



# *Legislative Activities*



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

2005

# *Legislative Activities*

2005



## New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Michael Malley

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick



April 30, 2006.

The Honourable Michael Malley  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 31, Legislative Building  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the seventeenth annual report  
of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



Loredana Catalli Sonier  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



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# Year in Review

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## *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Loredana Catalli Sonier*

The Second Session of the 55th Legislature resumed on January 4, 2005, and continued during the months of January, March, April, May, June and December, for a total of 58 sitting days.

During the January 6 sitting, Premier Bernard Lord informed the Assembly of the passing of Louis J. Robichaud (1925-2005), former Premier of New Brunswick. Premier Lord recognized Mr. Robichaud's contribution to the province as a Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly (Kent, 1952-1971), as Leader of the Liberal Party (1958-1971), as Premier (1960-1970) and as Senator (1973-2000). Mr. Graham, Leader of the Opposition, and Ms. Weir, New Democratic Party Leader, joined with the Premier in offering condolences and paying tribute to the former Premier's accomplishments. The House was immediately adjourned until January 18, out of respect for the former Premier and his family.

On January 19, Premier Lord tabled the Final Report and Recommendations of the Commission on Legislative Democracy. The Commission, which had been established in the fall of 2003 with a broad mandate to modernize the province's democratic institutions, brought forward 90 recommendations including a new electoral system termed "New Brunswick Mixed Member Proportional"; an October fixed election date every four years; an independent process to re-draw electoral boundaries after every decennial census; an independent electoral commission "Elections New Brunswick"; an enhanced role for MLAs to make them more independent; new rules to make political parties more open and democratic; measures to nominate more women as candidates for the legislature; and steps to involve Aboriginal people in becoming more involved in the province's democratic life.

On April 12, the House adopted a motion recommending the appointment of Patrick A.A. Ryan as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for a term of five years. Mr. Justice Ryan has had a distinguished career as a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench and as a Justice of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick. The House expressed its appreciation to retiring Commissioner Stuart G. Stratton, New Brunswick's first Conflict of Interest Commissioner, for his professional and dedicated service.

On April 26, Speaker Bev Harrison drew the attention of Members to the two magnificent chandeliers, returned to the Chamber after six months of intensive restoration. Both the north and south chandeliers were restored after the latter crashed on the Chamber floor on November 8, 2002, during annual maintenance.

From April 29 to May 1, the Assembly hosted the 16th Annual Student Legislative Seminar. Throughout the three-day seminar, 49 students representing high schools throughout the province attended workshops and lectures focussing on the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. The weekend culminated on Sunday morning when the students participated in a Model Parliament within the Assembly's historic Chamber. For the second successive year, the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, opened the Model Parliament with a Throne Speech. Speaker Harrison presided as students entered into their own debates in the House to pass or defeat motions and pieces of legislation, all of which they had written themselves around topics of concern to students.

During the spring sitting, the House followed a legislative calendar (three weeks on and one week off), which allowed Members to organize schedules and plan constituency business for the weeks that the House was not sitting. Given the heavy workload and numerous Bills before the House, the Assembly, which was scheduled to adjourn on June 10, carried on past the scheduled end date, adjourning on June 30 to December 6, 2005.

On June 21, Speaker Harrison informed the House of the decision of the National Council of the Canadian Cancer Society to recognize the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick's significant contribution to cancer control by awarding the Special Recognition Award, in appreciation for enacting the *Smoke-free Places Act*.

The Assembly hosted three parliamentary conferences during the year. From February 17 to 20, the New Brunswick section of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie hosted la Conférence des Présidents de section, which included delegates from Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Maine, Canada and la Région Amériq. The Assembly hosted the 25th Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference from June 23 to 26, 2005. Topics discussed during

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professional development sessions included Attracting Immigrants to Atlantic Canada - the PEI Experience; Challenge Facing Rural Communities in an Urbanized World, and Democratic Reform. From September 26 to 28, 2005, the Legislative Assembly hosted its first meeting of the New Brunswick / Québec Parliamentary Association. The agreement establishing the new association was signed in Québec City on September 1, 2004, with the aim of strengthening the close ties and bonds of friendship that exist between Québec and New Brunswick, and providing a regular forum for meeting between members of the two assemblies. Parliamentary reform and forestry management were two of the themes of the meeting.

On October 13, former NDP Leader and MLA for Saint John Harbour, Elizabeth Weir, resigned as a Member of the Legislative Assembly to accept an appointment as President and CEO of the new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick. Ms. Weir was first elected in the 1991 general election to represent the constituency of Saint John South. She was re-elected in three subsequent elections as the Member for Saint John Harbour.

A by-election held November 14, 2005, to fill the vacancy created in the riding of Saint John Harbour, resulted in the election of Liberal candidate Dr. Ed Doherty, a well-known and accomplished Saint John ophthalmologist. The new member was sworn-in at a ceremony held in the Chamber on November 30, 2005. Dr. Doherty's election changed the party standings in the House to 28 Progressive Conservatives and 27 Liberals.

Standing committees remained active throughout the year, meeting a total of 74 days. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations each held several weeks of meetings in an effort to bring the review of government departments and Crown agencies up to date. Due to the ongoing restoration of the plaster ceilings in the Legislative Council Chamber – which serves as the main committee room – legislative committees held hearings on the floor of the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Second Session was prorogued the morning of December 6, 2005.

The Third Session was opened by Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson in the afternoon of December 6, 2005. On December 7, John Betts (Moncton Crescent) was appointed Deputy Speaker to replace Trevor Holder, who was appointed to Cabinet on November 21, 2005, as the Minister of Environment and Local Government. Rule changes adopted by the House created two new standing committees - the Standing Committee on Education and the Standing Committee on Health Care, and a new Standing Committee on Legislative Officers to replace the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman. Due to the close standings in the House, the Speaker was required to cast several deciding votes during the session. On December 23, after sitting three weeks, and adopting a sessional calendar for the balance of the Third Session, the House was adjourned to March 28, 2006.

Legislation establishing an Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance came into force on January 1, 2005. On the Assembly's recommendation, Ronald Godin was appointed the first Consumer Advocate for Insurance. The Legislative Assembly office provided administrative, technical, finance and human resource support for this new office, which is located in Bathurst.

Technology initiatives during the year included a major upgrade to the Assembly's servers and to the digital recording system, the addition of a new Integrated Library System, software and security upgrades and computer links for the Table and the permanent officers of the House. The Legislative Library has implemented numerous improvements in recent years, including a new on-line catalogue, which is more reliable, easier to search and allows patrons to save searches. The new automated circulation system is linked to the on-line catalogue, allowing patrons to check loan status and place requests on-line.

To broadcast proceedings of the House, the Assembly secured a dedicated parliamentary channel on Rogers Cable's basic cable service. The Assembly acquired its own professional television broadcasting system that will include fixed robotic cameras. The parliamentary channel, which will air on channel 70, is expected to commence operating by March 28, 2006, when the House is scheduled to resume.

The Legislative Administration Committee adopted a number of the key recommendations of a "Building

Assessment and Master Plan for the Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of the Legislative Assembly Building”. The document, *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* was adopted as the basis for the model conservation philosophy for the Legislative Assembly Building. The replacement of the metal roof and flashings and the building’s wheelchair entrance were identified as major priorities for 2006-2007.

The Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission, co-chaired by Madam Justice Margaret Larlee and Madam Justice Brigitte Robichaud, released its preliminary report on November 21, 2005. In response to shifts in population, the Commission proposed adding electoral districts in the Fredericton and Dieppe-Moncton areas, and eliminating one in each of the southwest and northeastern regions of the province. The Commission, whose members were recommended by the Legislative Administration

Committee, was mandated to redraw the province’s electoral boundaries to ensure that the population is more evenly distributed among the 55 electoral districts. The Commission will hold public hearings in January 2006, to receive public input on the contents of the preliminary report.

Four new employees joined the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office in 2005: Rachelle Cormier (Office of the Clerk); Anthony Lovesey (Legislative Library); Josée Bourque (Debates Translation); and Hannah Fulton (Office of the Official Opposition).

The Legislative Library underwent the most change and will face new challenges with the retirement of three long-serving employees, Librarians Peggy Goss, and Jean-Claude Arcand and Margie Pacey, the Legislative Librarian, who retired at the end of November, after 30 years with the Legislative Library.



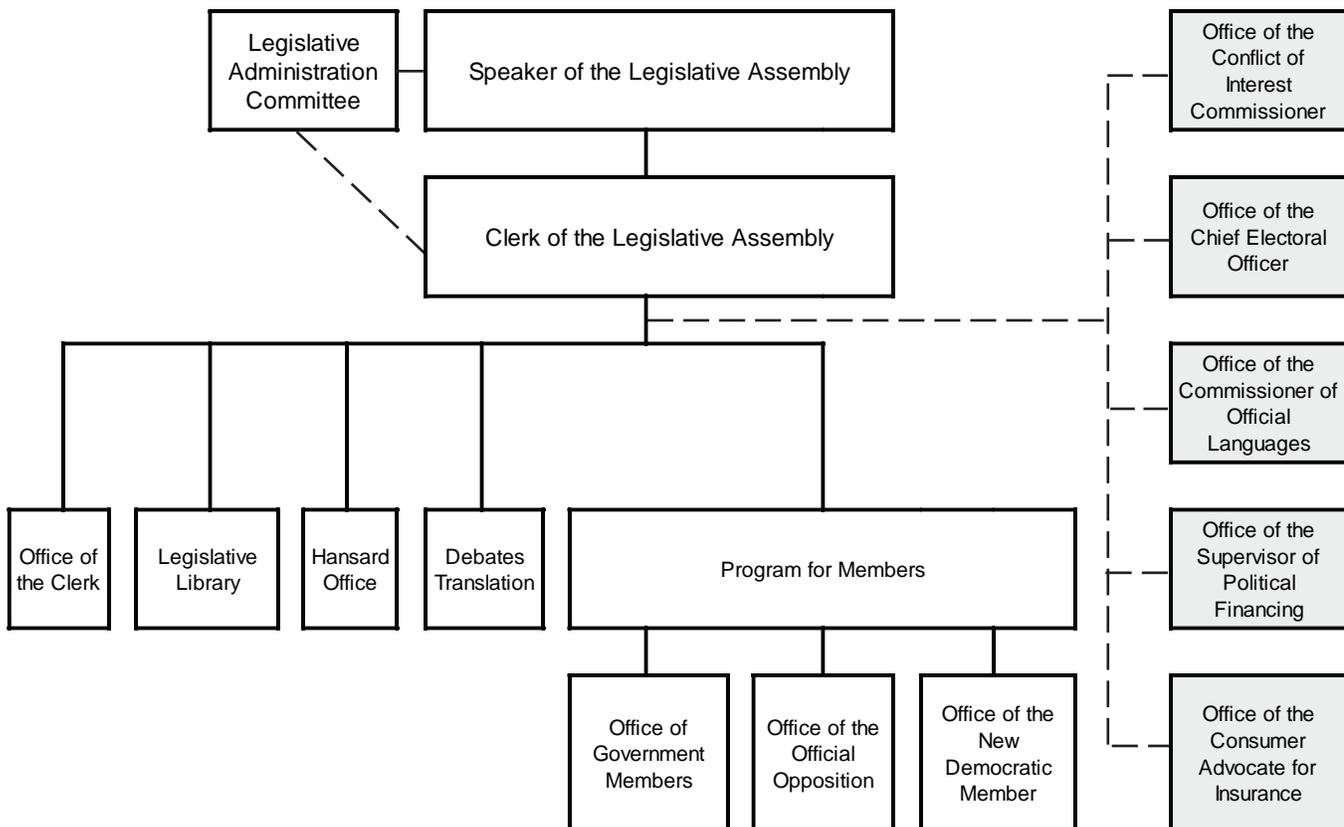
*Sergeant-at-Arms Dan Bussi res in the Rotunda. New Brunswickers were invited to share their thoughts and expressions in a Book of Condolence in remembrance of former Premier Louis J. Robichaud (1925 - 2005).*

# Office of the Legislative Assembly

## Mission Statement

1. To assist the Legislative Assembly in fostering respect for the institution and privileges of parliamentary democracy.
2. To provide assistance and support to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, their staff and the public.
3. To provide impartial and confidential service to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.
4. To record the proceedings and maintain the records of the Legislative Assembly.
5. To provide public education and information services on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.
6. To provide administrative, financial, and human resources to certain statutory offices reporting to the Legislative Assembly.

## Organizational Chart



# Functional Statements

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## 1. *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly*

- The Clerk is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker and to the Members and acts as Secretary to the Legislative Administration Committee. Appointed by resolution of the House, the Clerk is responsible for a wide range of administrative and procedural duties relating to the work of the House and its Committees. The Clerk of the Legislature is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a Deputy Minister of a government department.

## 2. *Office of the Clerk*

- Produces the Journal, Orders of the Day and maintains the official permanent records of the Assembly.
- Provides procedural advice and support services to the chairs and members of committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides public education and information services to Members, to government, and to the private sector.
- Provides administrative support to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides financial and human resource management services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides administrative, financial and human resource support to the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick, Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance.

## 3. *Legislative Library*

- Provides information and reference services to Members of the Legislative Assembly.

## 4. *Hansard Office*

- Records and transcribes House proceedings (Hansard) for the Members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; records and transcribes legislative committee proceedings for members of the Legislative Assembly.

## 5. *Debates Translation*

- Translates House proceedings (Hansard) and the Journal for Members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; translates speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly, reports for legislative committees, and procedural and administrative material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

## 6. *Sergeant-at-Arms*

- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

## 7. *Program for Members*

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

# Repair and Restoration of Chandeliers

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Focal points of the Legislative Chamber are its magnificent crystal chandeliers, manufactured in the English style of the 1880s, composed of brass frames, opaque white glass reflector panels, lead crystal prisms and lead crystal globes. Each chandelier holds almost 600 pieces of individual leaded and crystal glass, handcrafted in the former Czech Republic and in Ireland by Waterford Crystal. Originally gas powered – hence the original name “gasolier” – the chandeliers had to be lowered and raised each time the gas burners were lit. In fact, they are still fitted with the mechanism which allows them to be lowered to the floor and raised to the ceiling. In March of 1888, the Fredericton Electric Light Company was paid \$71.10 for installing electric light fixtures in the Parliament Buildings in the Assembly Chamber, the Council Chamber, the foyer and the main hallway. Sometime before 1920, the chandeliers were converted to electricity.

On November 14, 2001, the chandeliers were relit after an extensive refurbishment. An earlier refurbishment of the chandeliers, begun as part of renovations to the interior of the Chamber and completed in 1988, included replacing missing prisms, cleaning and lacquering brass and rewiring.

