

Legislative Activities

2023

**Legislative Assembly
of New Brunswick**



Cover photo:

A traditional fancy ash basket, 2017.
Sandra Racine, Indigenous Mi'kmaq Artist.
Exhibited in the Wabanaki Room,
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick.
Mawi'Art: Wabanaki Artist Collective.

Legislative Activities

2023



New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Bill Oliver

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick



October 18, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the thirty-fifth annual report of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Shayne Davies
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEAR IN REVIEW	1
NOTABLE EVENTS	3
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Role of Speaker	5
Role of Members	5
House Activity	6
House Statistics	7
Members of the Legislative Assembly, as of December 31, 2023	8
Committee Activity	10
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	
Visitors and Special Events	16
Page Program	17
Broadcasting and Webcasting	17
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Mission Statement and Organizational Chart	19
Office of the Clerk	20
Financial and Human Resource Services	22
Legislative Library	24
Hansard and Debates Translation	25
Program for Members	27



YEAR IN REVIEW

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Shayne Davies

The year 2023 was a busy one for the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The second session of the 60th Legislature ended and the third session began. In total, the House sat for 51 days during the calendar year and committees held 88 meetings. The year saw the election and swearing-in of three new Members, amendments to the Standing Rules, and a cabinet shuffle.

The second session of the 60th Legislature, which adjourned on December 16, 2022, resumed on March 21, 2023. On that day, Finance and Treasury Board Minister Ernie Steeves delivered the 2023-2024 Main Estimates, which was the government's fifth budget. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on March 23 by Official Opposition Finance and Treasury Board Critic René Legacy.

On March 23, writs were issued for by-elections to fill the vacancies in the electoral districts of Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore, Dieppe, and Restigouche-Chaleur. The three constituencies had been vacant since the resignations of their Members in the fall of 2022. On April 24, Official Opposition candidates were elected in each of the ridings, with Susan Holt elected in Bathurst East-Nepisiguit-Saint-Isidore, Richard Losier elected in Dieppe, and Marco LeBlanc elected in Restigouche-Chaleur. The newly elected Members were sworn in before Lieutenant-Governor Brenda Murphy at a ceremony in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on May 9. Robert McKee, former Leader of the Official Opposition, introduced the three new Members to the House during an afternoon sitting on the same day. Ms. Holt took over the role of Leader of the Official Opposition on April 25. She has been serving as Leader of the New Brunswick Liberal Party since August 6, 2022.

On June 16, the House concurred in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers, which had been presented to the House on May 12. The report outlined a legislative calendar by Special Order and amendments to the Standing Rules governing sitting hours of the House and Routine Proceedings. The Special Order is in place for the remainder of the 60th Legislative Assembly.

Three pieces of legislation of note were introduced during the spring sitting related to the Legislature or its Officers: Bill 37, *An Act Respecting the Official Languages Act*, created the Secretariat of Official Languages, clarified the required contents of the Commissioner of Official Language's annual report, and added a mechanism permitting the Commissioner to delegate investigative powers in the event of a conflict of interest; Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*, ensured that the wording pertaining to fixed election dates in the *Legislative Assembly Act* is consistent with other Canadian jurisdictions; and Bill 49, *An Act Respecting the Executive Council Act and the Legislative Assembly Act*, will increase the annual indemnity of Members and the salaries of the Premier, Ministers and Parliamentary Officers after the scheduled provincial general election to be held on or before October 21, 2024. Bill 49 reflected recommendations by an Independent Committee established by the Legislative Assembly to review Members' salaries and benefits. The three bills received Royal Assent on June 16.

Dorothy Shephard announced her departure from Cabinet to sit as a Private Member on June 15, and on June 23, Trevor Holder did the same. Changes to Cabinet were subsequently announced on June 27. Joining Cabinet or with changed portfolios were as follows: Richard Ames as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure; Jill Green as Minister of Social Development, Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, and Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation; Arlene Dunn as Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister responsible for Immigration; Greg Turner as Minister responsible for Opportunities NB and Minister responsible for Economic Development and Small Business; Glen Savoie as Minister of Local Government and Minister



responsible for la Francophonie; Mary Wilson as Minister of Service New Brunswick and Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Sherry Wilson as Minister responsible for Women's Equality, and Minister responsible for Addictions and Mental Health Services; and Kathy Bockus as Minister responsible for Seniors. On the same day, Mike Dawson, Member for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin, was appointed Government Whip.

The Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the second session of the 60th Legislature the morning of October 17. The House sat for 49 days during this session, for a total of 188 hours. This compares to 93 sitting days during the exceptional, two-year-long first session, or 315 hours. A total of 61 bills were introduced during the second session, 52 of which received royal assent. The Standing Committee on Economic Policy spent 95.5 hours considering legislation.

The third session of the 60th Legislature opened the afternoon of October 17, when the Lieutenant-Governor delivered the speech from the throne outlining the legislative agenda of the government. The Leader of the Official Opposition delivered the reply to the speech from the throne two days later.

During the fall sitting, 20 bills were introduced. Legislation of procedural note was Bill 17, *Pension Plan Sustainability and Transfer Act*, which established a process to provide for the transfer of certain public service pension plans to existing shared-risk pension plans. On November 29, a recorded vote was held at first reading of the bill, which was unusual because this stage's purpose is only to allow a bill to be printed and distributed to all Members. Then the Speaker suspended the sitting during second reading debate due to a disruption in the visitors' gallery. Following a recess, proceedings resumed without the need to clear the gallery. The new amending procedure under the Special Order creating a legislative calendar was invoked for the first time on December 8 to extend the fall sitting by two days for the purpose of dealing with Bill 17. On December 12, after the House adopted a time allocation motion to limit debate on Bill 17 to 10 hours at all stages, members of the public in the visitors' gallery again disrupted the proceedings. However, as debate had ended due to the expiry of the 10 hours and the only remaining proceedings on Bill 17 were a series of six recorded votes, the taking of the votes proceeded despite the continuing disturbance. The bill passed and it received Royal Assent on December 13, along with 13 other bills.

The House adjourned on December 13, after 26 sitting days during the session. The standings in the House at year end were 29 Progressive Conservatives, 16 Liberals, three Greens, and one Independent.



NOTABLE EVENTS

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

On May 6, His Majesty Charles III, King of Canada, was crowned at Westminster Abbey, England. His Majesty acceded to the throne on September 8, 2022, when Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away after a 70-year reign.

