

Legislative Activities

2017



New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Chris Collins

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick



September 19, 2018

The Honourable Chris Collins
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 31, Legislative Building
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the twenty-ninth annual report of
Legislative Activities, for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEAR IN REVIEW	1
HIGHLIGHTS	3
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Role of Speaker	5
Role of Members	5
House Activity	6
House Statistics	9
Members of the Legislative Assembly, as of December 31, 2017	10
Committee Activity	12
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	
Visitors and Tours	18
Special Events and Ceremonies	20
Page Program	22
Broadcasting and Webcasting	23
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Mission Statement and Organizational Chart	24
Functional Statements	25
Office of the Clerk	26
Financial and Human Resource Services	29
Legislative Library	33
Hansard Office	36
Debates Translation	39
Special Project	42
Program for Members	44



YEAR IN REVIEW

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Donald J. Forestell

The year 2017 was eventful for the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The third session of the 58th Legislature concluded and the fourth session began. In total, the House sat for 57 days during the calendar year and committees held 95 meetings. The year saw the release of a select committee final report, a cabinet shuffle, the hiring of a new Sergeant-at-Arms, and the resignation of a Member.

The third session of the 58th Legislature, which adjourned on December 16, 2016, briefly resumed sitting on January 31, 2017, when Finance Minister Cathy Rogers was expected to table the government's third budget. Instead, the House adjourned again by unanimous consent until February 7 to accommodate the relief efforts in the Acadian peninsula, which was severely impacted by an ice storm. Minister Rogers delivered the third budget of the government on February 7. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on February 9 by the Opposition Finance Critic Bruce Fitch.

During the spring sitting, 33 bills were introduced. Of note was legislation that changed the fixed date for provincial elections from the fourth Monday in September to the third Monday in October. The rationale was that this would accommodate a greater number of post-secondary students who wish to participate in the electoral process. The change only comes into effect after the September 24, 2018, provincial election. Legislation was also introduced that lowered the political contribution limit from \$6,000 to \$3,000 and changed the formula for public financing to political parties to give greater weight to votes received by female candidates. The bill was subsequently amended to prohibit political contributions from corporations and trade unions.

On May 4, the Legislature passed a resolution that recognized annually the third Saturday in September as Becca Schofield Day. Ms. Schofield, a 17-year-old from Riverview, New Brunswick, diagnosed with terminal cancer, created Becca's bucket list to persuade people to perform random acts of kindness and post it on her Facebook page or tweet about it. This resulted in hundreds of people posting about their good deeds in honour of Becca.

The House adjourned on May 5, for a total of 29 spring sitting days. The third session was subsequently prorogued on the morning of October 24. A total of 71 bills were introduced during the third session, 59 of which received royal assent.

The House sat for 48 days during the third session, for a total of 176 hours. This compares to 40 sitting days during the previous session, or 171 hours. The Standing Committee on Economic Policy spent 87 hours considering legislation, and the Committee of Supply and Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy spent the prescribed 80 hours considering estimates.

The Select Committee on Cannabis was appointed by the House on April 28. The committee was charged with conducting public consultations on the legalization of recreational cannabis and whether the model proposed by the government's Working Group needed improvements. Public hearings took place throughout the province in July. The committee released its final report on September 1.

On July 21, the electoral district of Oromocto-Lincoln was renamed the electoral district of Oromocto-Lincoln-Fredericton to better characterize the area it represents.



Several changes to cabinet were announced on September 5. Benoît Bourque, Andrew Harvey, and Gilles LePage joined cabinet as Ministers Donald Arseneault, Victor Boudreau, and Ed Doherty announced their departure. An informal system of regional ministers that had previously been in place in New Brunswick was also formalized during the cabinet shuffle. Five ministers were tasked with the additional responsibility of “regional minister” to advocate on behalf of five provincial regions at the cabinet table.