In 2001 the two magnificent pink brass and Waterford crystal chandeliers suspended in the Chamber underwent extensive restoration which included the replacement of the winch mechanisms to lower and raise the fixtures. This reconditioning was undertaken after a plastic panel fell from the main body of a previously damaged chandelier (the north unit). For personnel to assess the situation, the chandeliers were lowered. The entire stability of the fixtures was questioned in terms of the supporting structure, the capacity of the existing winches, the adequacy of existing wiring and the holding capacity of the wired connections. After consultations with the Canadian Conservation Institute, staff of the Department of Supply and Services and the Culture and Sport Secretariat of the Department of Education, a time period from February 5 to March 20 was set aside to complete the work necessary to refurbish the chandeliers to their original magnificence.

Ned Bowes of Shades of Light who had been involved with the earlier 1985 renovation was contracted to do the work. A cherry picker was brought into the Chamber and all the crystals (prisms) and globes were removed. On February 21, each chandelier was

lowered and placed on a custom-made table outfitted with a rigid insulation top to cradle the body of the chandelier. At this point, the electrical inspector advised that rewiring would have to meet CSA approval.

It was decided that rather than having the three-piece stem with questionable threaded joints, a one-piece support would be safer. The existing gas wheel at the base of each unit with its taped outlets was removed and replaced with a new CSA approved unit (the original wheels along with other replaced parts were photographed and placed in the New Brunswick Heritage Collection).

On February 26, the main stem assembly of each fixture was removed and dismantled. Previously damaged brass pieces from the main stem were removed for repair to the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. One piece was damaged beyond repair and had to be reproduced. Due to a recall of the House the next day, the staging had to be removed from the Chamber and the chandeliers relocated to the third floor Rotunda area.

In mid-May the chandelier parts were shipped to Unilight Ltd. in Montreal for rewiring and repair of the previously damaged unit.

On October 8, the chandeliers were returned to the Department of Supply and Services shop at the corner of Brunswick and St. John Streets for reassembling and refinishing with “Incralac”. By November 5 all the chandelier crystals had been rewired by the specialist at Unilight Ltd. and all wire clips and ties had been renewed with 21 gauge copper wire, after the previously used snare wire was considered inadequate. The main bodies of the chandeliers were returned to the Chamber and mounted on custom-made stands. By November 12, 2001, the chandeliers were hanging in their original places and the crystals were put in place after the chandeliers were raised.

On November 8, 2002, almost one year after the restoration and several days before the Legislature was scheduled to sit, the south chandelier crashed to the floor while it was being raised after it had been lowered for cleaning.

The most significant damage was to the ornate pink brass chandelier frame and to the majority of the 574 pieces of Waterford crystal suspended from the frame including several of the chandelier’s 18 lead crystal globes. Temporary lighting was installed

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until the restoration of the south chandelier could be completed.

The objective of the restoration was to retain as much of the original artistry as possible.

During 2003, the Legislative Administration Committee undertook extensive research and consultation to identify qualified contractors to undertake the repair and restoration of the south chandelier extensively damaged in 2002 as a result of the failure of the chandelier's lowering system. The Legislative Assembly worked closely with staff of the Culture and Sport Secretariat during this process.

Nancy Reid of Heritage Services was engaged in the summer of 2003 to oversee the heritage and conservation aspects of the restoration and repair project.

The initial review of the damage considered the brass structural elements and crystal while supplementary assessments on electrical and mechanical aspects were carried out by D.M. Steeves and Associates Ltd. It was concluded that the south chandelier could be restored and that both fixtures required electrical and mechanical upgrades to conform to current safety codes.

In October 2004, after requests for proposals (RFPs) were issued to companies demonstrating technical expertise, sensitivity to heritage, and the experience necessary to undertake specialized restoration work on 19th century fixtures, the contract was awarded to Acu-Bright Inc., of East Kingston, New Hampshire. The proposal from Acu-Bright addressed the terms of reference of the RFP and the time frame for completion of the repairs was March 31, 2005.

The goals of the project were:

- repair and restore the damaged fixture;
- replace the crystal destroyed in the accident;
- ensure that both fixtures were as historically appropriate as possible, given that these gas lights had been substantially modified for electrification;
- ensure the mechanical and electrical safety of the fixtures.

In November 2004, the Acu-Bright team under the direction of Nancy Reid and D.M. Steeves and Associates, removed the components of the damaged south chandelier as well as the north chandelier to their New Hampshire and Massachusetts workshops.

On the south chandelier damaged in the accident, the goal was to save as much of the original structure as possible, respecting the historical integrity of the piece while, at the same time, ensuring that this massive fixture was functional and safe for use in a public building.

A master metal smith and machinist repaired the south chandelier's brass structure, saving as much of the original as possible. Treatment to the north chandelier included reversing damage done by earlier handling and matching the appearance, function and safety of the south fixture. As a result of age, the conversion from gas to electricity, and treatments administered over time, the chandeliers exhibited crude modifications and cuts to the metal for wire installation, they lacked original parts, and the central steel masts, replaced in 2001, were found to vary in length.

Parts of the south chandelier x-rayed for structural soundness indicated that few parts would need to be replaced with reproduction pieces – nearly all were retrievable. After straightening the brass by hammering or rolling, the earlier lacquer was stripped, tears to the metal were soldered and colour matched, and the chandelier was lacquered with Inralac, a product approved for use by the Canadian Conservation Institute.

The few components that were reproduced were etched with the mark R2005 to distinguish them from the original. Among the reproduced brass parts were six globe branch arms and the curved side pipes holding the left and right globes (reproduced for structural safety – holes had been cut through during electrification). Reproduction gas cocks were added on the globe branches; the lighting hub in the centre of the fixture redesigned and replaced; and the steel core masts reproduced.

Upon inspection, the lighting hub replaced in 2001 was found to have structural flaws, did not match the appearance of the original gas ring, and was an electrical safety concern. To improve the appearance of the ring, half the light sockets were removed. To retain the same light level, 200-watt bulbs were used. The globe branch arms continue to use the 100 watt colourless nonfrosted heavy-use bulbs. The lights conform to CSA and UL standards. The ring itself is finished in a brushed 85/15 brass/copper alloy which gives it a close colour match to the original chandelier.

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All globes are original 1880 hand blown lead crystal with a wheel engraved grape foliate motif. A significant number of original and reproduced 1987 prisms were replaced from two sources. The seven-inch spear shaped prisms are mass produced lead crystal from the Czech Republic and are distinguished from the originals by their colourless glass quality compared to the amber age patina of the originals. Waterford reproduced the nine and eleven-inch prisms a second time, the first order being found to be inferior. The prisms are blue-white in colour and are hallmarked.

The wiring was redone according to current standards. The prisms are well secured and move easily with air currents. Master glass blowers and cutters from Massachusetts repaired two cut crystal ball finials which were broken in the fall.

All of the white glass reflector panels at the centre of each chandelier have been replaced over time. During the 1980s, the conservator found replacements of opaque white plastic and even plywood painted white. A bead of heat resistant silicone was used to secure these delicate panels in place.

### *Re-installation Summary*

In April 2005, Acu-Bright returned to Fredericton with the repaired and restored brass frames of both the north and the south fixtures. Throughout the repair process, the work was monitored by Nancy Reid of Heritage Services and D.M. Steeves Associates Ltd.

The fixtures were reassembled, the mechanical connections made and the chandeliers were winched for the final time and locked into place. The electrical connections completed included the addition of a dimmer control in the attic to recreate the lighting levels of the 1880s when the fixtures were gas lit. This lower lighting level will continue when the Legislature is not in session to provide a warmer ambient historically appropriate illumination for the Chamber. As an added benefit, it will reduce the amount of electricity used when this feature is engaged.

The prisms and globes were reattached to the chandeliers at this time; however, the remaining pieces handcrafted in Waterford, Ireland, were installed during the summer of 2005.

On April 26, 2005, Speaker Harrison noted the return of the two magnificent chandeliers after a two-year restoration project. Much effort has gone into the rehabilitation of the brass framework and decorative metals and replacement of crystal prisms of the south

chandelier which was extensively damaged in 2002. Every effort was made by the restoration contractor to preserve existing elements of the fixtures. The only primary elements that have been replaced are the main structural stems which support all components of the fixtures and the main lighting hubs which are more in keeping with the original character of the original gas lighting rings.

The raising and lowering equipment now includes two main support cables, one of which extends to the bottom of each fixture and is fully enclosed within the structural support stem. Each chandelier is supported by three independent structural systems, greatly increasing the level of safety.

In the final analysis, it was recommended that all cleaning and relamping should be done with the fixtures in place, using the mini lift and that cleaning be done once a year only, if necessary, with a gentle damp wipe with new untreated materials. The prisms and the metal superstructure are now too fragile to withstand raising and lowering of the chandelier.

The conservator recommended that the Assembly develop a curatorial plan for the care and refurbishing of these and other decorative arts elements in the Legislative Assembly complex. A Report on the Repair and Restoration of Historic chandeliers has been deposited with the Legislative Library.

Contractors involved in the 2005 restoration:

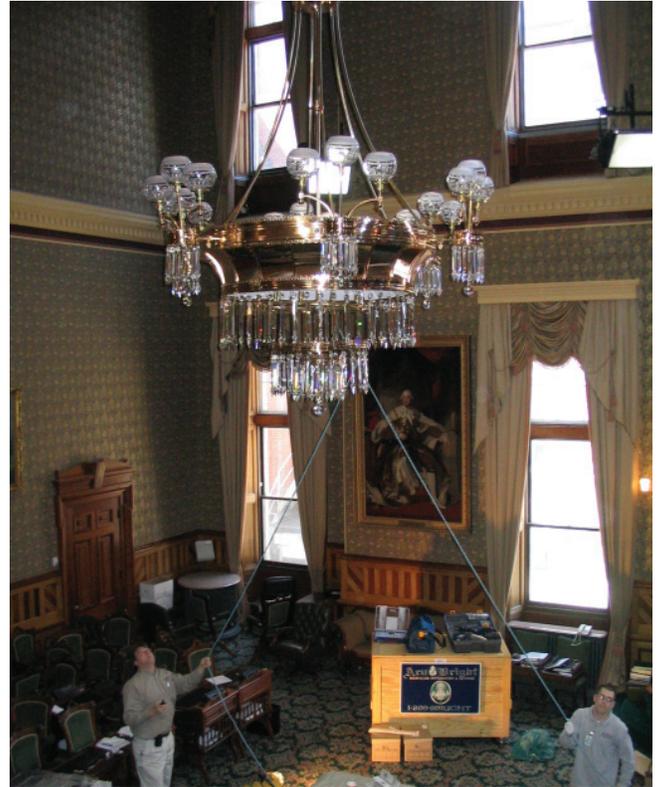
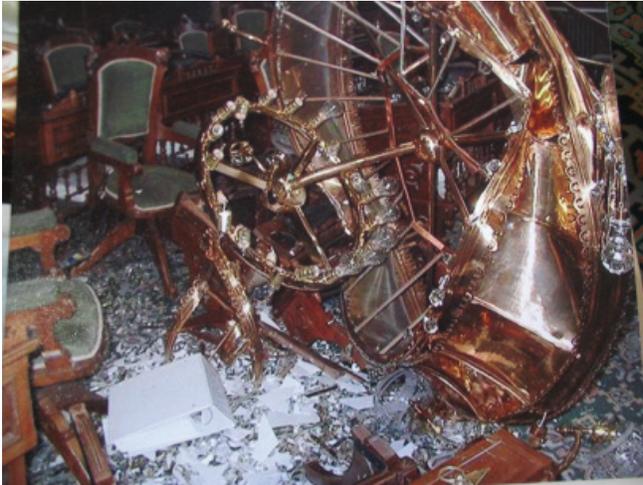
Heritage Services  
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60 Berkley Drive  
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Newstamp Lighting Co  
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N. Easton, Mass  
02356-0189

The Crystal Workshop  
P.O. Box 475  
Sagamore, MA  
02561



*Upper left: South chandelier pictured moments after it crashed to the Chamber floor at 8.45 a.m. on November 8, 2002.*



*Middle left: Keith Campbell of Acu-Bright (centre) and Steve Plante reassemble the frame of the south chandelier indicating the detail of work required to rehabilitate the bent frame.*

*Lower left: South chandelier ribs being reassembled.*

*Top right: South chandelier in the process of being hoisted back into position.*



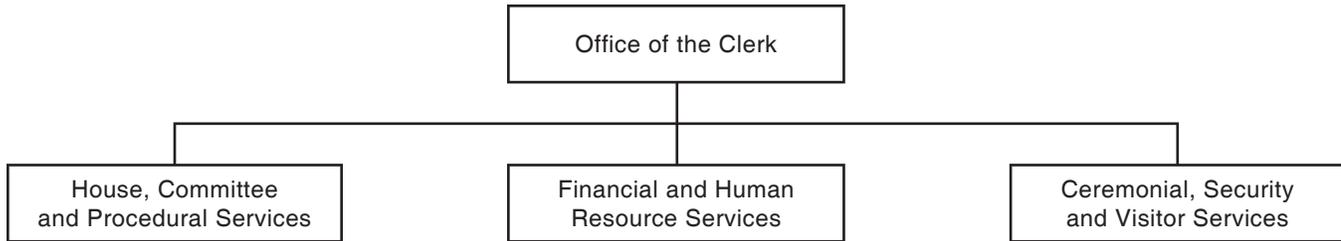
*Below: North and South chandelier returned to their original places after restoration and refurbishment in the spring of 2005.*



# Office of the Clerk

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*Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — Donald J. Forestell*



## House, Committee, and Procedural Services

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During 2005 the Assembly and its committees placed a heavy demand for services on all branches of the Clerk's Office. In total, the House sat for 58 days during the course of the calendar year. In addition, the Standing and Select committees of the House held a total of 74 meetings throughout the year.

### *House Sitzings and Activity*

The Second Session of the 55th Legislature, which adjourned on December 17, 2004, resumed sitting on January 4, 2005, and continued its consideration of the 2005-2006 Capital Estimates and various government and Private Members' Public Bills. The House adjourned on January 6, out of respect for the passing of former Premier, Louis J. Robichaud.

The House resumed sitting on January 18, at which time Hon. Percy Mockler, Minister of Intergovernmental and International Relations, rose in the House to extend congratulations to former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna on his recent appointment as Canada's Ambassador to the United States.

The House adjourned on January 21 to allow the various legislative committees to meet over the following months. The House resumed sitting on March 30, at which time the Minister of Finance, Hon. Jeannot Volpé, presented the 2005-2006 Budget. In total, 81 Bills were introduced during the Session, consisting of 50 Government Bills, 28 Private Members' Public Bills and 3 Private Bills.