To commemorate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the Legislative Assembly participated in the pan-Commonwealth emerald green illumination of iconic buildings and landmarks on May 6 and 7. This colour was chosen because it is associated with the environment, which has long been an important cause for His Majesty.

In addition to lighting the building's exterior, the coronation was acknowledged in the House on May 9. Trevor Holder, on behalf of Premier Blaine Higgs; Official Opposition Leader Susan Holt; and Third Party Leader David Coon acknowledged the historic event when they offered wishes for a long and prosperous reign, in addition to expressing hope of a future visit by the country's new head of state.



His Majesty has visited New Brunswick on several occasions, including in June 1983 to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists.

Wabanaki Room

On October 18, a meeting room in the Legislative Assembly Building was designated as the "Wabanaki Room" in honour of First Nations and Indigenous peoples in Atlantic Canada. In consultation with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick, this name was recommended to the Legislative Administration Committee because it is a word common to all Indigenous New Brunswick communities. The Wabanaki Confederacy includes the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaq and Peskotomuhkati Nations, and can be translated a number of ways but is most often translated as "People of the Dawn".

The Wabanaki Room is used for meetings by Members and staff. The designation of the room follows a 2018 initiative, when the room was renovated with a new table top and flooring, and traditional and contemporary artwork produced by Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq artists and craft persons from the Atlantic region was installed to reflect an understanding and sensitivity of the people of the Atlantic region.



Views of the Wabanaki Room with artworks by Sandra Racine, Valérie Jean, Charlie Gaffney, and Trish Barlow-Arcaro.



Parliamentary Visitor Services Association Conference



Participants of the 2023 Parliamentary Visitor Services Association annual general meeting and conference.

From September 18 to 21, the Legislature hosted the annual general meeting and conference of the Parliamentary Visitor Services Association.

The four-day conference was attended by 15 delegates representing provincial and territorial legislatures and the Library of Parliament.

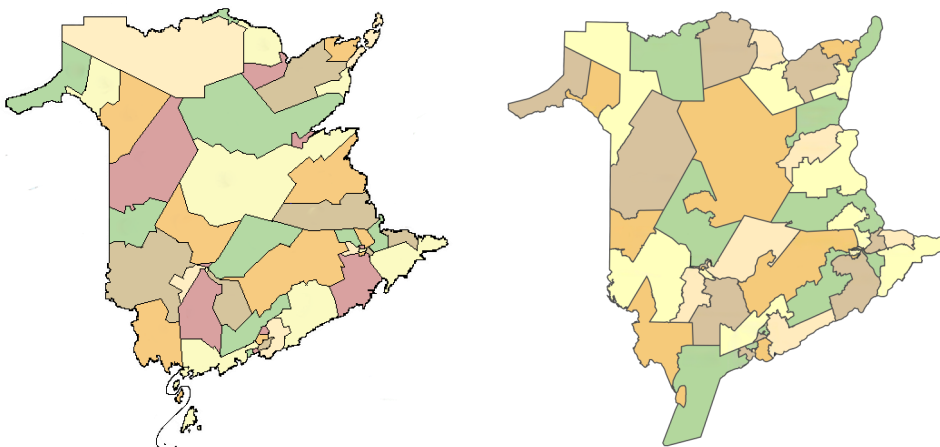
Business session topics included jurisdictional reports, Indigenous cultural training, the Parliamentary Players program, and disputed artworks.

Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission

The Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission released its final amended report on April 24 after holding public consultations throughout the province. Every ten years, the Commission is mandated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to recommend adjustments to New Brunswick's electoral boundaries to account for changes in demographics. These recommendations are guided by the principles that each constituency have an equal number of electors and that both official language communities be effectively represented.

Exceptionally, the Commission recommended that its enabling legislation be amended to address the inclusion of Cap-Acadie, a majority francophone community, within the majority anglophone electoral district of Tantramar. The Commission reported that it was forced to draw the boundary in that manner to comply with the legislated maximum deviation of the number of electors in an electoral district.

An Act Respecting the Proposed Electoral District of Tantramar was then introduced on March 28, which would allow the Commission to adjust the boundaries of Tantramar, resulting in fewer electors in that district to accommodate the inclusion of Cap-Acadie in a neighbouring majority-francophone district. With unanimous consent, the bill advanced through every stage and passed in one sitting day, and it received Royal Assent on March 30. The changes to New Brunswick's provincial electoral boundaries, including that Cap-Acadie will be part of an electoral district called Shediac-Cap-Acadie, will be implemented for the next provincial general election in 2024.



Provincial electoral boundaries established in 2014 (left) and 2024 (right).



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



ROLE OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is elected by secret ballot by all Members of the Legislative Assembly at the opening of a new Legislature, or when a vacancy occurs. The Speaker assumes the position of highest authority in the House. As the representative of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker is the guardian of its privileges and its presiding officer.



Hon. Bill Oliver, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

To facilitate the orderly flow of business, the House observes certain parliamentary rules, both written and traditional. The Speaker must ensure that these rules of procedure are observed and must protect the rights and privileges of the Assembly and its Members. The Speaker maintains order, interprets the standing rules and calls on Members to speak, ensuring a fair representation of opinion. The Speaker presides over the debates of the House with impartiality. The Speaker does not participate in debate and does not vote except in the case of a tie.

The Speaker is the head of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and is responsible for the services, staff and facilities directly related to the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker is president of the New Brunswick Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and serves as the representative of the Legislative Assembly on ceremonial and official occasions.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Speaker remains a Member of the Legislative Assembly and is expected to carry out various duties on behalf of their constituents.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The Parliament of New Brunswick, composed of the Crown and the elected Members, is constituted as the Legislative Assembly. The King of Canada, His Majesty King Charles III, is the official Head of State and is represented in New Brunswick by the Lieutenant-Governor. The primary function of the Legislature, making laws, is vested jointly in the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Assembly, with the Assembly passing legislation and the Lieutenant-Governor assenting to it. This follows centuries-old British tradition in which the power of the state rests with the Crown, while the exercise of that power rests with elected Members.

New Brunswick's system of government, like the federal system in Ottawa, is based on the British parliamentary system. Each of the 49 Members is individually elected to represent the voters in one constituency. Although a Member need not be affiliated with an organized political party, this has generally been the tradition in New Brunswick.



The three main functions of the Legislature are law-making, surveillance and representation. The legislative process (law-making) claims a predominant share of the Assembly's sitting time.