The list of Ministers was as follows: Brian Gallant as Premier, President of the Executive Council and Regional Minister for Saint John and Southwestern New Brunswick; Stephen Horsman as Deputy Premier, Minister of Families and Children and Regional Minister for Greater Fredericton; Denis Landry as Minister of Justice and Public Safety; Rick Doucet as Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Minister of Energy and Resource Development, and Government House Leader; Brian Kenny as Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; Bill Fraser as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Regional Minister for Central New Brunswick; Roger Melanson as President of Treasury Board and Minister of Post-Secondary Education; Francine Landry as Minister of Economic Development; Cathy Rogers as Minister of Finance and Regional Minister for Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick; Serge Rousselle as Minister of Environment and Local Government, Attorney General, Minister of Service New Brunswick, and regional Minister for Northern New Brunswick; John Ames as Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; Lisa Harris as Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care and Deputy Government House Leader; Benoît Bourque as Minister of Health; Andrew Harvey as Minister of Agriculture, Mines and Rural Affairs; and Gilles LePage as Minister of Labour, Employment and Population Growth.

On October 16, Gilles Côté was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Côté had over 27 years of service and experience with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, bringing to the position knowledge in all aspects of law enforcement and security. His appointment was later confirmed by motion of the House on October 25.

The fourth session of the 58th Legislature opened on October 24. The Lieutenant-Governor delivered the speech from the throne outlining the legislative agenda of the government. The Leader of the Official Opposition, Blaine Higgs, delivered the reply to the speech from the throne on October 26.

Bernard LeBlanc was appointed Deputy Speaker, replacing Hédard Albert on October 25.

During the fall sitting, 41 bills were introduced. In particular, legislation that prohibits the provision of special payments or benefits to political government staff between the date the writs are issued for a provincial general election and the date of the appointment of a new Executive Council. Legislation was also introduced that prohibits Members from lobbying or being employed by an organization that engages in lobbying. The prohibition extends to lobbying in matters connected to the province by former Members during the 12-month period after they ceased to be a Member.

On December 1, Donald Arseneault resigned as the Member for Campbellton-Dalhousie. First elected in the 2003 general election, Mr. Arseneault was re-elected in 2006, 2010 and 2014. During his time at the Legislature, Mr. Arseneault served as Minister of Energy and Mines; Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Minister of Natural Resources; Deputy House Leader and Deputy Premier.

The House adjourned on December 21, after sitting 27 days. The standings in the House at year end were 25 Liberals, 22 Progressive Conservatives, one Green, and one vacancy.



HIGHLIGHTS

Governor General Addresses the Legislature

The New Brunswick Legislature was honoured to welcome Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, on November 7 as she began her first official visit to New Brunswick with an address to the Legislative Assembly.

Accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, the official party was greeted upon arrival by Premier Brian Gallant. The Governor General received military honours, a 21-gun salute and inspected the guard of honour before entering the Legislative Assembly building.

The Governor General then proceeded to the historic Chamber, where she received words of welcome from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chris Collins, as well as the Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition Blaine Higgs and the Third Party Leader David Coon before she addressed Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Governor General called on Members and citizens to work together to protect the planet and realize common goals of peace while recalling her experience seeing New Brunswick from space as a former astronaut. She reminded New Brunswickers that from space, political borders are indiscernible and that as citizens, we are stronger together. The Governor General noted that New Brunswick's unique position as a founding member of Canada and the country's only officially bilingual province should be an example to others of working together, the importance of tolerance, and fearlessly dreaming big.



*The Right Honourable Julie Payette,
Governor General of Canada,
with Speaker Collins before addressing the
New Brunswick Legislative Assembly.*

Regional Conference for the North American Region of the APF

From July 30 to August 4, the Legislature hosted the 33rd Regional Conference for the North American Region of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF). Thirty-six delegates, representing provincial and national Canadian members of the APF, attended the six-day conference. Special guests from the European Region and Haiti were also in attendance.



*Participants of the 2017 Regional Conference for the
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie*

Business sessions revolved around the demographic decline in francophone populations within Canadian provinces, as well as jurisdictional updates.

The APF is an association of Francophone countries established in Luxembourg in 1967. It brings together 52 member sections, 14 associate sections, and 17 observer sections from the parliaments of Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.



New Legislative Officers

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly saw the appointment and swearing-in of three new legislative officers. Pictured from the left, are Justice Alexandre Deschênes, Q.C., accompanied by Chief Justice J. Ernest Drapeau, sworn-in on January 9 as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner; Michèle Pelletier, accompanied by Speaker Collins, sworn-in on January 20 as the Consumer Advocate for Insurance; and Kimberly Poffenroth, also accompanied by Speaker Collins, sworn-in on March 14 as the Chief Electoral Officer.



