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CONTENTS

HOMELESS SHELTERS
Ms. M. Johnson
Hon. Ms. Miles
Ms. M. Johnson
Hon. Mr. Hickey
Ms. M. Johnson
Hon. Mr. Hickey
FINANCE
Mr. Monahan
Hon. Mr. Legacy
Mr. Monahan
Hon. Mr. Legacy
Mr. Monahan
Hon. Mr. Kennedy

BRIDGES
Ms. Scott-Wallace
Hon. C. Chiasson
Ms. Scott-Wallace
Hon. C. Chiasson
Ms. Scott-Wallace
Hon. C. Chiasson
POINT LEPREAU
Mr. Austin
Hon. Mr. Legacy
Mr. Austin
Hon. Mr. Legacy
Mr. Austin
Hon. Mr. Legacy
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
Mr. Coon
Hon. C. Johnson
Mr. Coon
Hon. C. Johnson
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Mr. Oliver
Hon. Mr. LePage
Mr. Oliver
Hon. Mr. LePage
Mr. Oliver
Hon. Ms. Holt

[*Original*]

HOMELESS SHELTERS

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. With winter only weeks away, the temperatures are already dropping fast. My colleagues on this side of the House have repeatedly drawn attention to the homelessness crisis here, so this should be no shock to the minister. We've had task forces, funding commitments, and many promises made, but winter is not going to wait for this government to get its plans in order. Unhoused New Brunswickers will still be sleeping outside, in their tents, and in their cars, praying for a mild winter. Since we have learned that emergency shelters are going to be accommodating fewer people in this city, can the minister tell this House how many additional emergency shelter beds will be put in place before the temperatures drop and where we can expect to see them?

Hon. Ms. Miles (Hanwell-New Maryland, Minister of Social Development; Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, L): Madam Speaker, through you to the member opposite, thank you for raising this question. I know it feels like we have this conversation at this time every year. We have a team at Social Development and we have a ministerial task force whose members have been working incredibly hard, along with our municipalities and the regional service commissions, to make sure that we have all the spaces that… We'll never have all the spaces that we need, Madam Speaker. Let's be honest. We're doing all we can to make sure that we have the same number of spaces that we had last year. As of right now, we're on track to have the same number of spaces.

One area that we are struggling with a bit right now, which I've talked about in the media, is Fredericton. We're working now with our community partners. We know that we'd like to get an additional 10 beds here in Fredericton. All across the province, we are working with our partners to ensure that we have shelter beds and out-of-the-cold shelters open. I think the member opposite is speaking specifically about the out-of-the-cold shelters. If I'm incorrect about out-of-the-cold shelters, and you want—

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, at this point, the status quo is not the answer. I'm not hearing that there are fewer homeless people on the streets.

In the government members' own words, they set a clear and measurable objective to reduce chronic homelessness by 40% by 2028-29.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, I commend the government for setting a goal. Unfortunately, establishing an objective and really getting that result are two different things. Instead of seeing a long-term reduction in homelessness, we are seeing things heading in the wrong direction.

[*Original*]

Madam Speaker, chronic homelessness is increasing, not decreasing. So, to the Premier, your government has committed to reducing chronic homelessness by 40%. With the numbers moving in the wrong direction, does the Premier genuinely believe that her government is on track to meet its own measurable objective?

Hon. Mr. Hickey (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): We set a clear target to reduce chronic homelessness by 40%, Madam Speaker, and we are committed to delivering for New Brunswickers. We know that the situation here in Fredericton has become increasingly difficult, in particular with the loss of the shelter that was at the exhibition centre. We have made sure that we are securing as many units as we can in the area to ensure that we are meeting the urgent emergency needs of folks living on the street in Fredericton. With that, we have secured 10 beds at the rowing club. We are expanding the work, with the support of the city of Fredericton, at 12 Neighbours to add another 15 units to that space in order to offer more bridge housing options. Our government's approach to this is to continue to offer more options so folks can get out of homelessness, avoiding shelters.