On June 30, NDP Leader Elizabeth Weir rose in the House to give her final speech as Leader of the provincial New Democratic Party. Ms. Weir was the first woman chosen Leader of a political party in New Brunswick, the first woman Leader elected to the Legislative Assembly, and the first Leader of the New Democratic Party to be elected to the House. Ms. Weir subsequently resigned her seat to become President

and CEO of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick. The House adjourned for the summer recess on June 30, 2005.

Legislative committees continued during the fall, with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations meeting on a regular basis.

The House met on the morning of December 6, 2005, to prorogue the Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature. The Opening of the third Session took place later that afternoon. The House sat for 12 days prior to adjourning on December 23. The main item of business during the fall session was the introduction and consideration of the 2006-2007 Capital Budget. Standings at the conclusion of the fall sitting were 28 Conservatives and 27 Liberals.

Due in large part to the close standings in the House, the Clerks-at-the-Table were kept very busy procedurally during the session. Table Officers were called upon regularly to provide procedural advice to the Speaker, Members and the various House Leaders. In addition, staff regularly responded to questions regarding the activities, procedure and progress of legislation in the House.

Throughout the year, procedural staff carried out detailed research as requested by the Legislative Administration Committee or the Speaker, and provided confidential and impartial advice to the Speaker and Members as requested. The Table Officers met with the Speaker and Deputy Speakers on a regular basis during the course of the session, providing guidance and advice with respect to the application of the Standing Rules and parliamentary practice within the New Brunswick House or other Canadian jurisdictions.

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In 2005, the Clerks-at-the-Table responded to 45 inquiries posted to the CATS electronic inquiry system. CATS refers to the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, an organization made up of the Table Officers from every provincial and territorial legislature in Canada, as well as the Senate and House of Commons. The Association maintains an electronic system whereby Clerks from various jurisdictions may post a procedural question or other inquiry relating to the functioning or operations of the House or committees. The CATS system serves as an invaluable tool, allowing procedural staff to quickly canvass other jurisdictions on matters which may arise in the House or in the day-to-day administration of the Assembly. Procedural questions posted in 2005 include such diverse matters as appointment of committee members; Members' remuneration; Chamber technology; remote attendance by Members; pre-budget consultations; and privileges pertaining to certain documents. The CATS system was expanded in scope in 2002 to include Commonwealth parliaments in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Clerk's Office staff prepared an agenda for the visit of Ms. Jenny Ronderson, AM, a Member of the National Assembly of Wales, who visited the Assembly on October 24, 2005, and met with various Members, ministers and parliamentary officers. Ms. Ronderson toured the Assembly and was briefed on the functioning of the Assembly and its committees.

Shortly after his appointment, procedural staff held an orientation session with the new Deputy Speaker of the House, Mr. John Betts. Staff reviewed the *Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly*, provided an overview of general procedural matters which might arise during the course of a typical sitting day, and answered question regarding the proper procedure to be followed in handling points of order or matters of privilege which might arise.

Staff also met with the newly elected Member for Saint John Harbour, Dr. Ed Doherty, who was elected in a by-election held on November 14, 2005. The Member was briefed on the role and functions of the Assembly; the transaction of business in the House; the rules of procedure and participation in debate, and the process of decision making in the House.

The Office continued its regular involvement with the "Machinery of Government" seminars for Legislative staff, civil servants and executive staff members.

The seminars focus on the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly in relation to the executive and judicial branches of government. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly provides an overview of the division of powers between the various branches and an explanation of the functioning of the Legislature and its committees.

### *House and Committee Support*

During 2005, Research Officer Diane Taylor Myles compiled the minutes of the House in the unrevised Journal, referred to in many jurisdictions as the Votes and Proceedings. The *Journal*, the complete, official, indexed record of House proceedings for a session, contains reference to all matters before the House including: election of Speaker, Throne Speech, Speaker's Rulings, motions, Bills, reports of standing and select committees and Committees of the Whole House, division votes and Royal Assent. All current sessional documents tabled in the House are noted in the Journal. The *Journals* are available online beginning with the First Session of the 53rd Legislative Assembly in October 1995.

During the year, the research officer drafted and revised 70 Journals, sittings 1 through 58 of the Second Session and 12 sittings in December of the third session (55th Legislature). The bound bilingual version of the *Journal* for the Fifth Session 2002-2003 (68 daily sittings) was prepared and printed. The Legislative Library vault houses the *Journals* beginning with the first session in 1786.

The Research Office tracks legislation as it progresses through the House and compiles the online Status of Bills Report providing users with up-to-date information on the status of each Bill introduced. Users can ascertain whether a Bill has received First, Second or Third Reading, been referred to committee, or received Royal Assent.

In 2005, the Legislative Assembly continued its involvement with Communications New Brunswick in providing live webcasts of proceedings of the House and committees. This has allowed staff within the Member's offices and the government to follow committee and House proceedings from their desktops. In addition, Internet users around the province and beyond are able to listen to live audio proceedings. The Assembly's web site contains a detailed legislative calendar listing the dates of scheduled committee hearings and House proceedings.

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Clerk's Office staff are responsible for maintaining the detailed biographies of Members online and in hard copy format. The online biographies are updated on a day to day basis and changes to Members physical and postal addresses are ongoing. The hard copy booklet *Biographies of the Members of the 55th Legislature* contains the biographical and constituency information for each member and is also available online.

### *Staffing*

In March, Shayne Davies was permanently reassigned to the Clerk's Office as a Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk. Mr. Davies had been serving in this position for a number of years, in addition to his previous duties within the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

In November, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Loredana Catalli Sonier, was elected chair of the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The review was founded in 1978 to inform Canadian legislators about activities of the federal, provincial and territorial branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Clerk's Office staff contributed detailed legislative reports to each quarterly issue of the Review. The reports outline the activities within the Legislative Assembly and its committees.

In August the Clerk and Clerks Assistant attended the 2005 Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, held in Gatineau Quebec and hosted jointly by the House of Commons and the Senate. The seminar is attended by Clerks-at-the-Table from provincial and territorial legislatures as well as the Parliament of Canada. Procedural staff from the United Kingdom House of Commons and House of Lords also attended, as did Clerks from the various Australian parliaments. Topics discussed during the seminar: the Vaid Case, Implications of Outcome for Canadian Legislatures; Administration and Human Resources, Modernization in the Senate of Canada; Electoral Reform and its Effects on Parliamentary Procedure and Administration; Execution of Search Warrant on a Member's Office; Parliamentary Privilege and Tabled Documents.

### *Technology*

For the first time, in the fall of 2005, the Clerk's Table, Hansard console and Sergeant-at-Arms desk was equipped with laptop computers, allowing the parliamentary officials to utilize the government

network while in the Chamber. Three new laptops were connected to the Clerk's Table providing each Clerk with on-line access to procedural information, electronic versions of legislation, the updated Status of Bills, as well as access to and communication by e-mail. The use of computers also allows for electronic timing of speeches and the preparation of House documents.

### *Televised Proceedings*

Efforts to secure a dedicated channel for the televising of parliamentary proceedings continued in 2005. Television coverage and broadcast of House proceedings was first introduced in 1988 as part of the government's efforts to be more open and accessible. Long-form coverage of the Legislature's proceedings was provided by Rogers Cable (formerly Fundy Cable) on its community channels until March 2004, at which time coverage was reduced in order to comply with CRTC regulations and licensing requirements. Rogers continued to broadcast proceedings for archive, closed circuit, media feed and webcast purposes and continued to televise Question Period on its community channels.

In June, the Legislative Administration Committee approved the following strategy for obtaining a dedicated parliamentary channel:

- 1) that the Legislative Assembly request that a dedicated channel be made available on Rogers Cable basic cable tier for the purpose of launching a parliamentary channel;
- 2) that the Legislative Assembly acquire its own broadcast and production facilities including fixed robotic cameras;
- 3) that the Legislative Assembly acquire personnel to operate the television broadcast system or outsource this work to the private sector.

In October 2005 the Legislative Assembly received confirmation that Rogers Cable would dedicate a channel to provide complete broadcasting of legislative proceedings. It was agreed that the new channel would be launched after the Legislative Assembly had acquired its own broadcast equipment. In November, the Legislative Assembly applied for funding to acquire a professional television broadcasting system that would include fixed robotic cameras in time for the resumption of the session in March of 2006.

# Activities of Standing and Select Committees

*Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk — Shayne Davies*

## I. Introduction

Legislative committees have existed in New Brunswick since the meeting of the first Legislative Assembly in 1786. Parliamentarians realized very early on the need to entrust some of their work to committees made up of their own Members. Since that time, the role and importance of committees has increased dramatically, especially over the past 35 years. Much of this is due to the increase in volume of the work coming before the Legislature, the complexity of which has made it more urgent that work be delegated to committees. It is also due to the ability and experience of persons elected to public office, who have sought a more meaningful role for themselves in the legislative process to better utilize their diverse talents and abilities.

Legislative committees are an extension of the House and the makeup of a committee will generally reflect the overall distribution of seats in the Assembly. Proceedings in committee are often more informal and collegial than in the House itself, providing an atmosphere that is more conducive to collaborative thought and cooperation. Indeed, reports to the House are often agreed to unanimously, providing constructive recommendations that have received the support of all parties. Committees are able to carry out work that the Assembly as a whole would find difficult, if not impossible, to undertake. They are able to consult with the public on important matters in order to hear the views and suggestions of ordinary citizens. In addition, committees are able to travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from citizens in all areas of the province.

In 2005 the majority of the Standing and Select Committees were active, with a total of 74 meetings held during the year. In particular, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations were busy reviewing annual reports, public accounts, and other matters referred to their respective Committees. In addition, the Standing Committee on Estimates was appointed for the first time since 1988 in an effort to expedite the review of the main estimates for 2005-2006.

The Select Committee on Education and the Select Committee on Health Care were both made permanent Standing Committees of the Legislature. In addition, the

Standing Committee on the Ombudsman was replaced with a new Standing Committee on Legislative Officers in order to widen the mandate and allow for the review of annual reports of other legislative officers in addition to the Ombudsman.

The following chart presents a breakdown of the various committees and the number of days each committee met during 2005:

COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEETINGS
Crown Corporations	24
Education	0
Estimates	6
Health Care	6
Law Amendments	1
Legislative Administration	12
Ombudsman	1
Private Bills	3
Privileges	0
Procedure	4
Public Accounts	17
TOTAL	74

## II. Standing Committees

### *Standing Committee on Crown Corporations*

The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, chaired by Wally Stiles (Petitcodiac), remained active with a total of 24 committee meetings held during 2005.

Officials of the province's eight regional health authorities appeared before the Committee in January. The Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and other senior officials from each health authority appeared before the Committee to account for their activities and spending during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004. The Committee met with the health authorities as follows:

January 12	Regional Health Authority 2;
January 13	Regional Health Authority 3;
January 14	Regional Health Authority 1 (Beauséjour);
January 25	Regional Health Authority 4;
January 25	Regional Health Authority 5;
January 26	Regional Health Authority 1 (South-East);
January 27	Regional Health Authority 7;
January 27	Regional Health Authority 6.

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The Committee met again on January 28, February 1 and 2, March 23 and 24, to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004:

Lotteries Commission of New Brunswick;  
N.B. Coal Limited;  
New Brunswick Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities;  
New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation;  
New Brunswick Power Corporation;  
Service New Brunswick.

On May 5 the Committee presented a report to the House outlining its activities in 2003 and 2004. In addition, the report addressed the March 2004 Committee hearings, which reviewed issues surrounding the New Brunswick Power Corporation agreement with Venezuela to secure a supply of Orimulsion for the Coleson Cove Generating Station in Saint John. *Analyses of Orimulsion Hearing Transcripts* were prepared by a consultant to the Committee and included in the Committee's report to the House. Of significant note, the Committee also agreed to include in its report a dissenting report prepared by the Office of the Official Opposition.

On August 10 the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 1, 2005*. The Auditor General briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

The Committee met again on November 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004, and in certain circumstances, the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005:

Algonquin Properties Limited;  
Forest Protection Limited;  
New Brunswick Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities;  
New Brunswick Farm Products Commission;  
New Brunswick Forest Products Commission;  
New Brunswick Highway Corporation;  
New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation;  
New Brunswick Liquor Corporation;

New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation;  
New Brunswick Museum;  
New Brunswick Power Holding Corporation;  
New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council;  
New Brunswick Securities Commission;  
Provincial Holdings Ltd.;  
Regional Development Corporation;  
Service New Brunswick;  
Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick.

On November 22, in a joint meeting with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee met with representatives from CCAF-FCVI Inc., a foundation specializing in public sector governance, management and accountability. Topics of discussion included exercising leadership; relationships between legislators, legislative auditors, and senior government managers; achieving and demonstrating results; best practices in a jurisdiction; and committee self assessment.

#### ***Standing Committee on Estimates***

On May 13 the Legislature appointed the Standing Committee on Estimates, which, while provided for in the Standing Rules, had not been appointed since 1988. In an effort to expedite the review of the main estimates for 2005-2006, the Legislature referred the estimates of several departments to the Committee for consideration. The Committee met on June 9 and Kirk MacDonald (Mactaquac) was elected Chairman and Claude Williams (Kent South) was elected Vice-Chairman. The Committee met again on June 14, 15, 16, 17, and 20, during a week the House was in recess, and successfully accomplished the review normally undertaken by the Committee of Supply.

In a report to the House on June 21, the recommendation by the Committee that certain estimates be adopted was concurred in by the House.

#### ***Standing Committee on Law Amendments***

The Standing Committee on Law Amendments is chaired by Jody Carr (Oromocto-Gagetown). On occasion Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly may not receive second reading, but instead be referred by way of motion to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for review. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation in order to receive input from interested stakeholders, groups and individuals.

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In a report to the House on April 26, the Committee addressed Bill 2, *Volunteer Protection Act*, and Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*. Both Bills were introduced in the House during the First Session of the 55th Legislature and subsequently referred to the Committee. Bill 2 is intended to encourage volunteerism by protecting volunteers from liability for damages caused when acting within the scope of their responsibilities. Bill 5 attempts to accomplish two main objectives: firstly, to extend loss of earnings benefits to volunteer firefighters who are unemployed; secondly, to legislate the presumption that certain types of cancers are occupational diseases, the dominant cause of which is the employment as a firefighter. Following Committee deliberations in 2004, the Committee recommended in its report that neither Bill should proceed.

During 2005 one Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments. Bill 6, *Franchises Act*, was introduced by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green, Q.C. (Fredericton South) on December 7 and referred to the Committee on December 9 for review. The Bill is designed to ensure a fair relationship between small business people in New Brunswick and franchise owners. The Bill is based on a model Act that was adopted and recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. The Committee is expected to begin deliberations on the Bill in 2006.

