

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions



**December 4, 2025**

### CONTENTS

#### HOMELESSNESS

Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Savoie  
Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Savoie  
Mr. Savoie

#### JAILS

Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.  
Mr. Savoie  
Hon. Mr. Gauvin

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

### PHYSICIANS

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. Dornan

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. Dornan

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. Dornan

### PARAMEDICS

Ms. Conroy

Hon. Mr. Dornan

Ms. Conroy

Hon. Mr. Dornan

Ms. Conroy

Hon. Mr. Dornan

### CHILD ABUSE

Mr. Coon

Hon. Mr. Gauvin

Mr. Coon

Hon. Mr. Gauvin

### ENERGY

Mr. Austin

Hon. Mr. Legacy

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

### HOMELESSNESS

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

[Original]

Madam Speaker, I've received terrible news that a homeless person in Saint John has died. Can the minister responsible for housing please confirm whether that is, indeed, the case?

**Hon. Mr. Hickey** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure about this specific case, but I know that, in Saint John alone, over the past couple of weeks, we have experienced deaths of people living rough. It's a tragedy. It continues to be. We know the urgency we need on this file after a 210% increase in homelessness in six years. That's why we are expeditiously advancing projects such as the Housing First efforts. That's why we so quickly made a \$7.4-million commitment to getting people out of the cold and into stable housing. We know that there are solutions in the community. We are going to lean on our communities with that urgency in order to respond to this crisis as quickly as possible and avoid as many of these situations as possible. The status quo is not acceptable. This government knows that, and that's why we're responding at the speed at which we are.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Well, Madam Speaker, it's been a year. We've had our first snowstorm. It's getting colder. We've had deaths in Miramichi and Fredericton and now in Saint John. This government took a year to create a task force and has pushed back its homelessness targets by a year. These are preventable deaths. Every single one of them represents a failure of our system. As elected officials, the very least we owe people is a plan that keeps them alive. You are the government. New Brunswickers deserve leadership, not delays, not deflection, and not talking about what other people did. To the Premier, people have already died. Tell us right now your immediate plan to keep people safe this winter and prevent further deaths. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Hickey** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. That's why we've responded with the urgency we have. We stood up a ministerial task force to do just that, to show this file not only the urgency it deserves but also the interdepartmental strategy it deserves. Our intention, which we are committed to, is to release a comprehensive homelessness strategy by the end of the year to make sure that we can show New Brunswickers and those who are living unhoused the vision for an end to this crisis in our communities and that we remain committed—remain committed—to the key performance indicator that we laid out in the state of the province address last year. That was a commitment to reduce chronic homelessness by 40%.

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

That has not changed. We are committed to that, and we will make sure that this government delivers on it for every New Brunswicker and, in particular, those living on the street, so that we can finally, finally, see some effort to back the community on this.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, the minister responsible can put out his talking points all he wants. It's been a year. There is no urgency. The situation is getting worse. All this government has accomplished to this point is the creation of a task force and a subcommittee on homelessness in Fredericton. This only came about after the Mayor of Saint John shamed this government into action. There is no concrete, positive result that has come out of anything this task force has done. Can the minister responsible tell the House how many people are now housed as a direct result of the work this task force has done? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Hickey** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. "Shame" is an interesting thing to bring up in relation to this file. We saw what the previous government did when it sat on a \$700-million surplus and didn't deliver it to the communities that were desperate for action in the face of a crisis. In those six years, we saw a 210% increase in the number of people on the street. We saw impacts in every community across the province.

Our commitment to New Brunswickers and the vision we've laid out for New Brunswickers is to act. That is why we are doing so expeditiously, in a way that hasn't been done in this province before. That's why we delivered \$7.4 million out the door, faster than ever before, to make sure we were getting money into communities to build Housing First projects. It's a term that the opposition may not be clear on: We are building. We are building, and we're going to continue to do it. We're going to make sure that that's the path to end this crisis in our communities.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is clear that this government is not acting. The situation is getting worse. More people are unhoused. We're into this period of the year when things are getting colder and it's more difficult for people to live. You know, I can remember action. When the minister responsible was sleeping quite snugly in his bed in Waterloo Village, I stood up an out-of-the-cold shelter while I was in treatment for Stage 4 cancer. I was trying to help people stay out of the cold, Madam Speaker. He can talk all he wants. There is nothing to be learned on this side of the House from that minister, because he hasn't done anything that's helped anybody yet. They've wasted a year. All they've done is form a task force. He just bragged about \$7.4 million, and nothing has been done. More people are unhoused. These are facts. What is the task force's stated goal for this year—not 2029 but this year—to get people out of the cold and housed this winter? Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Hickey** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The leader opposite brought up my neighbourhood of Waterloo Village. Over the past five years, I have watched my neighbourhood change before my eyes, and I have seen the desperation in communities like mine. The reason I am standing in this Legislature is to bring action to this file. I saw a