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, so many of our vulnerable populations, including women and children leaving violence, seniors struggling with mental health and addiction, and, unfortunately, many more, are facing particular risks when they have nowhere safe to stay. What additional emergency accommodations will be available for these vulnerable populations this winter? How will the government ensure that they're not competing for the same limited number of shelter spaces?

[*Translation*]

I think it's important not to forget whom we are talking about here. They are human beings. They are our neighbours, our young people, our veterans, our seniors, and people who, because of circumstances that are sometimes beyond their control, have found themselves homeless.

[*Original*]

The number just continues to grow. While the government has formed committees and strategies and made announcements, those living in tents and on the street cannot wait.

[*Translation*]

Will the minister consider introducing a provincial plan in the House for immediate action to fight homelessness during the winter?

[*Original*]

Hon. Mr. Hickey (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have a plan. We released that plan. It's called *A Path Home.* It clearly articulates what this government is doing in the face of the chronic homelessness crisis in this province. We know what the alternative was. We saw homelessness increase under a Higgs-Allain government. That led to the situations we see now. We see an affordability crisis continue to grip this province. When rent goes up by 46%, we know where many New Brunswickers are headed, and that is into increasingly housing-insecure situations, which has led us to the emergency response that we have now. We will ensure that every municipality that is gripped by a chronic homelessness crisis receives the support it needs, but we need partnerships with municipalities. We will continue to support them and make sure that they are adequately funded.

FINANCE

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): Thank you. New Brunswick families are facing an unprecedented affordability crisis. With rising costs for groceries, electricity, fuel, and housing—you name it—homeowners are struggling to make ends meet. Yet when a homeowner pays off their mortgage, sells their home, or switches to another financial institution to secure a better interest rate, they can face additional mortgage discharge fees imposed by their lender. At a time when every single dollar matters, these administrative charges create another financial burden for hard-working New Brunswickers. Will the Minister of Finance commit to examining measures to limit or prohibit mortgage discharge fees charged by financial institutions so that homeowners and hard-working New Brunswickers are not unfairly penalized for paying off their debt or seeking more affordable options?

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. I understand that there is a debatable motion coming this afternoon. I'm wondering whether the member opposite wants to forego all his arguments this afternoon and just finish this up in question period. I believe there's a lot to be said here. Maybe we should follow the process that's already been established and see what comes around in the discussion this afternoon.

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): Yes, and I propose that we change question period to perhaps reflect real answers at some point. However, we'll keep digging away at the minister and see what we can get. He's heard our concerns about mortgage discharge fees and the additional financial burdens that they place on New Brunswick homeowners. However, what's equally concerning is whether these fees actually reflect the administrative costs of discharging a mortgage or whether financial institutions are collecting charges that go well beyond the costs of providing that very service. At a time when all New Brunswickers and families are being asked to tighten their belts, financial

institutions should do the same and be accountable. Will the Minister of Finance tell this House that oversights exist to ensure mortgage discharge fees are reasonable, transparent, and directly related to the actual administrative costs incurred by financial institutions?

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): Madam Speaker, I find this line of questioning very interesting. These are almost verbatim the questions I want to ask the member this afternoon, when we debate the motion. He says we've heard his concerns. All we've heard about is a motion from the opposition. If he has some kind of proof or some kind of group that is supporting this with data to back it up, please, bring it this afternoon. We'll have a great discussion. Right now, all we're hearing is rhetoric.

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): This government wants to talk about addressing the affordability crisis, and we as the official opposition are bringing forward points to address this very issue. Yet the Minister of Finance doesn't want to answer. That's okay. New Brunswickers will see this and judge for themselves. We continue to hear this government talk about it, but New Brunswickers are still waiting for meaningful measures when it comes to the financial pressures they face. This government cannot control every household expense. It can't. It can't identify unnecessary fees, challenge unfair practices, and advocate for stronger consumer protections. New Brunswickers, like everyone, deserve a better promise than that the government will study affordability.