Surveillance refers to holding the government accountable. The job of examining and criticizing the actions of government is primarily a task for the opposition. Oral Question period is the most visible means of surveillance.

Representation refers to serving and representing constituents. For many Members, the constituency is a defining characteristic of their job. Serving constituents is viewed by many Members as one of their primary roles and most spend a great deal of time and effort directed toward this end.

HOUSE ACTIVITY

The term *Legislature* generally refers to the institution which exercises the legislative power. More specifically, the term is used by parliamentarians to refer to the period between two general elections. Each general election brings about a new Legislative Assembly.

The annual meeting of the Assembly is called a session. There may be any number of sessions during the life of a Legislature. The term *session* refers to the period of time between the opening of the Legislative Assembly, when the Lieutenant-Governor delivers the throne speech, and the prorogation of parliamentary work. Any business not completed before prorogation dies on the *Order and Notice Paper*. A session may also be ended by dissolution, in which case a general election would follow.

The daily meeting of the Assembly is called a sitting. Under the Constitution, at least one sitting of the Legislature must be held each year. A sitting is not necessarily synonymous with a calendar day. Some sittings are very brief and others have extended over more than one calendar day. A sitting is concluded by the adjournment of the House.

The ordinary sitting hours for the House during the year in question were, until June 16, 2023:

Tuesday	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Following amendments to the Standing Rules effective June 16, 2023, the Thursday hours were changed to 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and the Friday hours to 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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

Each sitting day is divided into two parts: Routine Business and Orders of the Day. Routine Business is devoted to both new business and to providing Members with an opportunity to bring a variety of matters to the attention of the House. Orders of the Day refers to the business that is to come before the House each day, as set out in the *Order and Notice Paper*. An item of business may include consideration of bills at various stages, estimates, or motions for which notice has already been given.

























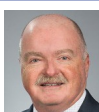









HOUSE STATISTICS

	59 th Legislature		60 th Legislature	
	<i>Second Session</i>	<i>Third Session</i>	<i>First Session</i>	<i>Second Session</i>
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2022	2022-2023
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	41	31	93	49
Evening Sittings	0	0	0	0
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	31	46	100	52
Received Royal Assent	26	33	97	50
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	1	1	8	1
Received Royal Assent	1	0	8	0
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	8	9	12	8
Received Royal Assent	1	0	1	2
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	14	12	33	8
Number debated	4	2	11	2
Number agreed to	13	11	30	6
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	50	64	86	43
Number debated	10	8	24	14
Number agreed to	8	8	14	10
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	2
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	3	3	7	3
In Committee on Estimates	13	3	28	13
In other Committees	0	0	0	0
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>				
	86	48	162	76
<i>Petitions</i>				
	18	29	52	17
<i>Written Questions</i>				
	0	0	0	1



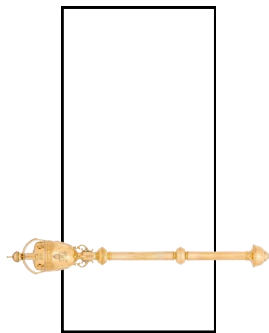
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 Seating Arrangement

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

	PC
	L
	GP
	IND



Bill Oliver
Speaker
Kings Centre



Shayne Davies
Clerk

John-Patrick McCleave
Clerk Assistant

Patrick Dunn
Law Clerk

**Guy Arseneault**
Campbellton-
Dalhousie

**Jacques LeBlanc**
Shediac-
Beaubassin-
Cap-Pelé


**René Legacy**
Bathurst West-
Beresford

**Keith Chiasson**
Tracadie-Sheila

**Richard Losier**
Dieppe

**Susan Holt**
Bathurst-East-
Nepisiguit-Saint-
Isidore


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

**Marco LeBlanc**
Restigouche-
Chaleur

**Robert McKee**
Moncton Centre


**Gilles LePage**
Restigouche West

**Francine Landry**
Madawaska Les
Lacs-Edmundston

**Isabelle Thériault**
Caraquet

**Benoît Bourque**
Kent South


**Robert Gauvin**
Shediac
Bay-Dieppe

**Eric Mallet**
Shippagan-
Lamèque-Miscou

**Chuck Chiasson**
Victoria-La Vallée

**Dominic Cardy**
Fredericton West-
Hanwell

**David Coon**
Fredericton South

**Megan Mitton**
Memramcook-
Tantramar

**Kevin Arseneau**
Kent North



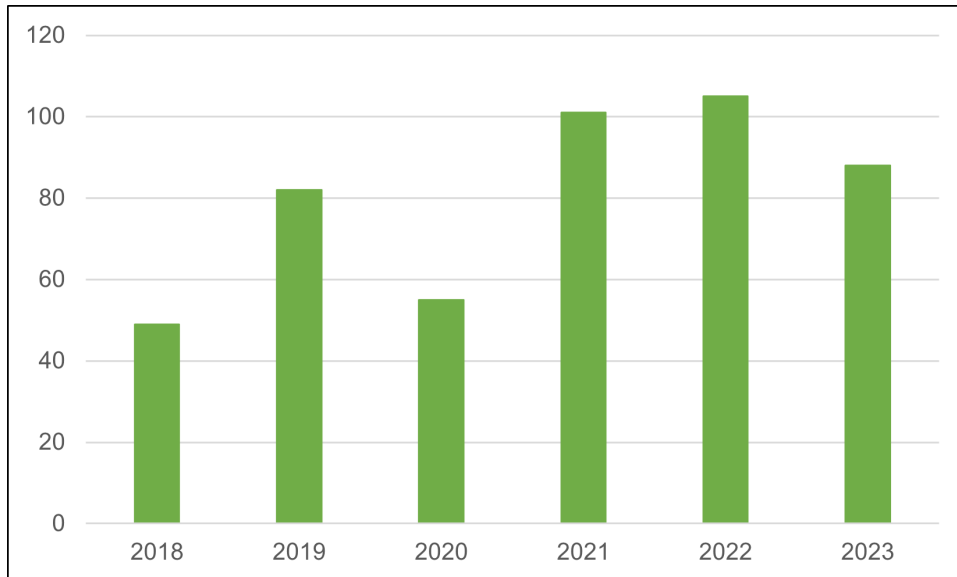
COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — John-Patrick McCleave

A significant amount of work is carried out by legislative committees. These committees are an extension of the House and undertake responsibilities that the Assembly as a whole would find difficult, if not impossible, to carry out. Committees exist to expedite the work of the House and to allow for more thorough study of complex or technical questions. Committees are also able to consult with the public on important matters, and travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from people in all areas of the province.