The Committee met once in 2005, on December 15, and presented a report to the House on December 22 with respect to Bill 77, *Pay Equity Act*, which was introduced in the House during the First Session of the 55th Legislature and subsequently referred to the Committee. Public hearings on the Bill occurred in 2004. The Bill requires that employers take proactive measures to achieve pay equity between men and women in the work place. In the report the Committee recommended that Bill 77 not be proceeded with. In addition, the Committee recommended that the government release an annual status report on its progress towards reducing the wage gap, and that the government consider enacting proactive legislation designed to reduce the wage gap and promote pay equity should voluntary measures only result in limited progress.

#### *Legislative Administration Committee*

The Legislative Administration Committee is chaired by the Speaker, Hon. Bev Harrison (Hampton-

Belleisle). Pursuant to Standing Rule 104(2), the Committee is responsible for the administration and operation of the Legislative Buildings, grounds and such other lands, buildings and facilities connected with the Legislative Assembly; and generally for all matters relating to the Legislative Assembly and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Committee reviews and approves the budget for the Legislative Assembly, including the budgets of the caucus offices; determines and regulates the pay and other terms and conditions of employment of officers and employees in the Office of the Legislative Assembly; establishes allowances in respect of expenses for Members' extra duties and committee meetings; establishes rules and directives in respect to allowances, disbursements and other payments to Members; issues directives in respect to caucus allowances; and establishes financial policy for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee also considers any matter necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly. During 2005, the Committee held 12 meetings on the following dates: January 14, March 22, April 1, June 30, July 13, 14, August 11, October 5, 28, November 22, December 7, and 16. Among the matters considered by the Committee were:

- MLA remuneration;
- budgets of the Legislative Assembly office and other statutory offices;
- security within the legislative precincts;
- acquisition of a dedicated parliamentary channel and acquisition of a professional television broadcasting system;
- repair and restoration of ceilings in the Legislative Council Chamber (committee room);
- blues project for Hansard transcription;
- Legislative drafting and translation services for Private Members;
- recommendations on appointments to the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission; and
- building and master plan for the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the Legislative Assembly Building.

#### *Standing Committee on the Ombudsman*

The Standing Committee on the Ombudsman is chaired by Michael (Tanker) Malley (Miramichi-Bay

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du Vin). Pursuant to Standing Rule 91, all reports to the House of the Ombudsman stand permanently referred to the Committee. The Ombudsman is a statutory officer of the House and reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Committee. The Office of the Ombudsman ensures that individuals are served in a just, fair and reasonable manner by departments, agencies or organizations of the Government. The Committee met on March 22 to review the activities of the Ombudsman for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004.

On December 23 the Committee was replaced with a new Standing Committee on Legislative Officers.

### ***Standing Committee on Private Bills***

The Standing Committee on Private Bills is chaired by Milton Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield). Pursuant to Standing Rule 115, Private Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly are referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills after First Reading. Any person whose interests or property may be affected by a Private Bill may appear before the Committee to express their concerns.

In 2005 the Committee considered the following three Private Bills:

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting The Certified General Accountants' Association of New Brunswick*;

Bill 51, *Registered Professional Planners Act*;

Bill 52, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Podiatry*.

The Committee met on May 24 and in a report to the House, on the same day, the Committee recommended Bill 46 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bill 46 received Royal Assent on June 3.

The Committee met on June 7 and in a report to the House on June 9 the Committee recommended Bill 51 to the favourable consideration of the House and reported progress on Bill 52. Bill 51 received Royal Assent on June 30.

The Committee met on June 21 and in a report to the House on June 22 the Committee recommended Bill 52 to the favourable consideration of the House with certain amendments. Bill 52 received Royal Assent on June 30.

### ***Standing Committee on Privileges***

The Standing Committee on Privileges is chaired by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green, Q.C.

(Fredericton South). Pursuant to Standing Rule 9(2), the House may, by resolution, refer a matter or question directly concerning the House, a Committee or Member to the Standing Committee on Privileges. The Committee did not meet in 2005.

### ***Standing Committee on Procedure***

The Standing Committee on Procedure is chaired by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green, Q.C. (Fredericton South). Pursuant to Standing Rule 92, all Standing Rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure.

The Committee met on October 6 and 27, and December 13 and 20, to review the Standing Rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly. On December 23 the Committee presented a report to the Assembly, which was concurred in by the House, that recommended several amendments be made to the Standing Rules, including the following: that Standing Rule 29(1) be amended to change the sitting hours on Friday; that Standing Rules 35.2 and 35.3 be added to limit the length of speeches during Introduction of Guests and Congratulatory Messages; that Standing Rule 40 be amended to address lengthy Statements by Ministers and the reply thereto; that Standing Rule 89 be amended to designate the Select Committee on Education and the Select Committee on Health Care permanent Standing Committees, and to replace the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman with a new Standing Committee on Legislative Officers; and that Standing Rule 100.1 be added to provide for appeals of decisions of Committee Chairs.

### ***Standing Committee on Public Accounts***

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by Frank Branch (Nepisiquit), remained active with a total of 17 committee meetings held during 2005.

The Committee met on February 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture;  
Department of Business New Brunswick;  
Department of Education;  
Department of Energy;

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Department of Family and Community Services;  
Department of Finance;  
Department of Health and Wellness;  
Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations;  
Department of Justice;  
Department of Natural Resources and Energy;  
Department of Public Safety;  
Department of Supply and Services;  
Department of Tourism and Parks;  
Department of Training and Employment Development;  
Department of Transportation;  
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission;  
Office of the Auditor General;  
Office of the Comptroller;  
Office of Human Resources.

On June 29 the Committee presented a report to the House outlining its activities in 2003 and 2004.

On August 10 the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 1, 2005*. The Auditor General briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

The Committee met again on September 20, 21, and 22 to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004:

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat;  
Advisory Council on Seniors;  
Advisory Council on the Status of Women;  
Communications New Brunswick;  
Culture and Sport Secretariat;  
Labour and Employment Board;  
Legislative Assembly;  
Office of the Premier;  
Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

On November 22, in a joint meeting with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the Committee met with representatives from CCAF-FCVI Inc., a foundation specializing in public sector governance, management and accountability. Topics of discussion included exercising leadership; relationships between legislators, legislative auditors, and senior government managers; achieving and demonstrating results;

best practices in a jurisdiction; and committee self assessment.

### III. Select Committees

#### *Select Committee on Education*

The Select Committee on Education is chaired by John Betts (Moncton Crescent). The Committee is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of education in the province and to consider other such matters and materials as may be referred by the Minister of Education. The Committee did not meet in 2005.

On December 23 the Committee was made a permanent Standing Committee of the Legislature.

#### *Select Committee on Health Care*

The Select Committee on Health Care is chaired by Claude Williams (Kent South). The Committee is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of health care in the province and to consider other such matters and materials as may be referred by the Minister of Health and Wellness.

The Committee held an organizational meeting on February 17 to discuss Bill 60, *Health Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act*, which was introduced during the Fifth Session of the 54th Legislature and referred to the Committee by the Minister of Health and Wellness. The proposed legislation attempts to balance the rights and responsibilities of New Brunswickers within the health care system. The Committee held public hearings on Bill 60 on February 22 in Miramichi, March 1 in Dieppe, March 2 in Saint John, and March 3 in Fredericton. A further organizational meeting was held on April 14. A total of 34 written submissions were received by the Committee.

In a report to the House on April 27, the Committee recommended that the government consider the advisability of introducing a revised version of the *Health Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act*, taking into consideration the comments and submissions made to the Committee by New Brunswickers.

On December 23 the Committee was made a permanent Standing Committee of the Legislature.

# House Statistics

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	54th Legislature		55th Legislature	
	<i>Fourth Session 2001 - 2002</i>	<i>Fifth Session 2002 - 2003</i>	<i>First Session 2003 - 2004</i>	<i>Second Session 2004 - 2005</i>
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	71	68	62	58
Evening Sittings	17	23	3	3
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	63	50	50	50
Received Royal Assent	63	48	48	40
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	4	5	7	3
Received Royal Assent	4	5	7	3
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	1	7	25	28
Received Royal Assent	0	0	2	0
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	12	10	18	10
Number debated	6	6	8	4
Number agreed to	124	6	17	10
Number withdrawn	-	-	-	-
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	83	92	107	108
Number debated	6	4	9	17
Number agreed to	4	0	5	7
Motions for returns	53	71	83	91
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	41	35	35	27
In Committee on Estimates	-	-	-	5
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>				
	71	57	62	58
<i>Petitions</i>				
	13	16	48	52
<i>Written Questions</i>				
	3	1	25	7

# Financial and Human Resource Services

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*Director — Peter Wolters*

The Director of Finance and Human Resources is accountable for the proper and effective management of the financial and human resource support systems of the Legislative Assembly.

The provision of a high standard of support services to the Members, the Offices of the Legislative Assembly and a number of Statutory Offices is a priority and, to that end, staff attended professional development, information and training sessions such as the following:

- Training programs and seminars on upgrades and enhancements to the Province's Financial Information System based on the Oracle software. Significant changes were required in processing payments to vendors both in the areas of data input and records management to ensure efficient and accurate payments to vendors and effective use of resources.
- Professional development seminars entitled "Strengthening and Modernizing Public Sector Management", "Restructuring in the Public Sector", "Cyber Crime and Internet Safety", and "Improving the Financial Control Framework", that covered topics such as current issues in the areas of purchasing, accounting and auditing in governments, protection of personnel information and financial planning and budgeting.
- Training seminars entitled "Best Practices in using Electronic Purchase Cards" and "Financial Management in the Future" on recent advancements in information technology affecting areas such as electronic procurement, online input and processing of financial documents, and electronic spending and payment authorization. Staff also completed the implementation and related training to receive and process payroll reports in electronic format only. The change from paper to electronic format will increase the efficiency of the payroll processes.

The Legislative Administration Committee approved the addition of one staff in the Finance and Human Resources section. As part of the budget process for 2005-2006, Rachele Cormier was hired in September of 2005 to fill the additional Accounting Assistant position. The new position is primarily responsible for

ensuring value for money on purchases of goods and services and efficient and effective use of resources in maintaining the cellular and telephone infrastructure at the Legislative Assembly and a number of the statutory offices. In addition, the duties and responsibilities of the Finance and Human Resources staff were reorganized to maximize the effectiveness of human resources while ensuring sufficient redundancy and backup for existing areas of responsibility.

The Finance and Human Resources section continued to provide financial and human resources administration support to the following statutory offices reporting to the Legislative Assembly: Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing and Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. The Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance for New Brunswick was established January 1, 2005, with the proclamation of the *Consumer Advocate for Insurance Act*. In addition to facilitating the physical setup and organization of this office, the Finance and Human Resources section also provides ongoing administrative, financial and human resources support to this office. Since 1999 the Finance and Human resources section has assumed responsibility for providing administrative, financial and human resources support to five of the seven statutory offices reporting to the Assembly.

The Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administrators (CAPA) was created for parliamentary staff responsible for providing support services in the areas of finance, human resources, technology and administration. The Association's mission is to provide a means for consultation and information sharing among parliamentary organizations and to foster cooperation and understanding of the unique requirements to support these organizations. The Director attended the fifth annual CAPA conference in September 2005 to share best practices with representatives from legislatures across Canada.

## I. Financial Services

### *Overview*

Financial Services include the following responsibilities:

- \* Payroll and Benefits (Ministers, Members, public service and casual employees)

- Ensure timely and accurate payment of (and provision of information relating to) salaries and benefits.
- \* Members' and Committee Expenses
  - Ensure timely and accurate payment of expenses based on legislation and decisions of Legislative Administration Committee.
- \* Purchasing of and Payment for Goods and Services
  - Ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations of the province. Ensure all transactions are properly recorded for financial statement presentation and safeguarding of assets. Ensure proper record keeping and storage for future reference purposes. Provide ongoing training and support to staff for changes and enhancements in policies, procedures, processes and programs.
- \* Financial Analysis and Projections
  - Review financial position of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the responsibility sections within the Legislative Assembly. Analyze budgets and expenditures and provide advice to individual managers using customized reports and specialized reports when required.
- \* Budget Process
  - Coordinate the budget process, prepare the budget submission and liaise with the related central agencies of the province of New Brunswick.

### *Financial Services Highlights*

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, the Legislative Assembly met budgetary objectives and maintained a reasonable level of services to the Members and staff. The accompanying financial statement shows actual expenditure savings amounting to \$297,400 on a total budget of \$11,310,000. This includes \$258,200 in the Members Allowances and Committees component, \$14,700 in the Office of the Legislative Assembly component and \$24,500 in the Leaders of Registered Political Parties.

The House was in session a total of 62 sitting days during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, compared to

26 sitting days in 2003-2004 and 100 sitting days in 2002-2003. The reduction in the number of sitting days during the 2003-2004 fiscal year reflects the fact that an election occurred during the year.

The budgetary process for the Legislative Assembly's 2005-2006 fiscal year provided yet another challenge to maintain a reasonable level of services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff. The Legislative Assembly is facing significantly increased demand and expenses related to issues of safety and security of Members, legislative staff, and the public, throughout the Legislative Complex and grounds and the provision of support services to the statutory offices reporting to the Legislative Assembly. In addition, expenses and the level of activities increased in areas such as translation and interpretation, transcription of House proceedings, the televising and recording of House proceedings, the activities of Legislative Committees and services to Members.

## II. Human Resources Services

### *Overview*

Human Resources Services include the following responsibilities:

- \* Personnel Administration
  - Participate in recruitment process and ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits and maintenance of payroll and personnel records.
  - Update and communicate changes in the areas of policies and benefits to all employees and provide relevant advice and support to managers in the Legislative Assembly.
- \* Human Resources Development
  - Facilitate staff training to enable employees to develop professionally and use their capabilities to further both organizational and individual goals.
- \* Personnel Policies
  - Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province, Legislative Administration Committee decisions and the unique environment of the Legislative Assembly. Ensure proper communication of personnel policies to all employees.

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### *Human Resource Services Highlights*

As part of a pilot project of the federal government, the Legislative Assembly has been processing the Record of Employment (ROE) for employees who terminate using an online application. Staff participated in follow-up evaluations and assessments of this project with officials from the federal government. The Legislative Assembly continues to utilize this new technology.

A total of 38 students and other individuals were employed under the Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED) program and other programs administered by the Finance and Human Resources 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 ROE) of each of the related employees. Included in the number of students employed were 14 Pages for the 2004-2005 and the 2005-2006 sessions, four Tour Guides for the 2005 tourist season, and an information technology student.