Joint Conference of CCPAC and CCOLA

New Brunswick hosted the 38th annual joint conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA).

Held from September 10 to 12, the conference was attended by over 95 delegates, representing provincial and territorial legislatures and the Parliament of Canada. Special observers also attended from the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF) and the Cayman Islands.

Presenters included parliament consultant and former New Brunswick MLA Elizabeth Weir and Tom Bateman, Political Scientist at St. Thomas University. The CCPAC also voted on a revised constitution for their council.

Business session topics included the role of political institutions as safeguards of democratic regimes, challenges in conducting effective parliamentary financial oversight, increasing impact of committee work and strengthening committee work results, how legislative audit work can contribute positively to reducing impacts of climate change in Canada, and how to foster cross-party collaboration in public accounts committees.



Participants of the 2017 Joint Conference of CCPAC and CCOLA



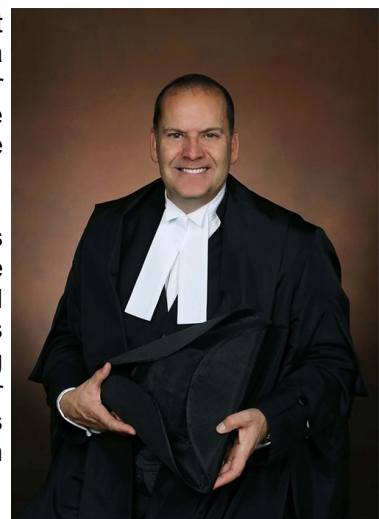
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



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.

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.



*Hon. Chris Collins,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

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

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

ROLE OF MEMBERS

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

New Brunswick's system of government, like the federal system in Ottawa, is based on the British parliamentary system. Each of the 49 Members is individually elected to represent the voters in



one constituency. Although a Member need not be affiliated with an organized political party, this has generally been the tradition in New Brunswick.

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. Under the *Constitution Act, 1867*, at least one session of the Legislature must be held each year. 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. A sitting is not necessarily synonymous with a calendar day. Some sittings are very brief and others have extended over more than one calendar day. A sitting is concluded by the adjournment of the House.

The ordinary sitting hours for the House are:

Tuesday	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 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.

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

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

Prayers

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

Introduction of Guests

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

Statements by Members

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

Oral Questions

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

Tabling of Documents

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

Statements by Ministers

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

Presentations of Petitions

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

Answers to Petitions and Written Questions

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



Presentations of Committee Reports

Any information to be transmitted to the House from a committee is presented in the form of a committee report. Committees submit reports on a variety of subjects, including: bills, estimates, procedural matters and subject-matter inquiries.

Introduction of Bills

Ministers and other Members have an opportunity to introduce new bills in the House and give a brief explanation as to their purpose.

Notices of Motions

In order for Members to be fully prepared when matters are called for debate in the House, two days' written notice is required for important House business. Members may give such notice under this item.

Notice of Opposition Members' Business

Opposition Members' Business is taken under consideration at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays. An item of Opposition Members' Business may be considered in an order different from its order of priority or its order of presentation in the House provided that one day's notice has been given under this item.

Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House

Motions moved under this item are those relating to the business of the House and are moved by the Government House Leader. The Government House Leader will also announce the scheduling and order in which the daily business of the House will be considered.

Deferred Recorded Divisions

The will of the House is usually ascertained by means of a voice vote. Once debate on a motion has concluded, the Speaker puts the question and determines whether the yeas or nays have it and declares the motion carried or lost. A recorded division may be requested on any voice vote. A recorded division requires those voting in the affirmative or negative to rise so their names can be entered in the Journal. A recorded division, if requested, need not be held immediately. At the request of the Government House Leader or Whip, it may be deferred to the next sitting day under this item.

Orders of the Day

This item refers to the business that is to come before the House each day, as set out in the *Order and Notice Paper*. An item of business may include consideration of bills at various stages, estimates, or motions for which notice has already been given.