In 2023, there were 9 standing committees and 2 select committees, which held a total of 88 meetings. Standing committees are appointed by the House and exist for the life of a Legislature. Select committees are appointed by the House to examine specific issues and exist until the presentation of their final reports or until the dissolution of the House, whichever occurs first.



Yearly Number of Committee Meetings



The following is a list of committees, their membership, mandate and activities, as of December 31, 2023.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative Administration Committee

Members	Hon. Mr. Oliver (C)	Mr. Dawson
	Ms. Conroy	Mr. M. LeBlanc
	Ms. Anderson-Mason, K.C.	Mr. J. LeBlanc
	Hon. Mr. G. Savoie	Mr. Coon
	Hon. Mr. Ames	Mr. Arseneau
	Mr. Cullins	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 5 meetings, on February 7, 8 and 15, June 7 and October 18 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature. The Committee also appointed a subcommittee, which met on June 15.

Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

Members	Mr. Cullins (C)	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Dawson (VC)	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Allain	Mr. Mallet
	Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Losier
	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Ms. Mitton
	Hon. Mr. Crossman	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 12 meetings, on January 6, February 14, 15, 16 and 17, June 13, September 26, 27 and 28, October 3 and 4 and December 7. The Committee heard from several subject matter experts, departments and stakeholders on the topics of small modular reactors, fresh water health, the Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027, and a clean energy strategy for New Brunswick. The Committee presented a report on December 8.



Standing Committee on Economic Policy

Members	Ms. Conroy (C)	Mr. Carr
	Mr. Dawson (VC)	Mr. D'Amours
	Mr. Cullins	Mr. Bourque
	Mr. Holder	Mr. Legacy
	Ms. Shephard	Mr. Arseneau
	Mr. Wetmore	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 22 meetings, on May 9, 12, 16, 23, 24, 25 and 26, June 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 16, October 31, November 1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22 and 24. The Committee presented reports to the House on May 10, 16 and 17, June 6, 8, 14, 15 and 16, November 1, 21, 23 and 28.

Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

Members	Mr. Cullins (C)	Mr. Allain
	Mr. Holder (VC)	Mr. Legacy
	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. C. Chiasson
	Mr. Carr	Mr. J. LeBlanc
	Mr. Dawson	Mr. Arseneau
	Ms. Shephard	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 14 meetings, on April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 and 27 and November 29. The Committee presented a report to the House on May 9.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Members	Hon. Mr. Flemming, K.C. (C)	Ms. Conroy
	Mr. Holder	Mr. D'Amours
	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Mallet
	Mr. Allain	Mr. McKee
	Ms. Shephard	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Carr	

Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain bills prior to second reading. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation.



Activities

The Committee held two meetings, on February 22 and 23. The Committee was referred Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*, and met with Service New Brunswick to discuss the proposed modernization of the Act. The Committee was also referred Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, and heard from eight organizations as well as the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour on the topic of paid sick leave. The Committee presented two reports to the House on March 28.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Members	Mr. Cullins (C)	Ms. Conroy
	Ms. Anderson-Mason, K.C. (VC)	Mr. Gauvin
	Mr. Dawson	Mr. McKee
	Mr. Allain	Mr. Mallet
	Mr. Holder	Mr. Arseneau
	Mr. Wetmore	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 4 meetings, on June 6, 14 and 15 and November 29.

Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

Members	Mr. Wetmore (C)	Mr. Cullins
	Ms. Conroy (VC)	Mr. M. LeBlanc
	Ms. Shephard	Mr. K. Chiasson
	Mr. Carr	Ms. Thériault
	Mr. Allain	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Holder	

Mandate

All standing rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Committee. The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to consider a matter or question of privilege concerning the House, a committee or Member. The Committee also reviews reports of Legislative Officers.

Activities

The Committee held 6 meetings, on January 10, February 21, March 22 and 23, May 11 and November 29. The Committee was tasked with examining options for a fixed legislative calendar and recommended the implementation of a calendar by Special Order. The Committee also recommended modifications to the Standing Rules for the time of daily meeting and adjournment of the House on Thursdays and Fridays, and to include statements of condolence and congratulation as an item of business under Routine Proceedings. In March, the Committee reviewed the latest annual report from the Commissioner of Official Languages. The Committee presented a report to the House on May 12.



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Members	Mr. C. Chiasson (C)	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Wetmore (VC)	Mr. Cullins
	Ms. Conroy	Mr. K. Chiasson
	Mr. Carr	Mr. Bourque
	Mr. Allain	Ms. Mitton
	Mr. Holder	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 18 meetings, on January 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, March 2, September 5, 6, 7, 8, 19, 20, 21 and 22, November 2 and December 14. The Committee reviewed the annual reports and Auditor General recommendations pertaining to the following entities: Atlantic Lottery Corporation; Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick; New Brunswick Community College; EM/ANB Inc.; New Brunswick Farm Products Commission; New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission; Midwifery Council of New Brunswick; New Brunswick Museum; New Brunswick Power Corporation; Service New Brunswick and WorkSafe NB; and the Executive Council Office and the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development; Environment and Local Government; Health; Natural Resources and Energy Development; Social Development; and Tourism, Heritage and Culture. The Committee reviewed Reports of the Auditor General of New Brunswick on September 7 and December 14.

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Members	Ms. Conroy (C)	Hon. Ms. Bockus
	Mr. Dawson (VC)	Mr. J. LeBlanc
	Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Ms. Thériault
	Hon. Ms. S. Wilson	Mr. Gauvin
	Ms. Anderson-Mason, K.C.	Ms. Mitton
	Hon. Mr. Ames	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee did not meet in 2023.



SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Accessibility in New Brunswick

Members	Hon. Ms. Bockus (C)	Mr. Allain
	Ms. Conroy (VC)	Ms. Landry
	Ms. Shephard	Mr. Losier
	Mr. Dawson	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Holder	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Carr	

Mandate

The Committee was appointed by the House on June 9, 2021, to conduct consultations with community stakeholders and government departments involved with the disability community, and report to the House with recommendations.

Activities

The Committee held 2 meetings, on March 29 and November 28. The Committee heard from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour on a legislative framework for accessibility legislation.