The Finance and Human Resources section has utilized students from the University of New Brunswick's Business Administration Co-operative Education program since 1995, normally hiring three students per year for four-month work terms each. Eight students were employed during 2005 to meet the increasing workload and to provide additional assistance while one regular employee was on leave. The students have been a valuable asset in meeting the ever increasing demands and responsibilities of the Finance and Human Resources section.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the annual indexation of the indemnity of Members is based on the three-year average change in the "Average Weekly Earnings of New Brunswick Employees". Staff processed a 2.7% increase in the annual indemnity and expense allowance of Members effective January 1, 2005. Similar provisions are included in the *Executive Council Act*, requiring an adjustment in the salary paid to the Premier and Ministers. The increases for MLAs and ministers and all the necessary adjustments were processed by the Finance and Human Resources staff. In addition staff processed the changes and adjustments related to the resignation of one Member of the Legislative

Assembly, the resignations of two ministers from Cabinet, the appointment of a Member to Cabinet, the appointment of a new Deputy Speaker, and the election of a new Member as a result of the by-election in Saint John Harbour.

Finance and Human Resources staff processed cost of living increases during 2005, affecting a total of 86 positions. Staff processed regular merit increases for employees and requests for position reclassifications, and assisted in the interviewing and hiring process for seven new full-time staff in the Office of the Legislative Assembly, four Tour Guides and 12 Pages. With respect to the full-time employees of the Legislative Assembly, a total of 12 commencements and ten terminations (including four retirements) were processed by staff during the year. In addition, staff was responsible for the payroll and human resources issues related to the completion of the five-year term of Honourable Stuart G. Stratton, Q.C., as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and the commencement of Honourable Patrick A. A. Ryan, Q.C., for a five-year term. Changes to the *Public Service Superannuation Act* (PSSA) in 2004, relating to eligible periods of government service that may qualify as pensionable under the PSSA, resulted in a significant number of applications to purchase pensionable service for current employees to be researched and processed.

Further to a decision of the Legislative Administration Committee, the Clerk's Office will begin a payroll service for Members' constituency office staff. The employees of Members will be paid bi-weekly through the Province's Human Resources Information System, a significant improvement over the current method of payment. Members are currently being reimbursed for expenses relating to the hiring of constituency support staff following the submission of receipts. In preparation for implementation of this payroll service, staff researched the delivery of such a service, surveyed other jurisdictions, consulted with other departments, and developed standardized policies, procedures and forms to facilitate the Payroll Service for MLAs. Effective January 2006, the Finance and Human Resources section will be responsible for commencements, bi-weekly payments, terminations, and related documentation, along with the subsequent financial chargebacks to the Constituency Office Allowances of the individual Members.

Financial Summary — Legislative Assembly  
For the Year Ended March 31, 2005  
(in \$ 000's)

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<i>Members' Allowances and Committees</i>		
Allowances to Members	6,449.3	6,296.2
Legislative Committees	414.3	309.2
Subtotal	6,863.6	6,605.4
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	457.8	459.1
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1,106.5	1,091.0
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	132.0	113.7
Hansard Office	459.0	486.2
Debates Translation	609.0	599.6
Subtotal	2,764.3	2,749.6
<i>Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	543.0	538.2
Office of the Official Opposition	995.1	995.0
Office of the New Democratic Member	144.0	124.4
Subtotal	1,682.1	1,657.6
<i>Total - Legislative Assembly</i>	<b>11,310.0</b>	<b>11,012.6</b>

Human Resources Summary — Legislative Assembly

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Sessional</i>	<i>Wages</i>	<i>Co-op Students</i>
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	5	0	0	0	0
General Administration	2	0	0	3	0
Finance and Human Resources	4	0	0	0	1
Technology	1	0	0	0	1
Sergeant-at-Arms / Security	1	0	11	9	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</i>					
	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Legislative Library and Research Services</i>					
	7	0	0	2	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>					
	10	0	0	2	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>					
	9	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>					
	8	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>					
	14	0	0	0	0
<i>New Democratic Member's Office</i>					
	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>					
	0	0	12	4	0
<i>Members</i>					
	0	55	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>

# Ceremonial, Security and Visitor Services

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## *Sergeant-at-Arms — Daniel Bussières*

Following Premier Bernard Lord's January 6, 2005, announcement to the Assembly of the passing of Louis J. Robichaud (1925-2005), former Premier of New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Flag was flown half-mast on the Courtesy Flag Staff. Flags were also flown at half-mast from the roof of the Legislative Building until the day of his funeral, Tuesday, January 11. During that same period, a Book of Condolence was placed in the rotunda of the Legislative Assembly in which people might offer their thoughts to the former Premier's family.

In March, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Executive Officer participated in the 2005 - 2006 House of Commons Page Recruitment Program. Six New Brunswick candidates were interviewed with two candidates being selected to serve as Pages for the House of Commons.

On March 23, Canada Post unveiled their most recent Audubon Stamps in a ceremony at the Legislative Library. Many people attended and were treated to a rare showing of the Audubon collection. John James Audubon, an artist and naturalist, started his project of documenting and painting every known species of bird in North America in 1827. He spent time in New Brunswick, painting birds on Grand Manan Island, and at Government House in Fredericton in September of 1832. The project took 11 years to complete. Only 200 copies were ever created, of which only five are known to be in Canada. Four volumes were purchased by the Legislative Library in 1853 and remain a cherished part of the collection today. Audubon died in 1851.

Also in March, following the approval from the Legislative Administration Committee, movie producers Summit Films Inc. and Dream Street CR72 Pictures Inc. began filming, in both the Legislative Assembly and the Departmental Building, Canada's dramatic story of hockey triumph over the Soviets in 1972. The Canada Russia 1972 Summit Series is being retold in a four-hour television mini-series. The producers are expecting Canada-Russia 1972 to be broadcast on CBC, shortly after the 2006 Winter Olympics.

On April 26, the New Brunswick Arts Board held the Excellence Awards in the Arts Ceremony at Old Government House in Fredericton. The next day

a reception was held at the Legislative Assembly and the recipients were introduced to Members of the Assembly during a special ceremony led by Hon. Bev Harrison, Speaker. The recipients for 2005 were Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey, Tony Merzetti, Gerard Collins, and Léonard Forest.

Fifty-five Chinese exchange students from across the province visited the Legislative Assembly on April 27. The students were seated in the Gallery to watch the House proceedings and then met with the Minister of Education, Hon. Madeleine Dubé.

The 16th Annual Student Legislative Seminar was held at the Legislative Assembly from April 29 to May 1. The Seminar was a great success again this year, with guest speakers that included His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick; Hon. William McCarroll, Judge of the Provincial Court; Hon. Bernard Lord, Premier; Shawn Graham, Leader of the Opposition; Jody Carr, MLA for Oromocto-Gagetown; and Kelly Lamrock, MLA for Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak.

On May 5, a delegation of 150 from Holland visited the Legislative Assembly during their tour of New Brunswick. They were here to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers during WWII.

The summer tourist season formally began in May with the training of several student tour guides. Four summer students were hired to help during the busy tourist season. Visitor numbers were good this year, despite the large drop in school visits due to a teachers' dispute which lasted several months. The fine summer weather was a contributing factor to the successful tourist year. The total number of visitors for 2005 was 19,945, up slightly from the previous year. The period from May to August alone saw 11,673 people come through the doors.

Walk and Roll was held outside on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly on June 3. The event, which is held to mark disability awareness week, is organized annually by the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

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On August 18, Corinna Pike, former Heritage Manager of Garrard's of London, England, visited the Legislative Assembly while on a cross-Canada tour. Ms. Pike was carrying out research on Canadian Instruments of Authority such as Maces, Black Rods and Great Seals in each province. Ms. Pike spent the day in the Capital, collecting information and providing the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Visitor Services Coordinator with valuable historical information on the province's heraldic objects.

The Legislative Assembly hosted the annual meeting of l' Association Parlementaire Nouveau-Brunswick / Québec from September 25 - 28. Two of the themes of this year's meeting of the Association, established in 2004, were parliamentary reform and forestry management.

The Girl Guides of Canada Cord Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on October 1, and the Chief Scout Award Ceremony, on November 5. The turnout was very high, filling the seating area in the Gallery for both events.

On October 18, Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel Bussieres attended a Commemorative Ceremony on Parliament Hill in honour of Sergeant-at-Arms Major-General Maurice Gaston (Gus) Cloutier (Ret.) of the House of Commons, who passed away on August 30, 2005. Along with family and friends, in attendance were Sergeant-at-Arms from across the country including Peter Grant Peterkin, Serjeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, London England. The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister, and other Members of Parliament spoke at length about Sergeant-at-Arms Cloutier's contribution to Canada as a retired member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, as the longest serving Sergeant-at-Arms since confederation (1978-2005), and his role as Canadian Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen. Sergeant-at-Arms Cloutier is also remembered and recognized by his peers as the driving force that spearheaded the creation of both the Canadian and Commonwealth Association of Sergeant-at-Arms over 23 years ago.

November 2 was the Bring your Kids to Work Day in the province. A number of Legislative staff took advantage of the opportunity to show their young people

the inner workings of the Legislative Assembly and to offer students the experience of working for a day in a political setting. Again this year, Department of Justice staff brought their young people to the Legislative Assembly as well, to permit them to understand the important relationship between the various branches of government.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, held on Friday, December 2, was a great success. Approximately 800 people attended. The weather was mild and very cooperative. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Fredericton Choral Society, under the direction of Michael Capon, and the combined choirs of George Street Middle School, directed by Maureen Steeves, and the Nashwaaksis Middle School, directed by Susan Ross. The lighting of the Christmas tree was done by local children River Sacobie and Jade Polchies. The fabulous 32-foot tree, decorated with over 5,500 lights, was donated by Ralph Bull of Northhampton, Carleton County, New Brunswick. His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson presided over the ceremony, accompanied by Members of the Legislative Assembly Hon. Brad Green, Jody Carr, and Shawn Graham. The Legislative Assembly Chaplain, the Very Reverend Keith Joyce, offered Christmas blessings.

The Swearing-in of 11 new Queen's Council appointments took place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on December 5th.

They were:

Richard E. DeBow (Moncton),  
Randy DiPaolo (St. Stephen),  
Hilary J. A. Drain (Fredericton),  
Raymond T. French (Saint John),  
Robert R. Goguen (Moncton),  
Gordon W. Kierstead (Dalhousie),  
Denyse H. Landry (Bertrand),  
Gale L. MacDonald (Fredericton),  
Jean-Paul Ouellette (Grand Falls),  
Ivan Robichaud (Shippagan) and  
Deirdre L. Wade (Saint John).

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Visiting dignitaries in 2005 included:

His Excellency Gudmundur Eiriksson,  
Ambassador of Iceland;

Mr. Nobutaka Shinomiya,  
Consul General of Japan in Montreal;

His Excellency Otti Sitz,  
Ambassador of Austria;

Her Excellency Juliette Bonkougou,  
Ambassador of Burkina Faso;

Dr. Garret FitzGerald,  
the former Prime Minister of Ireland;

Hon. M. Mamadou Traoré,  
Minister of Education from Mali;

His Royal Highness Trongsa Penlop Jigme Khesar  
Namgyel Wangchuck,  
Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Bhutan;

His Excellency Eric Hayes,  
Ambassador of the European Union; and

Mr. Marc Attali,  
Consul General of Israel to Canada in Montreal.

### *Security*

The security of Members, staff, visitors, and Legislative Assembly assets within Parliament Square and adjoining Legislative buildings continues to be a priority. Commissioners supported by state of the art technology continue to be on duty on a 24-hour basis. Since the adoption of the 2003 Threat and Risk Assessment Report by the Legislative Administration Committee, many of the report's security initiatives have been implemented. Development of contingency plans, updating policies and procedures, and related training remain priorities for the Legislative Assembly Security Detail.

In August of 2005, the Sergeant-at-Arms attended the 23rd annual Canadian Association of Sergeant-at-Arms Conference, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Topics covered during the conference included crowd control and access control issues and related parliamentary rights and privileges. A number of valuable presentations by both the RCMP and the

Regina Police Service on mitigation of threats faced by Legislatures were also very well received by the participants.

### *Buildings*

The past year at the Legislative Assembly marked a big year for capital projects. The repairs to the south chandelier were completed by Acu-Bright Inc., a company of East Kingston, New Hampshire. On April 22, 2005, the authentically restored "Southern Lady" once again took its proper place in the Assembly next to its sister chandelier, where the two remain as prominent and beautiful fixtures in the historic Legislative Chamber.

In 2005, repairs began in earnest to the ceiling in the Legislative Council Chamber, after serious cracks in the plaster and structural problems were discovered. Work on the Chamber ceiling also provided the opportunity to remove and restore the historic chandeliers from this magnificent room. This work was also carried out by Acu-Bright Inc., experts in repair and restoration of historic chandeliers.

In recent years, priorities relating to restoration, preservation and maintenance of the buildings and buildings' systems have been established on an individual project basis (piecemeal fashion) and did not form part of an overall longer term strategy of planned restoration, preservation, and maintenance.

In 2004, the Legislative Administrative Committee commissioned a comprehensive building assessment and master plan to guide future repairs and restoration of the Legislative Building for the next 15 years.

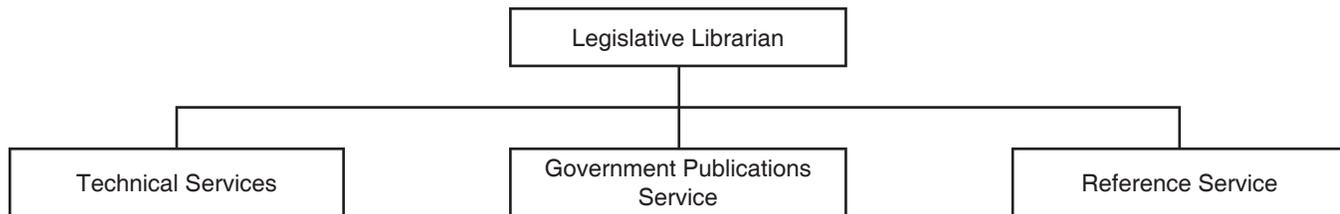
To ensure that any intervention to this protected site respects its heritage value, the Committee adopted the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada as the basis for the model conservation philosophy for the Legislative Buildings.

Work on many of the Building Plan's recommendations have commenced. The replacement of the metal roof and flashings and the construction of a new wheelchair entrance are two of the priorities identified by the Building Plan for the coming year.

# Legislative Library

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*Legislative Librarian — Margaret Pacey*



## **Mandate**

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of departments in order that they may better serve the people of New Brunswick. The Legislative Library may acquire by gift, bequest, loan or purchase any book, periodical, newspaper, film or any publication that may serve the Members of the Legislative Assembly or the departments in the performance of their duties.

The Legislative Library is designated as the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications. The Queen’s Printer is required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by that Office. Subject to the government publications deposited by the Queen’s Printer, all departments are required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by it or under its authority within thirty days after its printing.

The Legislative Library will be broadening its mandate to automatically receive all “online” or “born digital” New Brunswick government publications. An e-repository for New Brunswick electronic government publications will be established whereby selective publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access.