Condolences and Congratulations

While no longer a part of Routine Business following the rule changes in 2015, Members have an opportunity to present a statement of condolence or extend congratulations to any person, group or association before the Speaker motions for the daily adjournment of the House.















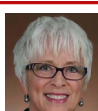











HOUSE STATISTICS

	57 th Legislature	58 th Legislature		
	<i>Fourth Session</i> 2013-2014	<i>First Session</i> 2014-2015	<i>Second Session</i> 2015 - 2016	<i>Third Session</i> 2016 - 2017
<i>Daily Sitzings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	70	64	40	48
Evening Sitzings	6	0	0	0
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	70	50	40	56
Received Royal Assent	69	49	34	53
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	8	2	2	6
Received Royal Assent	8	2	2	5
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	14	5	24	9
Received Royal Assent	3	0	0	1
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	10	14	8	14
Number debated	1	4	2	6
Number agreed to	10	14	7	12
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	54	29	166	22
Number debated	22	24	15	18
Number agreed to	6	14	5	9
Number withdrawn	10	0	0	0
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	16	3	3	2
In Committee on Estimates	12	18	15	13
In other Committees	11	0	0	0
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>	59	87	56	74
<i>Petitions</i>	14	112	72	40
<i>Written Questions</i>	0	0	0	5



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017 Seating Arrangement

 Victor Boudreau Shediac- Beaubassin- Cap-Pelé	 Andrew Harvey Carleton-Victoria	 Benoît Bourque Kent South	 Bill Fraser Miramichi
	 Gilles LePage Restigouche West	 Serge Rousselle Tracadie-Sheila	 Rick Doucet Fundy-The Isles- Saint John West
 Hédard Albert Caraquet	 Monique LeBlanc Moncton East	 Lisa Harris Miramichi Bay- Neguac	 Brian Gallant Shediac Bay-Dieppe
 Bertrand LeBlanc Kent North	 Chuck Chiasson Victoria-La Vallée	 Francine Landry Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston	 Cathy Rogers Moncton South
 Ed Doherty Saint John Harbour	 Bernard LeBlanc Memramcook- Tantramar	 Brian Kenny Bathurst West- Beresford	 Stephen Horsman Fredericton North
	 Wilfred Roussel Shippagan- Lamèque-Miscou	 John Ames Saint Croix	 Roger Melanson Dieppe
	 Daniel Guitard Restigouche- Chaleur		 Denis Landry Bathurst East- Nepisiguit- Saint-Isidore

Note: There is one vacancy following Donald Arseneault's resignation on December 1.