Select Committee on Public Universities

Members	Mr. Holder (C)	Mr. Dawson
	Mr. Allain (VC)	Mr. M. LeBlanc
	Mr. Carr	Ms. Landry
	Mr. Wetmore	Ms. Thériault
	Ms. Anderson-Mason, K.C.	Mr. Coon
	Ms. Shephard	

Mandate

The Committee was appointed by the House on June 10, 2021, to invite representatives of New Brunswick's publicly funded universities and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission to appear before the Committee to discuss and provide insight into university administration, programming, performance measurement, accountability and transparency.

Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on February 28, March 1 and November 29. The Committee heard from the four public universities in the province, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations.



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



VISITORS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Parliament Square, which includes the Legislative Assembly Building, the Departmental Building, and the Old Education Building, was officially declared a protected historic site under the *Historic Sites Protection Act* in November 2000. The present Legislative Assembly Building in Fredericton has been the seat and symbol of democracy in New Brunswick since 1882, when it replaced a building destroyed by fire two years earlier.

The historic value of the site is shared with tourists, students, official visitors, and internal and external conference delegations. Bilingual guided tours or self-guided tours of the building are offered year-round and focus on the craftsmanship of the structure, artifacts and artwork on the site, and the functioning of New Brunswick's parliamentary system. Approximately 5,259 people visited the Legislature in 2023.

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building as a way for organizations to promote a charitable cause. In 2023, the Legislative Assembly participated in the following campaigns and events: 211 Day, BGC Club Day, Canadian Cancer Society Daffodil Campaign, Canadian Fertility Awareness Week, Coronation of King Charles III, Craniofacial Acceptance Month, Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month (Mark it Read for Dyslexia Campaign), Endometriosis Awareness Month, Food Day Canada, International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, International FASD Awareness Day, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, International Overdose Awareness Day, Living Donation Week, National Blood Donor Week and World Blood Donor Day, National British Home Child Day, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, National Injury Prevention Day, Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Day, Project Red Ribbon (MADD Canada), Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Shine A Teal Light Campaign (Food Allergy Awareness Month), Show Your 4-H Colours Day, World AIDS Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, World Diabetes Day, World Lyme Day and Lyme Awareness Month, World Mitochondrial Disease Week, World Pancreatic Day, and World Wish Day (Make-A-Wish Canada).

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

New Brunswick Day was celebrated on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly on August 7. The Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture invited the public to join the celebration by raising the New Brunswick flag, participating in family-focused activities, and enjoying musical and artistic performances by a variety of New Brunswick artists. Artisans were set up to sell their made-in-New Brunswick products on the surrounding green spaces, along with an assortment of food trucks.



Scouts Canada's New Brunswick Council Awards Recognition Ceremony took place at the Legislative Assembly on November 5 in the main Chamber. The Lieutenant-Governor presented the Chief Scout Recognition and the King's Venturer Award Recognition certificates in addition to presiding over this ceremony.



The annual Provincial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on December 1 on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly. Special guests included Their Honours Hon. Brenda Murphy and Linda Boyle, Speaker Hon. Bill Oliver, Leader of the Official Opposition Susan Holt, Leader of the Third Party David Coon and Santa Claus. Hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served to the public by the Epsilon Y's Service Club and the evening's entertainment was provided by the Karine Basque Band.

The King's Counsel Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on December 4. The distinction of King's Counsel is bestowed upon experienced lawyers in the province. The 12 recipients this year were: Donald C. Arseneau, Bathurst; Charlotte Bourque, Beaurivage (Saint-Louis de Kent); Melanie L. Cassidy, Moncton; Jeffery Richard Fulton Delaney, Moncton; L. Paul Elliott, Fredericton; Bruce D. Grant, Saint John; Donald V. Keenan, Saint John; Isabel

Lavoie Daigle, Hanwell; James L. Mockler, Fredericton; Mélanie Poirier LeBlanc, Hanwell; Kent Robinson, Moncton; and Mélanie Cyr Tompkins, Saint John.

PAGE PROGRAM

The New Brunswick Legislative Page Program offers postsecondary students of all backgrounds a paid part-time work opportunity to immerse themselves in the province's legislative processes. Pages witness first-hand New Brunswick's parliamentary history unfold as legislation is debated, amended, and becomes law. They also witness legislative committees conduct consultations, discussions, and draft reports that influence public policy. Within the historic chambers and in other parts of the building, Pages support parliamentary democracy by performing various duties to assist Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff. This work experience broadens their knowledge of the rich traditions of the province's parliamentary system.

BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has been televising its proceedings since 1988. New Brunswick was among the first Canadian provinces to bring video cameras into its Legislature. In 1988, the Legislature televised the previously recorded Routine Proceedings of each sitting day on a community-access channel. Coverage of the proceedings went live in 1989.

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

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service broadcasts the daily proceedings each sitting day in both official languages. In 2023, the proceedings continued to be televised on Rogers cable channel 70 in New Brunswick communities served by the company. On channel 70 in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Miramichi, and surrounding communities, English, whether spoken on the floor of the House or translated from French, was the primary audio feed.



On channel 70 in Bathurst, Edmundston and surrounding communities, French was the primary audio feed. Secondary Audio Programming was also available in all communities.

In 2023, Rogers continued to televise daily proceedings of the Legislature on various community channels. In addition, repeats of the daily proceedings were televised on the dedicated channel, usually commencing within 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

Bell Aliant also continued to broadcast the daily proceedings of the Legislature in both official languages on two dedicated channels: Channel 230 in English and channel 811 in French. Broadcasts of daily proceedings was formerly hosted on community channels.

Over the summer months, four out of the five video cameras in the main Chamber were upgraded from cameras purchased when the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service debuted in 2006. Additionally, a new camera controller was installed in the broadcast room. These items were installed as the original equipment became obsolete and to ensure that all technology in the Chamber remain compatible with the broader streaming service equipment.

Proceedings of the Legislature and its committees continued to be streamed live on the Internet in 2023. With the assistance of iSi Live, the Legislature also continued to permanently archive its proceedings online. This included the audio and video of all House sittings and public committee meetings.