The Library strives to serve Members, staff, civil servants and the public in an efficient and accommodating manner. All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a non-partisan fashion. Twenty-four hour access is available through phone, e-mail and fax. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. five days a week. When the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

## **Highlights**

The Legislative Library played host to a number of important events in 2005. The official unveiling of a new series of Canada Post postage stamps took place in the Library on March 23rd. The series features bird paintings of John James Audubon, of which the Legislative Library holds a treasured collection. The event was attended by over 200 guests who were entertained by a five piece musical quintet, Motion Ensemble. The event received extensive media exposure, highlighting the importance of the Legislative Library and the significance of its Audubon collection.

On March 29th, the Library hosted 21 Leaders for the 21st Century, sponsored by the President’s Office of the University of New Brunswick. The young people honoured at this event hailed from all over New Brunswick, representing both urban and rural youth in the province. This unique initiative was designed to seek out a new generation of people and encourage the development of new ideas and perspectives on the future of this province and this region. It is the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

On November 30th, the Legislative Library, in conjunction with the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk, hosted a retirement reception in honour of the Legislative Librarian, Margie Pacey. The event was attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly, Library and Legislative staff, as well as numerous individuals involved in all facets of Ms. Pacey’s professional and personal life. The staff of the Legislative Library presented Ms. Pacey with a group photograph and performed an original song in her honour. Gifts were also presented on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada in recognition of Ms. Pacey’s long-time service to the Legislative Assembly and dedication to her profession. The Clerk

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of the Assembly gave a speech highlighting many of Ms. Pacey's accomplishments during her four years of managing the Legislative Library.

During 2005, Library staff continued to answer reference questions from Members, staff and public servants on a variety of issues. The number of reference questions increased by 12% over the previous year. Some of the more time-consuming reference questions included: health co-operatives in New Brunswick; "Legislative firsts" at the Assembly; text of all introductory statements for Bills presented by certain Ministers; and locating a translation of a proclamation relating to a 1762 native treaty.

### *Collection Development*

The Legislative Library is very receptive to suggestions regarding books and other materials that might be acquired to enhance its collections. During the past year, numerous acquisitions were made as a result of insightful suggestions from Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

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 2005, New Brunswick publishers were once again approached to donate their books, as were numerous authors of privately published material. In many instances, the Library is able to issue tax receipts for such donations. Many authors and publishers were receptive to the idea and, as a result, donations were up 2% from 2004. Donations of books are also received from patrons of the library and from various associations.

The Legislative Library is grateful to the following individuals, publishers and associations who donated books during the past year:

### *Individuals*

Charles Allain	Greg Lutes
Wilfred Alliston	Jacques P. Ouellet
David Alward	Burt Paulin (MLA)
Kenneth Corbett	Joseph Onesime Paulin
Roland Cornell	Helen Petchey
Shayne Davies	Robert Pichette
Karen DeWolfe	Joseph C. Savoie
Frances Gammon	Graeme F. Somerville
John Gilman	Janet Trail
Will Haggart	Paul Vreeland
Jan Lister-Caldwell	Douglas T. Wetmore

### *Publishers/Associations*

Beaverbrook Art Gallery  
Briggs & Little Woolen Mills Ltd.  
Canadian Urban Transit Association  
Chinese Legal Studies Association of North America  
Commission on Legislative Democracy  
DreamCatcher Books & Publishing  
Environment & Local Government Library  
Goose Lane Editions  
Les Éditions de la Grande Marée  
Library of Parliament  
Nova Scotia Legislative Library  
Paul Anderson Rare Books & Maps  
Saint John Free Public Library  
Trinity Enterprises, Inc.  
La Petite Imprimerie Ltée

The Legislative Library gratefully acknowledges monies received through the Viscount Bennett Trust Fund. With this grant, the Library was able to purchase a number of New Brunswick publications reflecting the intellectual heritage of the province. Among the titles acquired were: *Correspondence concerning proposals for inter-colonial union, legislative & federal* (1865); *Diocesan Church Society. Twenty Eighth Report of the Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick* (1863); *Saint John New Brunswick the ocean seaport of Canada* (192 ?); *Congres Eucharistique. Congres Eucharistique Memramcook NB 1946*. Without this generous grant, purchase of these and other valuable New Brunswick books, would not have been possible.

The Library has added 23 new periodicals to its collection this year, including: *National Geographic Adventure*, *Canadian Government Executive* and *National Review*. The periodical collection remains the Library's most popular and most used collection, with a 9% increase in usage over last year.

### *Marketing/Outreach*

The Library has continued to raise its profile and foster closer relations with its most important clients, New Brunswick's 55 MLAs. In 2005, there was a 56% increase in usage by MLAs compared to the previous year. Many Members regularly stop by in the morning to catch up with the newest issue of their local newspaper before the daily sitting. Others stop by briefly to borrow periodicals or other material. Numerous Members and staff have made use of the

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Library's reference service to assist them in their research on current issues before the House.

In terms of publishing, the *Government Documents Checklist* is available on the Legislative Library's web site: <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/leglibbib/publications/publications-e.asp>. Members and Legislative staff continue to receive paper copies of the *Selected Accessions List* four times a year. Copies of this list of new books are also provided by e-mail to all New Brunswick civil servants. These copies contain added notes or "updates" highlighting a particular service provided by the Legislative Library (e.g. government publications), or some aspect of its collection (e.g. talking books), along with a short selection of entries from the accessions list thought to appeal to employees of a particular department.

The Library's popular *Periodical Contents* includes a cover sheet specifying particular articles on the contents pages of its periodical collection, alerting the reader to the themes in the periodical literature. Both *Periodical Contents* and the *Selected Accessions* publications will undergo changes to their format in 2006.

The Legislative Library's website now includes a section called "New Arrivals", the Library's virtual bookshelf. Every month, staff members choose a number of books new to the Library and the covers of these books are scanned onto the website. As the books appear on the screen, a client can click on the image to read more about the book and request it if desired. This is a feature staff will be promoting in future "updates", and just one of a list of new outreach initiatives planned for the year ahead.

In keeping with the theme of outreach, patrons are now able to request Library cards directly from the Library's website. Patrons who have Library cards can borrow books on-line. Since launching this service in September 2005, Library staff have answered almost 300 requests for Library cards.

Over the past year, the Legislative Library have mounted several displays within the Legislative complex. Topics included: new books and rare collections; St. Croix Island celebrations; Legislature stairway renovations; electoral reform; junk food in schools; rural governance; and salmon farming. Library staff have been pleased to receive much

feedback on the displays from both MLAs and the public. Consequently there has been a marked increase in requests for the books included in these exhibits.

### *Initiatives*

A new Integrated Library System was the most notable improvement for the Legislative Library in the last year, affecting many processes and policies. In January, the Library was informed that its proposal for funding for a new system had been approved. A tender was written and issued for a new system. In April, the Library was pleased to confirm that Dynix's system called Horizon, had the successful bid. Dynix, a world leader in the providing of library technology solutions, has the ability to produce a bilingual interface as well as experience with smaller specialized Libraries. After many months of preparation, Horizon went live in August of 2005. Library staff have been pleased with the Horizon system as well as the training received. In addition to installing and customizing the new system, the Library's Automation Specialist was able to transfer all of the Library's data from its old provider. The Library was fortunate to have the in-house expertise to carry out such a significant and technical undertaking at a cost-saving to the Assembly.

In addition to having a state-of-the-art catalogue, the Library now has the capacity to enter patron information into the electronic circulation module of Horizon. Users can check the status of their borrowed material, due dates and other information, directly from the Library's web page. In order for this circulation module to work, all of the publications in the Library have to be bar-coded and subsequently linked to the catalogued record. This project will be completed during the summer of 2006, with the linking of the Government Documents material.

In conjunction with the bar-coding project, the three Librarians undertook the major task of weeding the entire Main and Reference collections. Approximately 2300 books were withdrawn from the collection and the entire Library holdings were re-shelved. By condensing the collection, easier access to the material was achieved and extra space was created for newer acquisitions.

The Library is preparing to launch a new interface to its in-house data browser, which houses the MLA biographies, newspaper clippings, reference questions and the history checklist databases. This past summer

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the Library's Computer Science Co-op student built a new prototype of the data browser. The Library's Automation Specialist continues to make updates and changes based on the Library's specific needs. It is hoped that this new version will be operational by late spring 2006.

A significant challenge over the past few years has been adapting to the increasing complexity of library work due to the rapid expansion of electronic information resources. As the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications, the Legislative Library continues to stress the importance of producing print copies as well as Internet versions of government publications. The Library advocates that print copies should continue to be made available for future generations and for today's public that might not own a computer. Although recognizing the importance of the Internet in today's information-sharing age, the Internet itself is not a stable publishing medium, as URLs tend not to be persistent and permanent. The Legislative Library has stressed the importance of ensuring that documents such as the *Royal Gazette* and Bills introduced in the House be made available in paper copy as well as online. In particular, the New Brunswick Statutes are of such importance, both as an historical record of the laws of the province and as a compendium of the present day legislation, that the Legislative Librarian has taken an active role in advocating for the continued publishing and distribution of paper copies.

In 2003, in association with the Clerk's Office, the Library began the long process of preparing a proposal for amendments to the *Legislative Library Act* to include mandated deposit of government e-publications, which are published on and removed from the web without an archival copy kept for future reference. Discussions have taken place on how best to begin collecting and storing all born-digital government publications in their original format and appearance, in a way which is accessible to the public. One option would see a cost-sharing network of government partners dedicated to the common goal of preservation.

The Library has proposed that Corporate Information Management Services would be the technology partner, the Library, as the depository partner, would use its expertise to select and organize the data to be saved, and Communications New Brunswick,

would make it available to the public. Discussions are ongoing as an agreement between the three partners is negotiated. However, just as the Library owns the printed material deposited with it and assumes all costs for storage, the Library will have to do the same for e-publications. This means the Library will need a separate server strictly for electronic publications.

The MLA database, 1784 to the present, is up to date and complete, and continues to be amended as changes occur. There are over 1000 biographies, many of which include a photograph of the Member. The database has proven useful as it is instantly available to the press, MLAs and party staff, as well as genealogists and historians. Prior to its existence, individuals would have to scour parliamentary guides or legislative records to obtain such detailed information. The database will be posted to the Library's website once a complete translation is finalized.

The Library continues to maintain a subscription to EBSCO databases, a full-text database of journals. As of the end of December 2005, the Library held a subscription with CEDROM, more specifically with Newscan, offering full-text access to many New Brunswick newspapers and, other articles of interest. In December of 2005, CEDROM informed the Library that as of the first of January, 2006, it would no longer carry New Brunswick English dailies in its database. Consequently, a new contract was signed with Infomart, the company that will now handle the archives of New Brunswick English daily newspapers. In the meantime the Library continues to create a subject specific database of current news stories that will be of interest to the MLAs and their staff.

The online *Index of the Private Acts of New Brunswick, 1929-2004*, a vital compendium maintained for the Legislative Assembly, continues to be used on an almost daily basis. Updates to this material occur on an annual basis.

The Library continues to host a series of rotating exhibits of New Brunswick artists. Over the past number of years the art has been borrowed from Gallery 78, a private gallery located near the Assembly. A special thank you is extended to Gallery 78 for their cooperation and generosity. The Library hopes to find additional sources for New Brunswick art in 2006.

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## *Space/Storage*

Accommodation of the collections continues to provide challenges. Following an inventory of the material in storage by a rare-book dealer in 2004, that collection was divided. The Lieutenant Governor, who appreciates the literary aspect of New Brunswick's cultural heritage, graciously accepted the rare books involved to fill the bookshelves in his residence. Mostly bound in leather, these books wonderfully suit the Lieutenant Governor's residence that dates back to 1828. The books necessary for the Library to keep have been re-stored with the expectation that a more suitable replacement storage facility will be identified in the near future.

The Legislative Library continues to accept material from various departmental libraries and government agency libraries that are closing or weeding their collections. Staff has sorted through these collections and will be attempting to find space for them.

Concerns over space also led the Library to the decision in late 2005 to leave the Federal Depository Services Program. The loss of off-site storage as well as the dropping numbers in federal collection usage demonstrated to the Library that Government Documents was no longer capable of housing this vast collection. Much of the federal material is available online and at the University of New Brunswick. The Government Documents staff will turn their attention to better cultivation of its New Brunswick government publications collection, as well as planning and developing its own e-repository system for New Brunswick government electronic documents.

## *Staffing*

The Legislative Library has undergone significant staff changes during the past year. The retirements of several long-standing and dedicated employees resulted in a reduction in the number of permanent full-time staff from seven to five. The Library is currently working to fill these valuable positions.

Margie Pacey presided over the Library as Legislative Librarian for a fourth year, and directed the Library through one of its busiest years ever. Under her guidance, the Library's user and borrower statistics have shown a marked increase, with 2005 being the highest to-date. As mentioned, Ms. Pacey retired as of November 30th of 2005, but continues to work on a contractual basis and will remain as Legislative Librarian until a replacement is found.

Peggy Goss retired as Reference Librarian at the end of October, 2005. Ms. Goss had been with the Legislative Library since 1999 and was instrumental in ensuring that the Library's reference service operated in efficient manner and that it provided a professional service to Members, staff and the public. Ms. Goss also held the position of Acting Legislative Librarian for a number of months in 2005.

Jean-Claude Arcand retired on June 17th of this past year, after 14 years of dedicated service as Technical Services Librarian. Mr Arcand has been returning to the Library on a temporary basis to catalogue material in the Government Documents collection.

Jean Weissenhorn DeLong has taken on additional duties in the Technical Services Section of the Library. She is also responsible for accounting and interlibrary loans. This is significant as the number of titles borrowed via interlibrary loans is up 11% over 2004. Ms. Weissenhorn DeLong also took over the role of cataloguer and received training under Erma Allen, Head of Cataloguing at the University of New Brunswick.

Kathleen Jeffries moved into the newly created position of Outreach/Continuous Learning Librarian, which encompasses Reference duties and staff and MLA training, as well as public relations duties. Kathleen took on this position in November of 2005.

Government Documents Librarian Janet McNeil is a member of the Reference team and continues to handle acquisitions and organization of the New Brunswick government publications.

Tom Stillwell continues to work primarily in Reference and is responsible for circulation in the Main Library. Mr. Stillwell's other responsibilities include periodicals, collection development and the New Brunswick pamphlet collection.

Anthony Lovesey was the successful applicant of the new position of Library Automation Specialist. Mr. Lovesey works on the Library's website and designed the six databases on the site. The Automation Specialist handles all the technological aspects of Horizon and the creation of software to enhance the new system, including an overdue book database and technology that allows clients to request books directly from the catalogue.