They deserve measurable results. For a third time, will the Minister of Finance actually conduct a broader review of the financial institution fees affecting New Brunswick homeowners and identify specific fees that could be reduced or eliminated to provide immediate financial relief?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. Kennedy (Quispamsis, Minister of Local Government; Minister responsible for Service New Brunswick, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

It's quite rich to hear opposition members talk about affordability. Over the past couple of weeks, all we've heard about is how they hate universal free breakfast programs in schools, they hate affordable lunch programs in schools, and—the *coup de grâce*—they hate the rent cap. It's all very much on-brand for the Higgs-Allain government. What they loved was forced amalgamations in rural New Brunswick, as you referenced last week when you presented a petition on behalf of your constituents.

It's interesting that the new leader of the PC Party is nowhere to be seen in this Legislative Assembly. He doesn't want to be in this House. How come no one in his 16-member caucus has offered up their seat for him? Anyone? Anyone? Bueller? What about the member for Saint John East? He doesn't seem too happy that he was fired from his job as opposition leader on Mr. Allain's first day in business. Come on, Madam Speaker. Mr. Allain should dip his toe in the pool. The water's warm.

[*Translation*]

The water's warm.

[*Original*]

BRIDGES

Ms. Scott-Wallace (Sussex-Three Rivers, PC): Oh, dear. Anyway, Madam Speaker, in May, I tabled a petition in this Legislature signed by constituents demanding the replacement of the Maple Avenue bridge in Sussex. At the time, the minister said that the project is "complex", that his department was working on it, and that he would explore ways to expedite it. Well, many months have passed, including a very challenging tourism season with tens of thousands of motorists navigating the town.

While I appreciate that a new bridge may be at the top of many MLAs' Christmas wish lists, it doesn't mean that the people of Sussex should be ignored. Under the previous government, the bridge was scheduled for replacement in 2027. The current government not only closed the bridge but also pushed the project to 2028. Minister, my riding needs to know: What progress has actually been made? What's holding up this project? When will Sussex finally get a firm commitment?

Hon. C. Chiasson (Grand Falls—Vallée-des-Rivières—Saint-Quentin, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question. One thing that's holding it up for sure is the fact that rail infrastructure is close by. That complicates the issue and makes it a little harder. It takes some careful planning.

One thing I can say is that the bridge was in trouble long before we arrived on the scene. Now, in 2019, when Blaine Higgs pulled $127 million out of the road budget, nobody said boo. Nobody said: I need a bridge in Sussex. In 2020, when he pulled $122 million out of the road budget, nobody said boo. Nobody said: I need a bridge in Sussex. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, a total of $450 million was dragged out of the road budget. Nobody over there said boo. Now they're all complaining that we're not getting their work done. They should have done it.

Ms. Scott-Wallace (Sussex-Three Rivers, PC): Do you know what? I think I just got done saying that the previous government had that bridge on the road ahead plan for 2027, and this minister has pushed it to 2028. He also closed the bridge. Do you know what? Let's be honest. The minister doesn't know the answer. He doesn't know when this bridge project will happen. I'm not sure, but I think an answer is out there. I'm just not so sure he knows his file.

The Maple Avenue bridge closure is not simply an inconvenience. It is a safety concern and an eyesore in the heart of Sussex. It is a disruption for local businesses and a frustration for residents and visitors. Replacement is necessary, and no one disputes that. However, the community needs to know when.

In April 2025, the town sent the minister an urgent request to move the timeline to 2026, and the people of this community don't write very often, Madam Speaker. Patience is running out, minister. Will we see the Maple Avenue bridge replaced in 2027? The community cannot wait until 2028.

Hon. C. Chiasson (Grand Falls—Vallée-des-Rivières—Saint-Quentin, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can certainly understand the frustration of the people of Sussex. They have every right to be frustrated. That bridge was in trouble a long time ago and should have been addressed a long time ago, but it wasn't.

We're stuck picking up the pieces, as we always do, Madam Speaker. We are doing our best. The department is doing its best to get that bridge done as quickly as possible. Madam Speaker, there are always complications when we're moving services and when we're dealing with other infrastructure that's close by. Those are things that we have to overcome. They take time, Madam Speaker. We will overcome it. We are trying to get that bridge done as soon as possible.