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

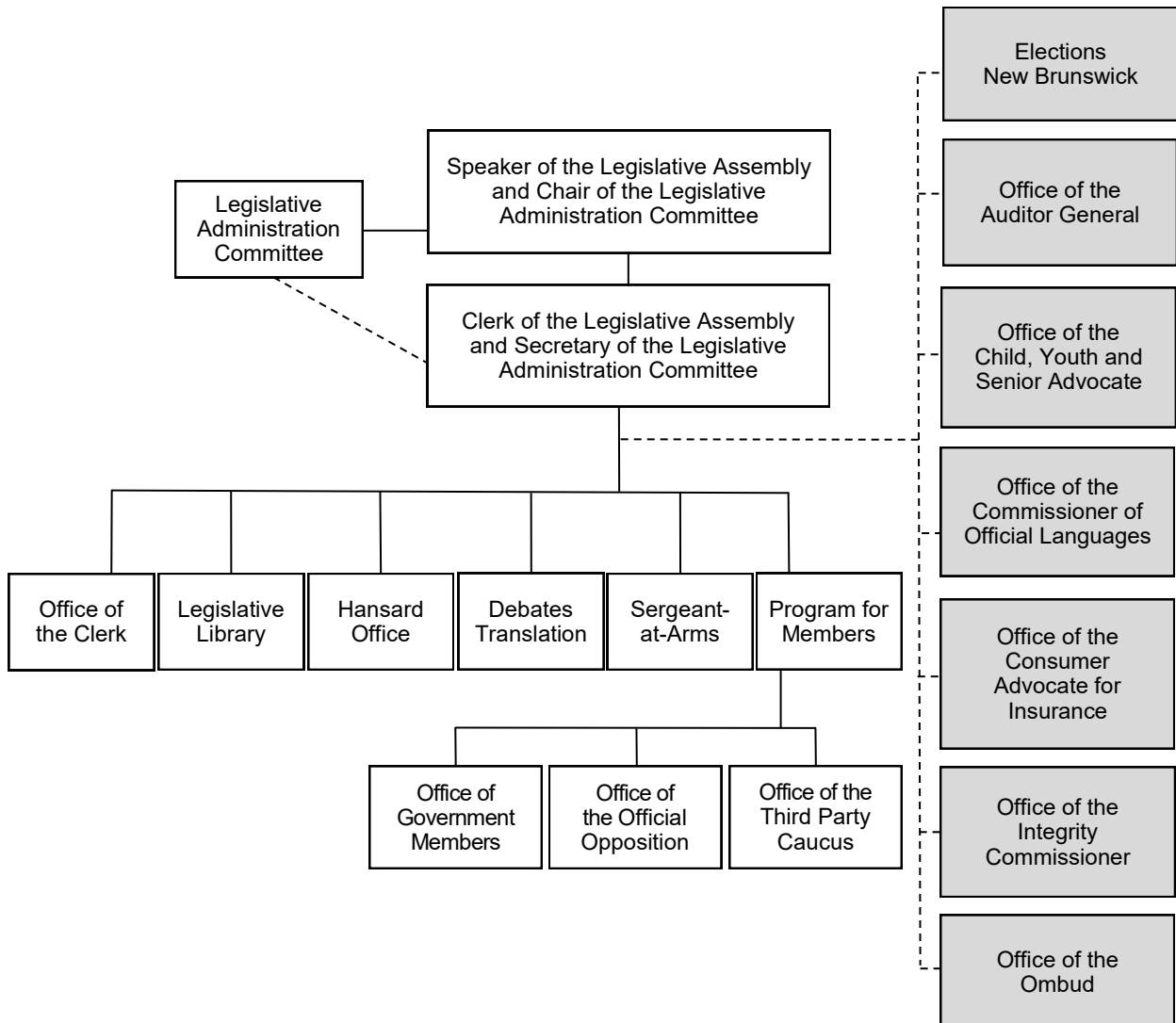


OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MISSION STATEMENT

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

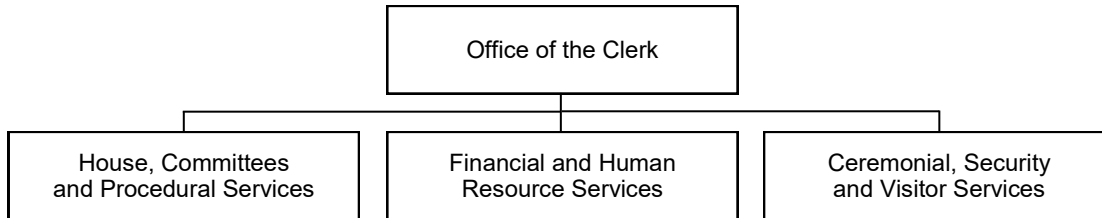
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Law Clerk and Committee Clerk — Patrick Dunn



In 2023, the dedicated staff of the Office of the Clerk met the primary goal of the office: to assist Members in carrying out their parliamentary functions as legislators and representatives of their constituents.

Procedural Services

Members were supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered with impartiality by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. As the senior permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly and chief procedural adviser, the Clerk advised the Speaker and Members on administrative matters, questions of parliamentary law and procedure, and the interpretation of the Standing Rules, precedents and practices of the House. The Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a Deputy Minister of a government department. The Office of the Clerk and its staff supported the activities of the Clerk.

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

During the year, the Clerks met regularly with the Speaker and other presiding officers to provide advice as required, draft rulings and prepare procedural documentation. In addition, the Clerks and the Committee Clerk met with committee Chairs to advise on committee procedure, arrange meetings and public hearings, and prepare documentation and reports to the House.

Journals and Publications

In 2023, the Clerk Assistant compiled 51 unrevised journals. The journals of the House are the official record of matters considered and decisions taken by the House. Unrevised journals are posted online as soon as they are available in both official languages. At the conclusion of a session, unrevised journals are finalized, indexed and published.

First reading bills continued to be published online. During the 2023 calendar year, 53 bills were introduced. The online status of legislation, which tracks the progress of bills as they proceed through various stages in the House, continued to be produced and regularly updated.

The online archiving of daily sittings and committee meetings continued to be regularly updated. Biographical information and photographs of Members of the 60th Legislature were also updated during the year. Changes to the Executive Council, shadow cabinet and seating plans were reflected in published and online updates. The Legislature's calendar was updated to reflect daily sittings and special events. Committee memberships were also updated when necessary and reports were posted online.



Interparliamentary Relations

In addition to regular duties, staff of the Clerk's Office supported Members attending meetings of interparliamentary associations. Staff also prepared quarterly legislative reports for publication in the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The purpose of this publication is to inform Canadian legislators about the activities of the various branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to promote interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions.