The Legislative Library also benefitted this past summer from the work of several talented summer students: Allison Betts, Emily Breen, Leah Corby, Paul Donovan, Ryan Hennessey, Rachel Johnstone, Anthony Lovesey, Kate Paisley, Kristi Peterson and Sarah Richard. Through their work the Library has been able to reorganize its entire collection of holdings and complete other special projects, including: an index of maiden speeches by Members from 1917 to 1951; the commencement of a compilation of political histories of constituency ridings; bar-coding and shelf reading the entire Main and New Brunswick collections, and updating the MLA database.

### *New Equipment*

The new Horizon server and catalogue was the Library's most significant acquisition of 2005. The Library was able to purchase a demonstration model of a microfiche/microfilm scanner and printer. In addition, two bar code scanners were purchased to use in with the circulation and cataloguing modules of the system. In order to support its increasing technological needs, the Library purchased a mini portable hard drive as well as new cataloguing software.

### *Continuing Education*

The number of structured staff tutorials was down slightly this year, but staff did continue to hold short presentations, especially in regards to Library technologies. A workshop was presented on the evaluation of Internet resources and a demonstration

was given on Factiva and how to search for news articles. Staff also took part in a session on the use of Copernic to find Hansard files.

Staff were given regular demonstrations on changes and updates to the Library's in-house databases. Larger staff training events included a day long session with Newscan representatives in May, in respect to the launching of a new interface and new version of their product. With Infomart replacing Newscan in 2006, reference staff is making arrangements for new training sessions.

In addition, Library staff put in many hours of meetings, conference calls, Web-X sessions and training for the new Horizon system. All staff were involved in several orientation sessions, from how to operate the system, to what should be included on the interface, as well as specialized sessions involving specific modules, setting preferences, and technological demands.

### *Memberships*

Margie Pacey is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Association of Parliamentarian Librarians in Canada. All four librarians are members of the Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick/Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick. Jean-Claude Arcand is Treasurer of this association.



*Left to right:*

*The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Hon. Bev Harrison, Hon. Dale Graham, Deputy Premier and Minister of Supply and Services, His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson, and Louis F. O'Brien, Vice-President, Business Transformation and Sourcing Management Canada Post, photographed March 23, 2005, at the Legislative Library.*

*At this official unveiling ceremony, Canada Post issued five stamps featuring images from Birds of America, to commemorate the presence of the wildlife artist John James Audubon in Canada almost 175 years ago*

*The Legislative Library is home to one of only five publicly owned copies of Birds of America.*

# Hansard Office

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey



2004-2005

## Mandate

Under section 8 of the *Official Languages Act of New Brunswick*, the “records, journals and reports of the Legislative Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published in English and French”. This requirement is enshrined in subsection 18(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: “The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.”

More specifically, the Hansard Office records, transcribes, edits, and publishes the proceedings of the House (“Hansard”) in both official languages, with emphasis on oral questions; records, transcribes, and makes available proceedings of the standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly in the spoken word; and responds to inquiries relating to recorded proceedings.

## Highlights During the 2004-05 Fiscal Year

- The number of recorded hours of House proceedings increased to 336 from 141 during the previous fiscal year. The number of recorded hours of committee proceedings decreased to 223 from 345 during the previous fiscal year.
- The number of requests for transcripts of House proceedings increased to 413 from 185 during the previous fiscal year. The number of requests for committee transcripts increased to 105 from 92 during the previous fiscal year.
- In an effort to make transcripts more readily accessible to Members, staff, and the public, the Blues Project was piloted in November 2004. The “Blues” are those oral questions, daily sitting, and committee transcripts that are made available and posted on the Legislative Assembly Intranet prior to their going through the final editing process. Given the overall success of the project and the

favourable reaction of Members and staff, the decision was made, in March 2005, to adopt the project on a permanent basis.

- In an effort to reduce paper use, copying, and labour costs, the Hansard Office implemented a new electronic system of distribution for Hansard transcripts. Beginning in March, the vast majority of transcripts were distributed by e-mail in pdf format, resulting in increased savings and greater client satisfaction.
- The Special Project Officer, Valmond LeBlanc, managed the Hansard Office on an interim basis from October 7, 2004, until March 22, 2005, when the position of Official Reporter was filled following a competition.
- The Legislative Administration Committee approved the appointment of Linda Fahey as Official Reporter effective March 22, 2005. Ms. Fahey had been employed with the Legislative Assembly since 1991 and served as a Senior Parliamentary Editor within the Hansard Office prior to her appointment. The Committee also approved the decision to return to the traditional title of “Official Reporter” for this position, as provided for in section 33 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*.
- Additional staffing within the Hansard Office resulted in increased productivity and output during the year. A full-time, permanent bilingual editor was hired in June, bringing the total full-time contingent to eight. In addition, the Office retained the services of three casual parliamentary editors and a clerical assistant to assist with the increased workload during sessional and committee activity. In March, Cheryl Fulton-Wade marked 25 years of service at the Legislative Assembly.

- The Office continued its participation in the Hansard Association of Canada and sent one delegate to its annual conference, which was held in Halifax in August. The Hansard Association of Canada exists to promote professionalism in the production of the official report of debates (Hansard) in the legislatures of Canada, facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between parliamentary debates reporting services across Canada and beyond national boundaries, provide assistance and guidance to legislatures in their Hansard production, and inform and educate others about Hansard.

### *House*

Objective: to record, transcribe, and edit House proceedings, with priority given to oral questions and requests for specific excerpts of transcripts or information.

During the 2004-05 fiscal year, there were 63 sitting days, including five evening sittings, which entailed the recording of 4 216 five-minute takes. A summary document of House proceedings was created by Hansard staff at the conclusion of each sitting day and distributed on a next-day basis to other legislative offices. Oral questions transcripts were provided on a same-day basis to 328 clients. Table 1 provides a breakdown of oral questions by party, and Table 2 provides a similar breakdown for statements.

Hansard dailies were provided to 42 subscribers. At the end of the fiscal year under review, the daily sittings completed and distributed were as follows:

- 54th legislature, 4th session, 2001-02, Daily Sittings 1-38 (November 20, 2001, to April 12, 2002) and 40-43 (April 17-23, 2002);
- 54th legislature, 5th session, 2002-03, Dailies 1 (November 19, 2002), 3 (November 21, 2002), and 15 (December 12, 2002);
- 55th legislature, 1st session, 2003-04, Dailies 1 (July 29, 2003), 3 (July 31, 2003), and 19 (April 1, 2004);
- 55th legislature, 2nd session, 2004-05, Daily Sittings 1-5 (December 2-9, 2004) and 8 (December 15, 2004).

The Blues Project was piloted in November 2004 and adopted in March 2005. Transcripts of oral questions and daily sittings for the current session were completed and posted to the Legislative Assembly Intranet prior to final editing. The overall result was that dailies and oral questions transcripts were made available more quickly than in previous years, when only the fully edited versions were released. At the end of the fiscal year under review, the daily sittings completed in Blues format and posted to the Legislative Assembly Intranet were:

- 55th legislature, 2nd session, 2004-05, Dailies 6-17 (December 10, 2004, to January 21, 2005).

Daily sitting, oral questions, and request transcripts were distributed mainly by e-mail in pdf format, and the daily sittings and oral questions mailing lists for hard copies were greatly diminished.

Table 3 provides comparative statistics on the number of days, hours, and takes for the past five sessions.

Bound volumes of Hansard are published in both official languages. Hansard volumes are provided to 56 subscribers: Members of the Legislative Assembly; government departments; political party offices; legislative, university, and public libraries throughout Canada; the media; and interested citizens.

### *Committees*

Objective: to record, transcribe, and edit proceedings of the standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly, with priority given to requests for specific excerpts of transcripts or information.

During the 2004-05 fiscal year, 49 standing committee meetings were recorded: Crown Corporations, 20; Crown Corporations/Public Accounts, 1; Private Bills, 4; Public Accounts, 18; Law Amendments, 5; Ombudsman, 1. Also recorded were 4 meetings of the Select Committee on Health Care. These committee meetings entailed 223 hours of recording, which is the equivalent of 2 676 five-minute takes.

Table 4 shows the percentage of committee work compared to House work.

**Special Events**

Hansard Office staff operated the sound equipment for the three-day Student Legislative Seminar in April 2004, the annual Girl Guides of Canada cord ceremony in September, and the annual Chief Scout Awards ceremony in November. Staff also attended the meetings of the Select Committee on Health Care, which were held in various locations throughout the province.

**Table 1**  
**Oral Questions by Caucus,**  
**2004-05 Fiscal Year**

<b>Caucus</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	0	0
Liberal Party	917	1 547
New Democratic Party	156	204
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1 073</b>	<b>1 751</b>

**Table 2**  
**Statements by Ministers and Members,**  
**2004-05 Fiscal Year**

<b>Caucus</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Members</b>
Progressive Conservative Party	361	293
Liberal Party	0	594
New Democratic Party	0	57
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>944</b>

**Table 3**  
**Comparative Statistics for Sessions**

<b>Year</b> <b>(Legislature &amp; Session)</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Takes</b>
2000-2001 (54-3)	63	340	4 199
2001-2002 (54-4)	71	396	4 826
2002-2003 (54-5)	68	410	5 119
2003-2004 (55-1)	62	334	4 208
*2004-2005 (55-2)	58	319	3 795

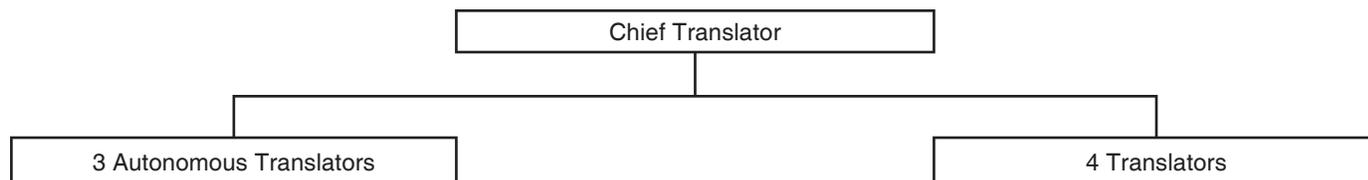
\*Includes 34 hours and 392 five-minute takes of the Standing Committee on Estimates, June 2005.

**Table 4**  
**Hours Recorded,**  
**2004-05 Fiscal Year**

<b>Proceedings</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>% of Workload</b>
House	336	60
Committees	223	40
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>100</b>

# Debates Translation

Chief Translator — Aurella Losier-Vienneau



## 2004-2005

### Mandate

Under section 8 of the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick, “The records, journals and reports of the Legislative Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published in English and French”. This requirement is enshrined in subsection 18(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: “The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.”

More specifically, Debates Translation translates statements and speeches delivered by members in the House, the daily Journal, the proceedings of the House (“Hansard”), committee reports and other material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

### Highlights

- The number of daily sittings increased by 142%, from 26 during the 2003-04 fiscal year to 63 in 2004-05.
- During the 2004-05 fiscal year, production amounted to over 1.75 million words, compared to 1.79 million words the previous year.
- During the year, over 1 400 translation requests were processed, 22% more than the previous year.
- In June, a student from the Université de Moncton accelerated Bachelors of Translation program did an internship at our office.
- In August 2004, a TR 1, or junior translator, took a year’s maternity leave.
- Rebecca Colborne, a parliamentary translator 2, or intermediate translator, passed the national standardized exam and was awarded the title of certified French-to-English translator by the Corporation of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters of New Brunswick (CTINB), an affiliated member of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTIC).

- From 18 to 22 October, 2004, staff attended professional development workshops on anglicisms, common translation problems, revision, and self-revision. The workshops were offered by the federal government Translation Bureau.
- In late October, the casual secretary at the office left to accept a permanent position.
- The Chief Translator represented Debates Translation and the Legislative Assembly on the New Brunswick Translation Industry Council, or NB Translation, which has as its mission the promotion of the translation industry by providing a forum where the interests of clients, translation practitioners, educational institutions, and government bodies are represented and the need for succession planning are taken into account in order to ensure the orderly growth of the industry. NB Translation holds two meetings a year, in the spring and in the fall.

### House

Objective: to translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings, as well as motions introduced in the House.

Translation of Hansard accounted for over 40% of the workload and decreased by 32% over last year. This decrease was mainly due to the loss of a staff member for over half the year as well as to the time autonomous translators have to devote to mentoring and training new employees. Approximately 18% of Hansard translation was into English. Table 2 provides comparative statistics on the number of words for the past five sessions.

The daily Journal represented almost 3% of the workload; translation is usually completed shortly after the session. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for almost 26% of the workload, a 167% increase over last year, due to the increased number of daily sittings. The Order Paper and notices of motion receive same-day translation.

### Members of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: to translate, as resources allow, statements and speeches delivered in the House by members, including Cabinet ministers and opposition members.

Translation for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for approximately 19% of the total workload, a 174% increase over the previous year.

During the 63 sitting days in the fiscal year under review, 416 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed, representing 1 436 pages. These included the throne speech, the budget speech, as well as 345 statements and 69 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. Compared to last year, the number of speeches decreased slightly, but average speech length increased from 11 to 12.5 pages. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 84% of the workload. Approximately 95% of translation was into French.

During intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members include correspondence and press releases. The Office of the Official Opposition was the largest client, comprising 84% of the workload. The Office of Government Members and the New Democratic Member's Office accounted for 13% and 3% of the workload respectively. Translation requests by Members of the Legislative Assembly usually receive same-day or next-day service, as resources allow.

### Committees

Objective: to translate reports, agendas, and notices of meetings for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Translation for committees represented almost 4% of the total workload and decreased by 30% over the 2003-04 fiscal year.

### Office of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: to translate material of a procedural and administrative nature for the Speaker's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Legislative Library.

Translation for the Office of the Legislative Assembly represented over 8% of the total workload and decreased by 25% over the 2003-04 fiscal year.

**Table 1: Debates Translation Output**

**2004-05 Fiscal Year**

HOUSE	
Notices of Motions and Order Paper	449 000
Journal	50 000
Hansard <sup>1</sup>	703 000
MEMBERS	
Speeches and Statements	242 000
Correspondence, releases	93 000
COMMITTEES	66 000
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
	147 000
<b>TOTAL<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1 750 000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes a carryover of a little over 695 700 words (28% of 1999-2000 Hansard, as well as Sitting 19 of 2003-04 Hansard) from the previous fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes a carryover of approximately 12.65 million words (25% of 1999-2000 Hansard, 100% of 2000-01 Hansard, 100% of 2001-02 Hansard, 100% of 2002-03 Hansard, 100% of 2003-04 Hansard, and Sittings 1 to 19 of 2004-05 Hansard) into the next fiscal year.