L



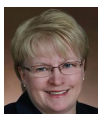
PC



GP



Chris Collins
Speaker
Moncton Centre



Dorothy Shephard
Saint John
Lancaster



Glen Savoie
Saint John East



Ernie Steeves
Moncton Northwest



Kirk MacDonald
Fredericton-York



Jeff Carr
New Maryland-
Sunbury



Sherry Wilson
Moncton Southwest



Blaine Higgs
Quispamsis



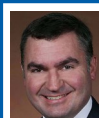
Hugh Flemming
Rothesay



Bill Oliver
Kings Centre



Madeleine Dubé
Edmundston-
Madawaska Centre



Brian Macdonald
Fredericton
West-Hanwell



Ross Wetmore
Gagetown-
Petitcodiac



Trevor Holder
Portland-Simonds



Pam Lynch
Fredericton-
Grand Lake



Jake Stewart
Southwest
Miramichi-Bay
du Vin



Stewart Fairgrieve
Carleton



Jody Carr
Oromocto-Lincoln-
Fredericton



Brian Keirstead
Albert



Bruce Fitch
Riverview



Bruce Northrup
Sussex-Fundy-
St. Martins



Carl Urquhart
Carleton-York



Gary Crossman
Hampton



David Coon
Fredericton South

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk

Shayne Davies
Clerk Assistant

John-Patrick McCleave
Committee Clerk

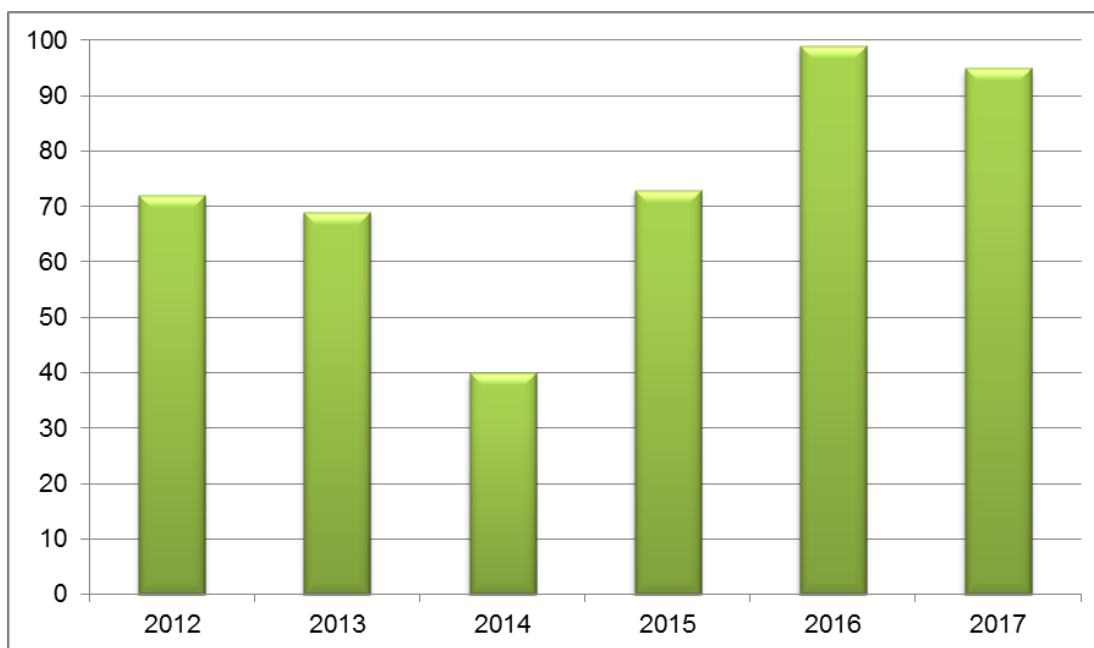


COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



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 2017, there were 9 standing committees and 1 select committee, which held a total of 95 meetings. Standing committees are appointed by the House and exist for the life of a Legislature. Select committees are appointed 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, 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative Administration Committee

Members	Hon. Mr. Collins (C)	Mr. Albert
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (VC)	Mr. Guitard
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Oliver
	Hon. Mr. Melanson	Mr. Fairgrieve
	Hon. Mr. Doucet	Mr. Coon

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 8 meetings, on January 11 and 18, March 29, April 11, June 15, September 19, and December 5 and 12 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature.

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

Members	Mr. Chiasson (C)	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Mr. Fitch
	Mr. Doherty	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Roussel	

Mandate

The Committee reviews the annual reports of provincial agencies, boards and commissions.

Activities

The Committee held 10 meetings, on January 17, 18, 19 and 20, June 20, October 3, 4, 5 and 6, and November 23. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2017, Volume I, II, III, IV and V. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of Ambulance New Brunswick, Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, Financial and Consumer Services Commission, NB Liquor, New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board, New Brunswick Health Council, Opportunities New Brunswick, Regional Development Corporation, Service New Brunswick, and WorkSafe NB.



Standing Committee on Economic Policy

Members	Mr. Chiasson (C)	Mr. Doherty
	Mr. Boudreau (VC)	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Mr. Albert	Ms. Dubé
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Stewart
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 36 meetings, on March 22, 29, 30 and 31, April 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, May 2, 3 and 4, November 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 28, 29 and 30, and December 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20. The Committee presented reports to the House on March 23, April 25, 27 and 28, May 2, 3 and 4, November 10 and 15, and December 5, 7, 15 and 20.

Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

Members	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Chiasson
	Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Fitch
	Mr. Albert	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Mr. Doherty	Ms. Shephard
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Steeves
	Mr. Roussel	

Mandate

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

Activities

The Committee held 13 meetings, on February 21, 22, 23, 24 and 28, March 1, 2, 3, 15 and 17, and April 12, 25 and 26. The Committee presented a report to the House on April 27.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Members	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C. (C)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Mr. Albert (VC)	Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
	Mr. Doherty	Mr. Fairgrieve
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Mr. Holder
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Chiasson	



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 3 meetings, on November 14, 21 and 28. The Committee was referred Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act* and met with representatives from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; CUPE NB; Unifor; the New Brunswick Federation of Labour; the New Brunswick Nurses' Union and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to discuss the subject matter of the Bill. The Committee also received written briefs from various organizations. The Committee presented a report to the House on December 5.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Members	Mr. Roussel (C)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Mr. Guitard (VC)	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. Crossman
	Mr. Doherty	Mr. Northrup
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Ms. Wilson
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	

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 a meeting on April 11. The Committee presented a report to the House on April 25.

Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

Members	Mr. Albert (C)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Hon. Mr. Doucet	Ms. Dubé
	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.	Mr. Northrup
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Jody Carr
	Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

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 2 meetings, on June 22 and December 5. The Committee reviewed the annual report of the Commissioner of Official languages and considered the adoption of a statement on the roles and responsibilities and a code of conduct for Members. The Committee presented a report to the House on December 5.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Members	Mr. Holder (C)	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
	Mr. Chiasson (VC)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Doherty	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Crossman
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Albert	

Mandate

The Committee reviews Auditor General reports, Public Accounts, and annual reports of government departments.

Activities

The Committee held 11 meetings, on June 20, September 26, 27, 28 and 29, October 3, 10, 11, 12 and 13, and November 23. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2017, Volume I, II, III, IV and V. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of the following departments, secretariat or office: Aboriginal Affairs; Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries; Attorney General; Education and Early Childhood Development; Energy and Mines; Environment and Local Government; Finance; Health; Human Resources; Justice; Natural Resources; Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Public Safety; Social Development; Tourism, Heritage and Culture; and Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee presented a report to the House on November 17.

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Members	Ms. LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Chiasson	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Steeves
	Mr. Doherty	Mr. Stewart
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

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 2017.



SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Cannabis

Members	Mr. Bourque (C)	Mr. Harvey
	Mr. LePage (VC)	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Chiasson	Ms. Dubé
	Ms. LeBlanc	Ms. Lynch

Mandate

The Committee was appointed on April 28 to conduct public consultations, informed by the *Report of the New Brunswick Working Group on the Legalization of Cannabis*, and report to the House with a summary of those consultations.

Activities

The Committee held 11 meetings, on June 21, July 4, 12, 13, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, and August 9 and 10. The Committee heard from over 70 presenters, and received 44 written submissions. The Committee released its final report on September 1. The Committee presented the final report to the House when it resumed sitting on October 24.



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

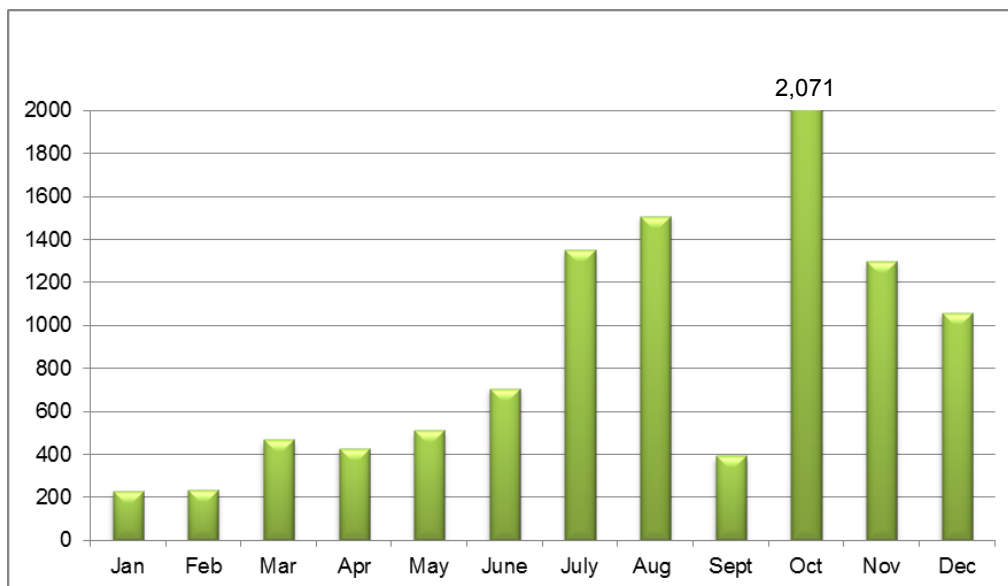


VISITORS AND TOURS

Parliament Square, which includes the Legislative Assembly, 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 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. 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.