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

government sit on its hands while people froze, and now we are making sure that we get money out the door faster than we ever have. We're going to keep delivering on that. That's why we brought forward the rent cap, the single biggest piece of tenant-protection legislation. We wanted to stop the 50% increases that we had been seeing in rent and to build in that protection. That's also why we got \$21 million out the door to support a direct-to-tenant subsidy to make sure that more people could continue to afford the places in which they live. That's why we're making sure that we stand up our task force, supported by Housing First policies, to get more people housed faster in the community and finally see an end to the increase in homelessness in every place in New Brunswick.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, the minister responsible surely can't be talking about the ward that he actually served as a councillor. Nothing got better while he was a councillor. It's insane.

The city of Saint John—

(Interjections.)

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Oh, he's getting a little upset, Madam Speaker.

The city of Saint John is saying that it needs provincial financial support to get back on track with the relocation of homeless people from the red zones. The minister has bragged about allocating \$7.4 million to the task force. He did it again this morning. How much of that money—how much—has been allocated to Saint John non-profits to help them with transitional housing to get people housed now, before it gets even colder? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Hickey** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. In Saint John specifically, it's important to recognize the encampment funding that was supported by the federal government to unlock about \$3.4 million to support the work the city continues to do. We're proud to be a partner alongside the city, and we will make sure we can continue working with the city to build the best solution for Saint John. That's what we want to continue to do across the province.

We firmly believe there is a community-first regional approach to this and recognize that facing homelessness in Saint John looks different than it does in Moncton. That's why we want to make sure that the work the task force is doing reflects the nuance in the community and that we are delivering the right resources to the right place. The key now is recognizing that urgency and making sure we get the support and funding out the door as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. If you read between the lines, that actually reads as \$0—not one penny of \$7.4 million. That's what the answer is. He wants to talk about taking action when the government has done absolutely nothing.



# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

(Interjections.)

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Out of the federal government, yes.

### JAILS

Today, as part of opposition day, we will bring forward a motion that deals with therapeutic living units in prisons. The former government was supportive of this initiative and had plans to integrate these units into the new prison in Minto. We hear that these therapeutic living units will not be part of the project in Minto as it goes forward. Can the government confirm that this is or is not the case? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.** (Moncton Centre, Minister of Justice; Attorney General; Minister responsible for Addictions and Mental Health Services; L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to the Leader of the Official Opposition for bringing this question forward. I'm very happy to debate this motion on therapeutic living units today. I think it's one on which we will find common ground.

I've had the pleasure of visiting the therapeutic living units in Calgary. I've been there twice. I've been there with the Minister of Public Safety and the Deputy Minister of Justice and Public Safety. It's a program that we strongly believe in.

As has been mentioned, the Minto jail is being constructed with the view of including one of these units. The Leader of the Opposition came to a conclusion somehow—I don't know how—that it's not going to be included. That's not the case. We're going to work with the Department of Health to make sure resources are available and in place. We have to find a service provider that does this. There is no service provider in Eastern Canada, but we are continuing the work, and I hope we will be able to achieve this.

**Mr. Savoie** (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, with this government, it's always about the details. There's always an asterisk on everything the government members say. If the minister was that impressed by everything he just said he saw in Calgary and so on and so forth, then what I wanted to hear was the word "yes". That's what I wanted to hear, so I'll ask again.

We commend the government for committing to continue the work of our government on community transitional living on the Kingston Peninsula. The results that could be achieved could be greater if the government followed through with the therapeutic living program for people who are incarcerated. Having access to that therapy while incarcerated could lead these people to continue their treatment in a community setting. Will the government confirm with a "yes" that it will continue our vision of implementing therapeutic living units in our prisons? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

**Hon. Mr. Gauvin** (Shediac Bay-Dieppe, Minister of Public Safety; Minister responsible for la Francophonie, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I also thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for his very important question. Indeed, our government hopes there will be therapeutic living units for people detained in New Brunswick correctional facilities. We have seen the benefits of such units. We want to continue the work because...

I must tell you that, when I became Minister of Public Safety, one of my first meetings was with my predecessor. The objective of the meeting was to ensure continuity in projects. He informed me of the vision for the facility and told me about the need for these units.