Staff of the Clerk's Office participated in seminars and exchanges of information with their colleagues from the provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada, as well as the House of Commons and the Senate. These cross-jurisdictional encounters allowed staff to share best practices and keep abreast of current issues affecting Canadian legislatures.

Renovations

Renovations throughout the Legislative Precinct continued in 2023, including replacement of roofing and copper flashing on the Legislative Building, replacement of windows and the installation of a new elevator in the Legislative Building and continued progress on the interior renovation of the Departmental Building. The photographs to the right show the new elevator's motor being lifted into the building through the attic by crane.



Tributes

Four former Members passed away in 2023:

Jean-Paul Savoie (Liberal) on May 11. Mr. Savoie was first elected in the 1987 general election and again in 1991 and 1995 to represent the riding of Restigouche West. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation and Northern Development and served as a member on several standing and select committees.

Omer Léger (Progressive Conservative) on June 23. Mr. Léger was first elected in 1971 to represent the riding of Kent and again in 1974 and 1982 to represent the riding of Kent South. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Provincial Secretary; Minister of Fisheries; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage. He also served as a member on several standing committees.

John Winston Foran (Liberal) on September 6. Mr. Foran was elected in the 2003 general election and again in 2006, to represent the riding of Miramichi Centre. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Minister of Public Safety and as a member on several select committees.

Roy Boudreau (Liberal) on September 29. Mr. Boudreau was elected in the 2003 general election to represent the riding of Campbellton and again in 2006 to represent Campbellton-Restigouche Centre. During his time at the Legislature, he served as Deputy Speaker and as a member on several standing committees. On November 27, 2007, he was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and served in this capacity until September 2010.



FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

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

The Finance and Human Resources (FHR) Branch is accountable for the proper and effective management of the financial and human resource services of the Legislative Assembly. In addition, the Branch provides financial and human resources support to the following statutory offices: Elections New Brunswick; Office of the Auditor General; Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate; Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages; Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance; Office of the Integrity Commissioner; and Office of the Ombud.

Financial Services Section

The House sat a total of 56 days during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, compared to 46 days in 2021-2022 and 33 days in 2020-2021.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$14,575,600 based on a revised total budget of \$15,705,000 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$14,341,500 based on a revised total budget of \$15,170,200 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly For the Year Ended March 31, 2023 (in \$ 000s)

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>		
Allowances to Members	8 906.0	8 548.2
Legislative Committees	<u>256.0</u>	<u>256.2</u>
Subtotal	9 162.0	8 804.4
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	645.0	639.3
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1 926.0	1 825.1
Hansard Office	772.0	671.7
Debates Translation	<u>892.0</u>	<u>867.3</u>
Subtotal	4 235.0	4 003.4
<i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	661.0	658.0
Office of the Official Opposition	985.0	807.2
Office of the Green Party Caucus	351.0	326.9
Office of the People's Alliance Caucus	<u>311.0</u>	<u>(24.3)</u>
Subtotal	2 308.0	1 767.8
<i>Total: Legislative Assembly</i>	15 705.0	14 575.6

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly buildings were approximately \$60,495 in 2022-2023 and related to the general maintenance and preservation of legislative buildings.

The 2023-2024 operating budget for the Legislative Assembly was increased by \$1,701,000 to account for economic increases of \$319,000; \$1,390,000 related to recommendations made by an independent committee on Members' compensation; \$85,000 related to Members' salary increase of 2% effective October 1, 2022; \$90,000 related to kilometric and meal allowance increases as determined by the Department of Finance and Treasury Board; \$70,000 to account for Deputy Sheriff and other commissionaire cost increases; \$25,000 to increase the translation of Hansard; \$25,000 to establish an office for the Independent Member for Fredericton West-Hanwell; and an increase of \$8,000 to support Library operations. The increases were



partially offset by \$311,000 due to the closure of the Office of the People's Alliance Caucus. The total operating budget approved for the Legislative Assembly in the fiscal year 2023-24 was \$17,175,000.

Human Resource Services Highlights

In 2023, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 24 competitions of statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered payroll services for approximately 160 positions, including the commencement of 26 full-time employees and the termination arrangements for 28 employees who either retired, resigned, or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

Economic increases were processed for employees during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Eligible employees also received merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance, and current salary level.

The freeze on the indemnities and salaries of Members and Ministers, per stipulations in the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the *Executive Council Act*, expired effective March 31, 2022. As such, salary adjustments were required and processed, effective October 1, 2022, in accordance with provisions of the Acts.

Throughout the year, 120 individuals were employed under various casual or term employment programs administered by the FHR Branch. Responsibilities included coordination of the employment programs and the commencement, payment and subsequent termination of each of the related employees.

The section continued to host employee wellness sessions provided by the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), recognized National Public Service Week, and oversaw the 2023 GNB United Way campaign and GNB Wellness Challenge for the Legislative Assembly. New this year was the first Legislative Assembly Employee Experience Survey and the launch of a monthly HR Newsletter. FHR staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by the Province, the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources New Brunswick, and the CPA New Brunswick, as well as second language training to facilitate financial and human resource services in both official languages.

Human Resource Summary—Legislative Assembly

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Sessional</i>	<i>Casual</i>	<i>Payroll Constituency Offices</i>
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	5	0	0	0	0
General Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Finance and Human Resources	7	0	0	1	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0
Sergeant-at-Arms	3	0	0	1	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Legislative Library</i>	7	0	0	2	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>	9	0	0	1	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	10	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	8	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	6	0	0	2	0
<i>Office of the Green Caucus</i>	5	0	0	1	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	15	0	0
<i>Members</i>	0	49	0	0	54
<i>Total</i>	64	49	15	9	54



LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey

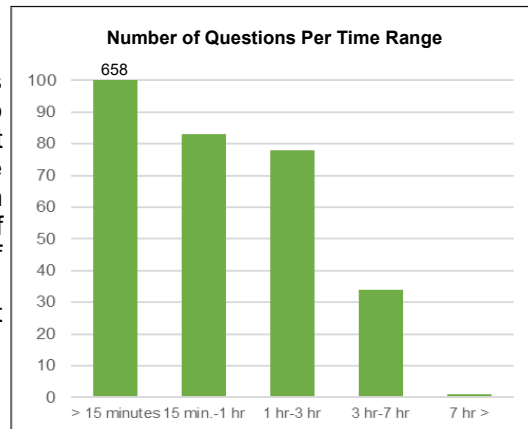
According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and government departmental staff to better serve the people of New Brunswick. The Legislative Library is designated as the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications. The King's Printer and departments are required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication issued under their authority within 30 days of its printing date. The Library has broadened its mandate to automatically receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and is an incredible resource for the province. The Library is grateful to the following publishers and individuals who donated books during the past year: Bouton d'or Acadie, La Grande Marée, Chuck Chiasson, Jim Morell.