Now, let's talk about the three-year plan, the very plan that, in the last year of the Higgs government, had 52 changes made to it—52 changes in one year, Madam Speaker. I've been in place here for two… We're going into our third year. I've made two changes to the three-year plan, Madam Speaker, and they were changes that were necessary because of service movement.

Ms. Scott-Wallace (Sussex-Three Rivers, PC): There were two changes, Madam Speaker, and one was to harm the people of Sussex and their bridge. Bridge infrastructure in the Sussex region is horrific. It's in horrific condition, Madam Speaker. We have the disaster with the Maple Avenue bridge in downtown Sussex. Outside of the Sussex town limits, we have several covered bridges with such low weight limits that buses can't get kids to school, fire trucks can't save burning houses, and farmers can't access their fields. I've been asking for two years about what repairs are coming for the covered bridge on Roachville Road. Just last month, the weight limit on the Plumweseep covered bridge dropped to 3 t. Yet, when I

have asked for an update on when this is going to be fixed, the answer has always been the same for weeks, months, and years now: We're working on it. We just heard that again. Covered bridges are key to our infrastructure in rural regions. They aren't just quaint or a perfect backdrop for family photos, Madam Speaker. The minister said before that DTI is working on a plan for the province's much-loved covered bridges. Minister, where—

Hon. C. Chiasson (Grand Falls—Vallée-des-Rivières—Saint-Quentin, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to the member opposite for the question. Madam Speaker, covered bridges are a special breed of their own. When a covered bridge gets downgraded, it follows a natural progression. At one point, it is up to, I believe, 34 t. Then, it is brought down to 15 t, then to 10 t, then to 5 t, then to 3 t. It's a natural progression that takes years, Madam Speaker. Again, these covered bridges were in trouble long before I ever came onto the scene. There was no action taken at that point in time. Right now, because of the $450 million that the previous government sucked out of the road budget, we're behind the eight ball, Madam Speaker. We have many bridges, not just in the member opposite's region, but all over the province, that are in trouble and need attention, Madam Speaker. We are doing our best to undo the bottleneck that the previous government created. Madam Speaker, we will get there.

POINT LEPREAU

Mr. Austin (Fredericton-Grand Lake, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In June of this year, the EUB heard testimony related to an application by NB Power for retroactive approval of a capital project to rewind the main generator at Point Lepreau. The work involved replacing 144 stator bars after a fault was discovered during a maintenance outage. Can the minister tell this Assembly how much that cost, both in terms of capital and the cost of replacement power while Lepreau was down?

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): Madam Speaker, those costs are usually brought up at EUB hearings whenever NB Power applies for deferral accounts or submits a rate application. That will be done in due time.

Mr. Austin (Fredericton-Grand Lake, PC): Let me give the minister a ballpark, which I'm sure he's aware of but doesn't want to say on the floor of the Legislature. The information gathered from several sources shows costs ranging from $480 million to as high as $558 million, according to the *Telegraph-Journal*. In that hearing, the EUB gave a backhanded slap to NB Power in saying this: By failing to obtain an expert opinion on the critical issue of how long the temporary repair might be effective, NB Power deprived the EUB of the ability to meaningfully assess whether the selected option was prudent compared to others. Does this minister agree with the perspective of the EUB, and if so, what is he doing to hold NB Power to account and to ensure that the proper process is followed in the future?

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): Madam Speaker, I believe what came out of the EUB hearing were some questions. Now, keep in mind what we're talking about. This is a nuclear plant. The discussion that came about from the *Telegraph-Journal* article is this: Should we have pushed a temporary solution on very, very critical infrastructure?

It was deemed prudent by the board of NB Power. Afterward, the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) affirmed that this was the most prudent, risk-averse approach to take. They could still have questions, but what they were questioning was the process. That's all it was. But keep in mind that this is a nuclear plant. Is the member opposite willing to gamble that kind of asset on temporary solutions?