Yes, we hope to have the necessary space so that people detained in correctional facilities have good quality of life. They're the same kinds of units we saw in Calgary. I don't know if the Leader of the Official Opposition has seen them. Therapeutic living units are essential to quality of life. We will continue to follow the same vision because that's what New Brunswickers need. We're still at the construction stage. The desire is exceptional, and the outcome will be positive. Thank you very much.

[Original]

### PHYSICIANS

**Mr. Hogan** (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. I have several questions, actually. The first one is regarding surgical services in Waterville at the Upper River Valley Hospital (URVH), which serves patients in my constituency and the constituencies above and below mine. My constituents are very concerned because the hospital has been reduced to one surgeon. Not only has it been reduced to one surgeon, but I have also received information that some locums have been refused at this hospital.

People are concerned that we will lose all surgical services, which, when we're looking at things like delivering babies, are extremely important services. Today, I'd like to know from the minister what is being done to recruit more surgeons to the Upper River Valley Hospital.

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, I have the same concerns as the member opposite about the sustainability of surgical services at the Upper River Valley Hospital. In fact, I worked up there when we were recruiting general surgeons. It's been an uphill battle to get people to go there and stay there and to be on a team of two. Today, we are down to one again. That is awkward. Nobody likes working alone.

What we are looking at doing is expanding the number of surgeons from local areas—from Fredericton, for that matter—to work in the Upper River Valley Hospital. It is not on our agenda to close or to reduce surgical services in the Upper River Valley. I'm glad to reassure

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

the member opposite of that. We have a similar commitment to obstetrical services in the Upper River Valley. Thank you.

**Mr. Hogan** (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll take the minister at his word and hold him to his word when he talks about not reducing services. The message that's been received by physicians at the Upper River Valley Hospital is that acute surgery and overnight stays because of surgical procedures at the hospital will be moved to the DECH.

One of the challenges that we have when recruiting is that the chief of surgery, the chief of staff, and the scheduling for surgical services at the URVH are here in Fredericton at the DECH. I know that works very well for people here at the DECH, but it doesn't work so well at the URVH. I'd like to know when because... You know, every school has a principal and vice-principal. They look after the school and make it work well. I think that every hospital needs to have the same opportunity with a chief of staff and a chief of surgery. When are those positions going to be returned to the URVH?

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, well before my time, there were amalgamations of areas within regions throughout New Brunswick, including chiefs of staff, chiefs of surgery, and chiefs of medicine. This is a more efficient way of doing things. I am confident that the chief of surgery and the chief of staff, who currently happen to reside in the Fredericton area, look after the Upper River Valley well. This is part of their constituency. For the patients who go there for care, I don't doubt the ability of the physicians who work there, the anesthetists and the surgeons, to take care of and to speak to the needs of the people in that community. I am very pleased to repeat that there will continue to be surgical services and obstetrical services at the Upper River Valley Hospital. Thank you for the question.

**Mr. Hogan** (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I won't repeat myself in terms of local hospitals having local control over what they do and having a word on scheduling, especially the scheduling component of it.

This makes it a very difficult challenge when you're looking to recruit. Local surgeons and physicians... I just found out this morning that we're losing another family physician from the area by February 1. This recruitment is important because new doctors, young doctors, and surgeons don't want to go to this hospital where there's no control over when they can have access to a surgical suite. I'd like to know... Part of what I've heard is that Waterville will become a day surgery centre, much like Oromocto, and that there will be no overnight stays or surgery that requires an overnight stay occurring there. I'd like the minister's assurance that this will not occur.

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, to the member opposite, we want safe surgery. We want surgery done in places with appropriate backup, redundancy, and anesthesia. That is our primary goal: to give good, safe surgery to the people in that area and the whole, general, larger area, including



# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

Fredericton. That is our commitment. You have asked for that, and it is what we are offering.

To your point about another physician leaving, that's difficult. When family doctors leave and leave thousands of patients up in the air, that is a reflection of an older system where there was no redundancy and no opportunity to pick up those patients. Our commitment is to collaborative care units. There will be a team in the Woodstock area and adjacent satellite clinics. If people leave, we are sad to lose people who have given lots of their time, but they should be able to leave and we should give appropriate care through our collaborative care clinics. Thanks for the opportunity to advertise that.