**Table 2 : Comparative Statistics for Sessions**

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Days	63	71	68	62	58
Words	2 378 000	3 084 000	3 271 000*	2 571 000*	2 377 000*

\* Estimate

# Special Project

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*Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc*

## **Background**

When Debates Translation was established in 1977, its mandate was to translate House proceedings (“Hansard”) before the next session. This differs from other legislatures in Canada, where proceedings are usually made available within 24 to 48 hours. A translation backlog of Hansard developed in the early nineties, and the Legislative Administration Committee approved in September 1997 a strategy to address the issue. This strategy had three components.

The first component was to maintain outside funding to assist catch-up efforts. In 2004-05, for the 10th consecutive year, a translation outsourcing contribution was received under the Canada/New Brunswick General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages. The Legislative Assembly appreciates the cooperation of the Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations and Canadian Heritage in support of efforts to meet the objective of making documents available simultaneously in both official languages.

The second component was internal funding for outsourcing. In 2004-05, the \$100 000 added to the Debates Translation budget for outsourcing was maintained. One portion was used for a casual support staff.

The third component was designation of a senior staff member as Special Project Officer, reporting to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, to focus full-time on reducing the translation backlog. Duties also included updating the *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* and leadership in setting standards and quality control.

The special project has three objectives.

### **Objective 1: Maintain the Hansard translation workflow.**

#### **Results**

- In 2004-05, Hansard translation demand was an estimated 2.33 million words, an increase of 143% compared to the revised estimate of 959 000 words for the previous fiscal year.
- In 2004-05, Hansard translation output totaled 707 000 words, compared to 1.03 million words in the previous fiscal year, a decrease of 32%.

- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 1.62 million words. Over the past five fiscal years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.50 million words per year.

### **Objective 2: Provide translation of daily sittings at an earlier date.**

#### **Results**

- In 2004-05, on-line translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 101 months earlier than the published volumes.
- As of March 31, 2005, translation of dailies up to Day 50 (May 19, 2000) of the 1999-2000 session was posted on the network in both PDF and WordPerfect format.
- Dailies up to Day 17 (January 26, 1999) of the 1998-99 session were available in bilingual dual-column format on the network. This material can be viewed, printed and is fully searchable electronically.

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

#### **Results**

- In 2004-05, the Hansard translation backlog increased by 1.62 million words. Revised estimates now show that the backlog recorded a net decrease of 74 000 words during the previous fiscal year.
- During the fiscal year, 63 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 16 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 47 sitting days, compared to a decrease of 2 sitting days in the previous fiscal year.
- As of March 31, 2005, Hansard translation was trailing by 58 months (or 288 dailies), compared to 47 months (or 242 dailies) at the end of the previous fiscal year.

#### **Quality Control**

The *Parliamentary Stylebook* and the *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* were updated during the year. Both documents are available for consultation and download at

<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>.

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### **Special Assignment**

The Special Project Officer headed the Hansard Office on an interim basis from October 7, 2004, to March 22, 2005. The major endeavour during that period was implementation of the blues project, aimed at making current Hansard dailies available more quickly. More information is provided in the Hansard Office section of this report.

### **Conclusion**

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the 8 other parliamentary translators at Debates Translation as well as 8 professionals in the private sector, in close cooperation with staff at the Hansard Office. Efforts will continue to offer a product that not only meets high-quality standards but that is also provided on a more timely basis for members and staff of the Legislative Assembly, government departments, and New Brunswickers.

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## **Publications**

### **Debates Translation**

*Listing of Definitions in Legislation, 1993- / Recueil de définitions législatives, 1993*

Sauvageau, Alain. *Parliamentary Translation Forms, 1995- / Formules pour la traduction parlementaire, 1995-*

### **Hansard Office**

*Journal of Debates (Hansard). 54th Legislature, 4th Session, 2001-02. Finalized: Daily Sittings 4 (November 23, 2001), 19 (December 20, 2001), 21 (January 2, 2002) to 29 (March 27, 2002), 31 (April 2, 2002) to 38 (April 12, 2002), and 40 (April 17, 2002) to 43 (April 23, 2002).*

*Journal of Debates (Hansard). 55th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2004-05. Finalized: Dailies 1 (December 2, 2004) to 5 (December 9, 2004). Unrevised: Dailies 6 (December 10, 2004) to 17 (January 21, 2005).*

*Summary of Proceedings. 55th Legislature, 1st Session, April 2, 2004, to December 2, 2004: 43 summaries. 55th Legislature, 2nd Session, December 2, 2004, to March 31, 2005: 19 summaries.*

### **Office of the Clerk**

*Legislative Activities 2004*

*Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, Second Session, Fifty-fifth Legislature, 2004-2005 (Unrevised, 58 issues); Third Session, Fifty-Fifth Legislature (Unrevised, 12 issues)*

*Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Fourth Session, 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2001-2002.*

*Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Fifth Session, 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2002-2003.*

*Order and Notice Paper, December 2, 2004-December 6, 2005, 58 issues; December 6 to December 23, 2005, 12 issues\**

*Seating Arrangement, Third Session, 55th Legislature*

*Status of Legislation Introduced during the Second*

*Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly\**

*Status of Legislation Introduced during the Third Session*

*of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly\**

*Quarterly Jurisdictional Reports, Canadian*

*Parliamentary Review, 2005*

### **Legislative Library**

*The Development of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, 1841 - 1991*

*Elections in New Brunswick, 1784-1984*

*Index to the Private Acts of New Brunswick, 1929-2003\**

*New Brunswick Government Documents Annual*

*Catalogue\**

*New Brunswick Legislative Library Handbook, 1999*

*Periodicals Contents (monthly)*

*Selected Accessions (quarterly)\**

### **Special Project**

LeBlanc, Valmond. *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* [online in PDF, updated regularly]. 1979-, <[http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications\\_e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications_e.asp)>.

———. *Parliamentary Stylebook* [online in PDF, updated regularly]. 2001-, <[http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications\\_e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications_e.asp)>.

———. *Parliamentary Translation in New Brunswick: An Inside Look*. Conference given on November 1, 2003, <[http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications\\_e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications_e.asp)>.

\* Available on the Internet only.

# Program for Members

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## *Program for Members*

The other components or branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Government Members' Office, the Office of the Official Opposition and the Third Party or Independent Member's Office.

Each party grouping or caucus of elected Members is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office.

Although, theoretically, the Speaker has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons, these branches operate with considerable autonomy.

Currently, three branches receive 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:

1. Office of the Government Members;
2. Office of the Official Opposition; and
3. Office of the New Democratic Member.

## *Funding*

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

Under the authority of subsection 29(5) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, each year the Legislative Administration Committee approves funding for Private Members for secretarial, research and other assistance incidental to the performance of their duties.

Members of each political party combine this funding to obtain and share research, secretarial and receptionist personnel.

Under subsections 29(1) and (3) of the Act, funding is also approved annually for the leaders of registered political parties represented in the House (Leader of the Opposition and third party leaders) to be used for salaries of staff, salary and expenses of the leaders, and other expenses related to the operation of the respective Offices.

## *Research and Administrative Support*

The staff of each office provides primary and secondary research support with respect to topics and issues of interest to the Members. The Office helps handle correspondence relating to Members' legislative and public duties and provides many other support functions.

## *Office of Government Members*

The staff for this Office is comprised of a chief of staff, a communications/research officer, a communications officer, an office manager, three researchers and a secretary.

Members (Progressive Conservative Party MLAs) and staff of this Office currently occupy the second and third floor offices of the Departmental Building frequently referred to as the West Block.

## *Office of the Official Opposition*

The staff for this Office is comprised of a chief of staff, a senior advisor/policy development, a senior policy analyst, three policy analysts, an office manager, a legislative assistant, a press secretary, a special assistant to the Leader, a communications assistant, two secretaries to the Members and an executive assistant.

Members (Liberal Party MLAs) and staff of the Official Opposition occupy the first and second floor of the Old Education Building, frequently referred to as the East Block, and the Jewett House (formerly occupied by Debates Translation).

## *Office of the New Democratic Member*

The staff for this Office is comprised of a research and planning officer and an executive secretary to the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

The New Democratic Party Member and her staff have offices on the third floor of the Old Education Building.

# Tributes

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## **Paul Dawson**

MLA John Foran (Miramichi Centre) paid tribute to the memory of a former Minister of Commerce and Development and Minister of Income Assistance, Paul Dawson, who passed away April 3, 2005:

*I rise today to acknowledge the passing of a well-known Miramichier, Paul Dawson. Mr. Dawson was a former Member of the Legislative Assembly, a former member of the Hatfield Cabinet where he held two portfolios, a past member of the Newcastle town council, and, at the time of his death, was serving in the position of deputy mayor of Miramichi city council.*

*Over the years, Paul was an energetic community volunteer, especially in the field of sports, and has been acknowledged for this on several occasions. It would be hard to find anybody in Miramichi who did not know of Paul Dawson. Paul was a fine family man, a husband, father, brother, and will be sadly missed by his wife, children, siblings, and friends.*

## **Kenneth Johnson**

On March 31, 2005, Mr. S. Graham (Kent) paid tribute to the memory of Rogersville-Kouchibouguac Liberal MLA Kenneth Johnson:

*On January 24, we were saddened to learn of the death of former MLA Kenneth Johnson. Mr. Johnson served as an MLA from 1995 to 1999. I had the privilege of serving with Mr. Johnson in this House and had the opportunity to work closely with him, as we represented neighbouring ridings. He was a friendly and committed member of this House who made a career of serving the people of his region.*

## **Laurier Lévesque**

Mr. Paulin (Restigouche West) noted the passing of MLA Laurier Lévesque, who died in September of 2005:

*Born in 1929, in Saint-Jacques, New Brunswick, Mr. Lévesque studied at Collège Saint-Joseph in Memramcook and at the Teachers' College in Fredericton. A teacher by profession, Mr. Lévesque went into politics in 1960, joining the Louis J. Robichaud team. He was a passionate defender of Francophone rights during his 14 years in provincial politics. In fact, he was one of the first MLAs to give his speeches in the Legislative Assembly in French. After a lengthy career in politics, Mr. Lévesque continued to be a politically and socially committed man. In 1990, he took part*

*in diplomatic missions abroad, where he contributed to the influence of our political system by organizing and supervising democratic elections in 10 African countries, in 2 countries from the former USSR, and in Bosnia-Herzegovina.*

## **Ab Rector**

On March 31, 2005, Mr. Carr (Oromocto-Gagetown) acknowledged the service and the life of former Confederation of Regions MLA and Interim Leader, Ab Rector (Oromocto, 1991-1995):

*I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Rector personally, as did many of the people of the Oromocto-Geary-Burton area. The death of Mr. Rector occurred yesterday at the Oromocto Public Hospital after a battle with cancer. Mr. Rector was well-known and well-respected.*

## **Louis J. Robichaud**

The Honourable the Premier, Bernard Lord, addressed the Assembly on January 6, 2005:

*I have the unfortunate and sad task of informing the House that former Premier and Senator Hon. Louis Joseph Robichaud passed away today at the age of 79. The death of Louis Robichaud is a significant loss for our province and for all of Canada. Louis Robichaud was a great builder for our province. Under his leadership, the provincial government made profound changes to our province which have shaped the modern New Brunswick we know today.*

*As Premier and later as Senator, Mr. Robichaud demonstrated a profound spirit of activism and involvement and his deep commitment to make New Brunswick grow and develop for all New Brunswickers.*

*Born and raised in Saint-Antoine, Kent County, Mr. Robichaud was educated as a lawyer. He entered politics for the first time in 1952, at the age of 27, when he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the riding of Kent. He was re-elected in 1956 and, two years later, was elected Leader of the Liberal Party. Mr. Robichaud led his party to victory in 1960, becoming New Brunswick's 24th Premier and the first Acadian elected to that office.*

*Premier Louis Robichaud and his government brought in the Equal Opportunity program, which modernized the public service and the structure*

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*of provincial and local government, oversaw the unanimous adoption of the first Official Languages Act, built up the public infrastructure of our province, and reorganized post-secondary education, establishing the Université de Moncton and presiding over the expansion of the University of New Brunswick and relocation of St. Thomas University to Fredericton. Premier Robichaud was also instrumental in giving us one of our most enduring symbols, our provincial flag, which was raised for the first time atop this Legislature in March 1965.*

*One of the most singular and lasting achievements of Louis Robichaud as Premier was the proclamation in 1969 of the original Official Languages of New Brunswick Act, which declared for the first time that English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.*

*The Act marked a milestone in ensuring that government services would be provided in both official languages for all the people of New Brunswick. Successive governments have built upon this historic legislation set forth by Louis Robichaud in this very chamber 35 years ago.*

*I was proud to stand with Mr. Robichaud when we introduced our new Official Languages Act in June 2002, which updated and modernized Mr. Robichaud's Act.*

*These are but a few of the many accomplishments of this remarkable man in his decade as Premier, accomplishments which transformed our province and shaped how we live and work together as residents of the diverse, bilingual, and multicultural New Brunswick of today.*

*On this day, as we mourn his passing, it is fitting that we recognize and remember all that Louis Robichaud did for our province and the fine example he set through his dedication, perseverance, pride, and sense of belonging to our province, our culture, and our languages.*

*Louis J. Robichaud demonstrated to all of us that we can realize our dreams, live and prosper throughout this wonderful province we call New Brunswick.*

### **Jim Wilson**

On December 7, 2005, Mr. Burke (Fredericton North) acknowledged the death of Fredericton North Liberal MLA Jim Wilson, who died July 10 at the age of 68.

*Jim represented Fredericton North from 1987 to 1991, and again from 1995 to 1999. He was particularly proud of the construction of Leo Hayes High School, as he had always championed a North Side high school for the city. In addition to his time as an elected official, Jim was a community activist, a life member of the Kinsmen Association, a past deputy governor for the Atlantic Provinces, and a member of St. John's Anglican Church.*

### **Decosta Young**

Mr. Huntjens, MLA for Western Charlotte, paid tribute to the memory of Progressive Conservative MLA for Charlotte (1967-1978) Decosta Young who died December 16, 2005.

*I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a former MLA and a great New Brunswicker. Decosta Young passed away last week. He was born on Deer Island, and he was engaged as a building contractor and sardine fisheries operator. After an unsuccessful bid in 1963, Mr. Young was elected to the Legislature in 1967, and he became a member of the opposition. He was reelected to the Richard Hatfield government in 1970 and 1974.*

*In addition to his business activities, his political work, and his involvement in his church, he was also a tremendous hockey coach. Wearing his Punch Imlach fedora, he would inspire his hockey players. He would make them feel that they were as important as an NHL team, as they traveled from Deer Island to take to the ice in St. Andrews. Not only did he coach hockey players, but he also instilled character in his players that enabled them to make lasting contributions to Deer Island in their mature manhood.*

*Decosta was proud of his position as an MLA, and it showed. When he traveled from Deer Island, you would not think he was going to the Legislature. You would actually think that he was on his way to the House of Commons, or even to Westminster. He was that powerful an orator, and he had a great deal of presence.*