, and two new translators were hired in April 2021. They were trained, equipped, and supplied with access to online resources for work from Tide Head and Moncton, New Brunswick. Both candidates successfully completed a six-month probationary period in October 2021. A second competition was held for a contract position in the spring of 2021 to hire a researcher to replace the terminologist, who is on parental leave. A researcher was hired on secondment from the New Brunswick Public Library Service for a one-year term. In the fall of 2021, competitions were launched to hire a new senior translator for the office, as well as to establish a slate of freelance translators to be called on to translate Hansard on a contract basis. The deadline for applications is early in the new year.

## Conclusion

In 2021, 767 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 39 Hansard daily sittings, 21 statements and 104 speeches for the House, 238 documents for the offices of the Legislative Assembly, 159 documents for committees, 92 documents related to motions or amendments to motions, 58 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.



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## **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 Edgecombe House.

### **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 second floor of Jewett House.

### **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 Jewett House.