Mr. Austin (Fredericton-Grand Lake, PC): Madam Speaker, the EUB said this was prudent based on the information it received from the NB Power consultant hired by NB Power. Now, where NB Power failed was in following due process so the EUB could get the whole picture and do its job effectively. It did not get the whole picture. As a matter of fact, the consultant NB Power hired was not asked how long the temporary repair might safely last. He was not asked whether it could hold through a second winter until April 2026. He was not asked to evaluate options three or four, which could have saved $158 million. He was asked to give an opinion on the choice that NB Power had already made and presented to the EUB. A CBC headline asked, "Did an unasked question cost NB Power customers $158 million?" I'll ask this minister the same question: Could millions have been saved if the consultant had concluded that the Point Lepreau repair could wait?

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): Madam Speaker, listen to the questions: Could we have taken a temporary solution and made it last longer? Could we have made it last for another winter? Could we have just kept it together long enough with duct tape, baling wire, or whatever you want?

Is that what we want with a nuclear plant? We were looking at a potential critical failure of this asset. You don't take chances with nuclear plants. You do not take chances with nuclear plants. That is not the way it works. That's what was said, and that's what we brought up to the EUB. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Mr. Coon (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The most recent Child and Youth Advocate's report, *Before We Blame Inclusion,* highlights unacceptable gaps in interventions when it's clear that students need support from a specialist. As the Advocate pointed out, the system is supposed to "work quickly to get kids help before they are in a disruptive crisis". After reviewing the cases of 200 youth, the Advocate found that

those having issues when they were 7 years old didn't receive any meaningful help until they were 12, and by that point, it was far too late.

How can that be, Madam Speaker? School districts have not been held accountable to fix the gap by their elected district education councils or the deputy ministers, teachers are being discouraged from highlighting the lack of resources, and the children are suffering. I expect the Education Minister was as shocked as I was to hear this. What does she intend to do to direct her deputy ministers?

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we are as concerned as the member opposite is when we hear stories where there is a long time between when a student starts to struggle and intervention. That's exactly why we have now directed schools to intervene as soon as there is a sign of a challenge. We don't wait for a diagnosis. We don't wait for that anymore. We intervene right away, as soon as a child needs help.

That's why it's so important to have those resources close to where students are. That's why we've invested in educational assistants, academic support teachers, and resource teachers. It's to be sure that we are providing those supports as soon as students need them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Coon (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Madam Speaker, it does come down to resources. The premise is supposed to be that government departments will provide services for students based on need. Figuring out who will pay is something that can be worked out later. Yet, this is not happening. In his report, the Child and Youth Advocate even identified cases where the provincial government denied requests to pay for services for Indigenous youth despite its responsibility to do so under Jordan's Principle.

Our legislative officer responsible for upholding the rights of children points out in his report that the problem is not that the inclusion policy includes too many troubled 13-year-olds in classrooms. It's that the education system fails to act quickly to help these children when they are 7 years old so they don't become troubled 13-year-olds. Will the minister direct her department and the school districts to provide services without worrying about who will pay so that this does not happen to children?

[*Translation*]

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Madam Speaker, yes, we have the same types of worries. This is one of the reasons that we are currently working to highlight the best resources and the necessary expertise to support our young people in the classroom.

We are working with different departments to ensure that, if the basic problem is health-related, we will get resources in that area. One of the programs that we are really proud of

is a partnership developed with the Extra-Mural Program. That is exactly the work that this partnership enables us to accomplish. When the necessary assistance is related to health, we need resources in that area. The same goes for social development.