### PARAMEDICS

**Ms. Conroy** (Miramichi East, PC): Madam Speaker, in this House, we have talked a lot about the Holt government's broken promises because there are a lot of them and they keep piling up. Here's another promise that we fear is in danger of being broken. On June 5 of this year, this House unanimously voted in favour of one of our opposition motions to make thrombolytic medication available in ambulances to be used by advanced care paramedics to save people who were having heart attacks. Since then, it has been radio silence from this government. When will it do the right thing and get these life-changing medications into the hands of our advanced care paramedics who have been begging for them?

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, to the member opposite, and to the House in general, this was a great idea to put thrombolytics in ambulances with our advanced care paramedics. They have a scope of practice that will allow them to use that medication. However, you can't support that in the Legislature and have it happen tomorrow. We're working very closely with advanced care paramedics and the association so we can do this in a very safe manner.

To your point, the sooner people get thrombolytics, the lesser the damage to heart muscle. I think that was a very good idea, regardless of the origin. We are working on that diligently, and we are working with our paramedics to make sure that the right people have the right training and the right drugs in the ambulance. Thank you for bringing it up. We are not silent on it. We are working on that initiative. It is better for New Brunswickers. Thank you.

**Ms. Conroy** (Miramichi East, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. From what paramedics are telling us, it is very easily done. They're already trained for it, so this shouldn't be too hard to do.

We have learned that thrombolytics are administered up to 2 500 times per year. That's about 200 patients per month. Our motion was passed six months ago, so, doing the math, that would be about 1 200 patients who could have received this medication en route to the hospital instead of waiting until they reached the hospital.

Thrombolytics are medications that are given in circumstances where every second counts. Any increase in time waiting is devastating for the patient. Why is this government

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

delaying? Its role is to make the policy changes that are needed to put these medications in the hands of our paramedics.

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, to the member opposite, it's not as simple as sticking a drug in the arm. We have to have proper protocols and the right people trained to do it. In the emergency departments that will receive those patients... Yes, I accept that sooner is better. A few months ago is not as good as if we had done it six years ago. However, we're doing it now.

I applaud the opposition for bringing this up. It's something that we all feel is important, which is quicker care by the right people at the right time with the right training and the right follow-up. That is happening. We're diligent on that, but we want to make sure we do it in the proper fashion, recognizing the expanded scope of our paramedics. It's not on the back burner, Madam Speaker. It's on the front burner. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Conroy** (Miramichi East, PC): It doesn't really sound as though there's any plan or any set time. We've been told by paramedics that it is this simple. They are already trained, and they are already on the trucks. They just need this medication on the trucks with them.

This is already being done in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. If the government members in this Legislature can't change a policy in six months, maybe they could go to those provinces and see how their policies are written out.

Madam Speaker, New Brunswickers are in overwhelming support of paramedics playing a larger role in health care delivery in our province—79% of us, according to a recent survey by Abacus. Time and time again, paramedics have told us that they are ready to play a larger role in health care delivery in our province. We on this side of the House have always advocated for expanding our paramedics' scope of practice. When will the Holt government stop delaying and allow our paramedics to take this increased role in health care, starting with administering thrombolytics?

When, Madam Speaker?

**Hon. Mr. Dornan** (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Madam Speaker, working to scope is indeed a pillar of this government. Too many people, too many professionals, have not worked to scope and have not been happy to work here in New Brunswick. Now we are encouraging paramedics to work to scope. Yes, paramedics do this in Nova Scotia. Thus far, no paramedics have done it here in New Brunswick. You can't just tell paramedics to administer thrombolytics to more people and have them go out and do it. You have to make sure that the paramedics who are doing this are trained to scope. We will support them.

To your other points, we want our paramedics working in the community more. They can do more. That's part of their scope when they're working closely with EMH and an ambulance that goes to a house and gives support there. I feel very bullish about the role that paramedics will play on our team of collaborative care people with EMH and others. Thank you for bringing this up. We all need to work to scope. Thank you very much.

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

### CHILD ABUSE

**Mr. Coon** (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Madam Speaker, the RCMP report says that sexual violations involving New Brunswick children increased 60% from 2023 to 2024. In a public accounts committee meeting in February, the Deputy Minister of Public Safety told me that, of the 24 recommendations the Child Sexual Harm Advisory Committee made to Public Safety back in 2019, only 3—3—had been implemented. At that time, New Brunswick had the third-highest rate of child sexual harm in Canada.

This year, CBC reported that in 2023, New Brunswick had the second-highest rate of child sexual harm. Madam Speaker, with the incidence jumping by 60% last year, we are going to end up with the highest rate in the country. What is happening? Child sexual harm creates unbearable trauma and can destroy lives. Under the Tories' watch, the problem ballooned. What is the Minister of Public Safety doing to bring down the rates of child sexual harm?