Reference and Outreach

The Library produced two Selected Accessions Lists that were published and distributed to Members, legislative staff and government department staff. Two displays were prepared for the Library's display case in the rotunda: "Hollywood in New Brunswick" and "Joyfully Aging". Library staff saw an 8.6% percent increase in the number of reference questions asked over the previous year. The graph provides an overview of the time spent answering questions.



Government Documents

In addition to adding physical copies of government documents to the Library's collection, Library staff continued to add electronic government documents as well. In 2023, 291 electronic documents were added to the Library's electronic repository. These documents included monographs as well as annual reports.

Initiatives and Projects

The Library continued with its document digitization and archival projects. In 2023, 52 press releases, 82 consolidated acts, and 363 Royal Gazettes were digitized and added to the Library's content management system. Throughout 2023, development planning continued on the Library's new public website. Additionally, development began on an update to the Library's suite of internal workflow tools (Databrowser) to incorporate a number of staff-requested features.

Research Services

Over the past year, the Research Officer fielded 31 requests from Members and legislative staff and one request from an external client. The Research Officer also wrote reports for a variety of committees as well as an article and a summary of New Brunswick's legislative activities for the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. In January, the Legislative Assembly welcomed two interns, whom the Research Officer supervised.



HANSARD AND DEBATES TRANSLATION

Director — Rebecca Colborne

HANSARD OFFICE

The Hansard Office produces the Journal of Debates, commonly known as Hansard, for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. Hansard staff register sittings of the House, committee meetings, and special events in digital recording systems and use the recordings to produce transcripts of the proceedings.

Hansard transcripts are available for every sitting of the Legislative Assembly from 1900 to 2023, and access may be requested from the reference desk at the Legislative Library. In 2023, the Hansard Office received 80 requests for transcription, including 39 for committee meetings and 41 for daily sittings of the House.

When translated, the Hansard for each daily sitting is posted to the website of the Legislative Assembly. In 2023, Hansard staff produced finalized transcriptions of 59 daily sittings of the House, which were sent for translation to be posted to the website.

Also, in 2023, the staff finalized and posted 44 question period transcripts and completed and distributed a total of 94 requested transcripts, 41 for the House and 53 for committees.

Activities

The office continued active membership in the Hansard Association of Canada and the Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association. Staff members spent considerable time in 2023 planning for hosting the annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada in Fredericton in August 2024.

Hansard Highlights

In September, the Hansard Office and Debates Translation were brought together to share resources and streamline procedures. Processes and procedures were fine-tuned to produce finalized transcripts earlier to facilitate public access to Hansard in both official languages.

The Legislative Assembly launched a new component to its website on January 31. The completed Hansard transcripts for the 60th Legislative Assembly are now available online. This is the first phase of a project to have all the transcripts posted online.

DEBATES TRANSLATION

Debates Translation provides professional translation services for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Debates Translation team includes two senior revisers, one senior translator, two intermediate translators, a junior translator, and a terminologist. The office also has access to freelance translators who work on a contract basis.

House

Debates Translation staff members translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings (Hansard and Journal), as well as motions introduced in the House, Speaker's rulings, and various other documents. During the legislative session, Debates Translation gives priority to the translation of oral questions for immediate posting to the Legislative Assembly website. In 2023, 50 oral question periods were translated, posted on the website in French and English, and incorporated into Hansard. The remainder of the 49 Hansard daily sittings for session 60-2 in 2022-2023, 48 sitting days, were translated and posted to the website of the



Legislative Assembly in 2023. As well, 8 of the 9 daily sittings in session 59-1, 2018, were translated and posted to the internal network of the Legislative Assembly. Five daily sittings for the 60-3 session, 2023-2024, were also translated and posted to the website of the Legislative Assembly. About 31% of this translation was into English. Translation of Hansard, including oral questions, represented 90.3% of total production. In 2023, translation of the daily Journal represented 2.9% of production. Translation of the Journal is usually completed shortly after the session ends. Notices of motion and amendments to motions accounted for 0.7% of production. These documents are translated the day the request is received.

Committees

Debates Translation staff members translate reports, agendas, notices of meetings, and other documents for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. There were 63 requests for translation for legislative committees, representing 1.3% of total production in 2023.

Offices of the Legislative Assembly

The Debates Translation office is responsible for translating material of a procedural and administrative nature for the Speaker's Office, the Office of the Clerk, the Hansard Office, the Legislative Library, Finance and Human Resource Services, and the Sergeant-at-Arms. Translation for the offices of the Legislative Assembly represented about 4.8% of total production in 2023.

Conclusion

In 2023, 509 translation requests were processed, and frequent requests for prompt translation made by telephone and email were also dealt with. Documents translated by Debates Translation staff included 50 oral question periods, 61 Hansard daily sittings, 189 documents for the offices of the Legislative Assembly, 62 documents for committees, 98 documents related to motions or amendments to motions, 51 Journals or indexes to Journals, and various miscellaneous documents. Staff members were trained and prepared in order to continue providing the service for which the office is known, meeting the highest standards of professional translation for the Legislative Assembly of our bilingual province.



PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

The other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Office of Government Members, the Office of the Official Opposition, and the Office of the Third Party Caucus.

Each caucus of elected Members is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office. The Speaker has authority over the administration of each caucus office; however, for obvious reasons, these branches operate with considerable autonomy.

These branches received financial, administrative and personnel services, as well as other support services from other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office under the direction of the Clerk.

Funding and Support

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

The Legislative Administration Committee approves annual funding for private Members for secretarial, research and other assistance incidental to the performance of their duties. Members of each caucus combine this funding to obtain and share resources and personnel.

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

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

Office of Government Members

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, administrative and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Government Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy Edgcombe House.

Office of the Official Opposition

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, administrative and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Official Opposition Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the Old Education Building.

Office of the Third Party Caucus

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, administrative and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Third Party Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the second floor of Jewett House.