So, we're trying to work with the other departments to provide the necessary services at the right time. We will determine who will pay the bill afterwards. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Oliver (Kings Centre, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. All around our province, people are saying that cell coverage is getting worse. If you want to start a conversation in any coffee shop, just ask folks what they think of cell coverage. You're bound to hear about the growing dead zones. People will say that they could once drive from place to place and have dependable coverage, but no more. Whether it's Moncton to Shediac, Saint John to Fredericton, Bathurst to Shippagan, or Grand Falls to Woodstock, this is happening from anywhere to everywhere and all points in between. I'm sure that members on both sides of the House could add to that list. Talk to a first responder, and you'll learn that the Holt government has a growing public safety issue on its hands. When dead zones grow, public safety concerns grow. Does the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure acknowledge that growing dead zones are an increasing public safety issue?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. LePage (Restigouche West, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

As I stated the other day, I completely understand that there are lapses and gaps in cell coverage. I've travelled the province. You've travelled the province. There are gaps. The issue, again… We've made a lot of investments. We invested $10 million last year, and the towers will go up. Thanks to my colleague, the minister of DTI, we're going to use 10 towers and put some infrastructure on those to increase coverage across the province—10 towers. We're building four more towers in the province in the next few months. Now, the issue, again, is to get the right proponent for those towers to make sure that people have the service where they need it. Thank you.

Mr. Oliver (Kings Centre, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad that the minister accepts the fact that this is an important issue. Before, we used to wonder about school buses. They weren't an issue until they were. Now, we're talking about cellphone coverage.

I'm sure the minister has been briefed on the comprehensive 50-page report, released at the end of September, on cell service in the Acadian Peninsula. The very first call to action for the Holt government, I believe, echoes the feelings of all rural New Brunswickers: Officially recognize the reliability of rural cellular communications as an issue of public safety and regional equity that affects access to essential services and economic development. Can the minister tell us if or how this growing problem is connected to the big contract the government signed with Bell that was supposed to make things better? And has the minister had conversations with other providers to see whether they have the technology to make cellphone service better in the province?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. LePage (Restigouche West, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

We looked at the data on where the biggest gaps were in the province, and we built our cell service strategy on the data that we had. Unfortunately, that data was a few years old, so we collected data again this summer. We went across the province to figure out where the biggest gaps were, and we will act on those results with our next round of investments. By the way, what did the Higgs-Allain government do with respect to cell towers when we were crying out that we needed cell coverage back home, way back in 2016, 2017, and 2018? We didn't get it. We asked for a lot of help, but we were never answered. We did it. We did it across the province, including in the Acadian Peninsula, in Restigouche, and elsewhere.

[*Translation*]

Thank you.

[*Original*]

Mr. Oliver (Kings Centre, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to address this question to the Premier. As of October 1, 2024, the Holt Liberal platform stated: "All New Brunswickers deserve equal access to critical digital infrastructure".

The government members were: "committed to improving cell phone coverage… in the province to ensure access to digital healthcare, education, and economic development".

The Premier said: "It's unacceptable that in 2024, some regions of New Brunswick can't count on quality, reliable cell phone service".

She also said that her team would prioritize working with all available partners "to get New Brunswickers the access to cell and internet coverage they deserve".

I'm quoting again: "A Holt government will take advantage of federal programs to ensure… access to high-speed internet" and "work with experts and industry to put a plan in place to ensure wireless cell coverage across the province to reduce public safety risks".

Premier, it is now two years later, and we are waiting for these improvements. Tell us your plan and why it has not occurred.

Hon. Ms. Holt (Fredericton South-Silverwood, Premier; Minister responsible for Official Languages, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thanks to the member opposite for the question. At the risk of repeating what my colleague has already said, the way the member opposite described this is exactly right. We recognized the problem. We immediately went to work looking for data. There was no up-to-date data, so we put a plan in place to get up-to-date data. We started negotiating with the companies that are out there—multiple companies, not only Bell but also Rogers and Telus—to see what opportunities existed. We realized that we could put infrastructure on existing towers and move very quickly to do that, so we did. We also made investments in the North, a typically neglected area under the Higgs-Allain government. It's towers from our government that have improved coverage, and we aren't stopping there. It's part of the plan we have in place to improve cellphone coverage to make sure that economies and safety are being looked after in every corner of our province, rural and urban. That's what our government committed to doing, and it's exactly what we're doing.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Ms. Landry): Question period has expired.