[Translation]

**Hon. Mr. Gauvin** (Shediac Bay-Dieppe, Minister of Public Safety; Minister responsible for la Francophonie, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Listen, we're not playing politics on this topic. We take it very seriously. My first conversation with the Premier after she entrusted me with my role... What concerned me the most was human trafficking in New Brunswick. In the beginning, there weren't a lot of statistics on the subject. In August, a CBC report showed that the numbers had spiked in New Brunswick.

We announced the establishment of a unit to combat human trafficking, because girls from 13 to 24 years old are most affected by this kind of tragedy. For the first time in New Brunswick and even in the Atlantic Provinces, we will have a unit to combat human trafficking. Human trafficking must be stopped, because it's one of the worst crimes that can be committed.

The work has not ended. However, we are aware of that. This is a first of many steps to be taken to make the province safer for our young people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Original]

**Mr. Coon** (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Madam Speaker, I'm talking about the sexual abuse of children. The past director of Centre de prévention de la violence, Sylvie LeBlanc, has said that child sexual abuse flourishes in silence. There has been a chilling silence from both the Higgs and Holt governments, reinforced today by this minister, about the staggering rates of child sexual harm in our province.

The 2015 report *Keeping Children and Youth Safe from Harm*, the follow-up 2019 sexual health harm advisory committee recommendations, and the 2024 action plan have been removed from Public Safety's website. Five years ago, in 2020—this is not playing politics—I forced the Conservative government to release the report on this. I was told by the department that its first priority was to figure out how to communicate the findings and recommendations to the public. Well, don't tell us what it concluded. Sexual harm can

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

leave kids suicidal, unable to function, and self-harming, Madam Speaker. What does this minister intend to do to bring down the rates of sexual harm to children—

[Translation]

**Hon. Mr. Gauvin** (Shediac Bay-Dieppe, Minister of Public Safety; Minister responsible for La Francophonie, L): I hope the message will be clear. I don't know why the member opposite is shouting, because we shouldn't play politics about this. Right? I hope the message will be clear.

This government made a historic investment to combat sexual abuse. The investment aims to combat not only human trafficking, but also sexual abuse.

Over a month ago, we held a press conference on the topic. The members opposite weren't there, of course. If they had been there, they would have understood that this is about both human trafficking and sexual abuse.

If the opposition member wants to talk about this, he can come see me and we can discuss it in more detail. We take this issue very seriously. In fact, it does involve children. Is the opposition member telling me a 13-year-old teenage girl doesn't count? This matter involves all children.

In all the history of New Brunswick, such large investments have never been made in this matter. It seems that is not enough for the opposition member, because he is saying things to try to make headlines. As for us, we are acting, we are investing, and we will continue the work. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Original]

## ENERGY

**Mr. Austin** (Fredericton-Grand Lake, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to focus the attention again on NB Power and the critical juncture we're going to be at here in a few years regarding electricity production versus demand. Now, we've heard lots in committee. We've heard lots in this Legislature. We've heard lots of discussion, and we understand the numbers, which indicate that the outlook is not good unless we ramp up electricity production for New Brunswickers. We also heard a story this morning about turbines. Right now, we know there is a massive global backlog of turbines. ProEnergy is going to be using them in Tantramar to ensure that the facility there is running if—if it receives EUB approval in February. Here are my questions for the Minister of Energy: First, are those turbines available should NB Power get approval? Second, if it does not get approval, what's this government going to do about the electricity shortfall we're going to face in a few years?

**Hon. Mr. Legacy** (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite,

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions

because this is a very serious, serious subject. I actually just attended a conference in New England, in Boston, a couple of weeks ago. Energy security is an issue in the New England states. It's in every Maritime Province. It's in Quebec, Ontario—everybody. You go across the pond, in Europe. It is an issue everywhere, and it is an issue in New Brunswick. That is why, when the RIGS project is brought onboard, we will need to have serious discussions in this House, as NB Power is having with its suppliers.

ProEnergy is in the queue right now to have those exact turbines, and the 2028 deadline can be met by ProEnergy. The other proponents did not have the turbines. That's why they couldn't meet the 2028 deadline. The EUB decision has to be made by April 1, because it's essentially still around the deadline. We're going to let the process happen and see how—

[*Translation*]

**Madam Speaker** (Hon. Ms. Landry): Question period is over.