Throughout the year, but particularly during the summer months, the Legislative Assembly Building and grounds attract visitors from all corners of the province and from all Canadian provinces and territories. In addition, international visitors are welcomed daily. Guided tours are available in both official languages or guests can enjoy self-guided tours throughout the historic building.



Monthly Visitor Numbers in 2017



Approximately 10,260 people visited the Legislature in 2017, the highest number in over a decade, compared to an estimated 8,823 people in 2016. The increase was principally the result of the federal Canada 150 partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that supported citizenship education in New Brunswick schools by offering a travel subsidy to defray some of the costs for schools visiting the Legislature. The federal Department of Canadian Heritage coordinated Canada 150 initiatives for the Government of Canada and partnered with different levels of government and the private and not-for-profit sectors in the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

In May, three students began their summer employment as tour guides: Lauren Colter, Corben Parker, and Alex Robichaud offered daily tours until September. Since 2013, the Legislative Assembly offers tours seven days per week during the summer months.

On February 7, the Legislative Assembly hosted the Daughters of the Vote, an Equal Voice program dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. Eleven women participated in a mock parliament in the Legislative Council Chamber after observing the proceedings of the House earlier in the day.

In recognition of Take Our Kids to Work Day, the Departments of Justice and Public Safety, Social Development, and Service New Brunswick organized a visit to the Legislative Assembly by grade 9 students on November 1. A special tour on the functioning of the legislative institution was organized by these departments in order for students to learn about the roles of the legislative branch of government and the civil service. Take Our Kids to Work Day is organized by The Learning Partnership, a national nonprofit organization that advocates a strong public education system in Canada. New Brunswick joined the program in 1996 and, since 1998, the program has been held nationally, with all provinces and territories taking part.

In honour of Canada 150 celebrations, an exhibition of a fictional office of one of the Fathers of Confederation was erected in the entryway of the building. A desk and chair used by New Brunswick Legislative Councillors circa 1841, a tea cup and saucer used in 1860 during the first Royal Visit to New Brunswick by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), along with many other pieces in the Provincial Collection, Kings Landing Historical Settlement Collection, and the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly's own collection were displayed.



An exhibit honouring the New Brunswick Fathers of Confederation welcomed visitors upon entering the building.

Three dignitaries were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly in 2017. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly met with the Ambassador of Mongolia to Canada, His Excellency Mr. Radnaabazar Altangerel on April 27; the Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, His Excellency Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi on May 23; and the Consul General of Uruguay in Montreal, Mr. Luis Eduardo Coronel on June 27.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND CEREMONIES

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building. On April 2, the Legislative Assembly participated in the Light It Up Blue campaign for World Autism Awareness Day. The Legislature, along with other iconic Canadian buildings, participated in the Vimy Foundation's campaign on April 9 to mark the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The portico was illuminated in green, light blue, dark blue, and red, representing the coloured badges of the four Canadian Divisions that formed the entire Canadian Expeditionary Force that fought at Vimy Ridge. The Legislature also participated in National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week. From April 24 to 30, the building was bathed in green to create and sustain support for New Brunswick transplant recipients and donors. From May 1 to 7, the Legislative Assembly lit the portico green for Mental Health Week. The Legislative Assembly was lit gold from September 19 to 22 to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and honour those who have been directly affected by pediatric cancers. For the Diabetes Awareness Month campaign, the Legislature was awash in light blue from November 8 to 14, the final day being World Diabetes Day. From November 15 to 22, the Legislature participated in the Purple Lights campaign. An initiative of Pancreatic Cancer Canada, this campaign saw the Legislature illuminated with a purple lighting scheme. The Legislature was also lit red from November 26 to December 2 in recognition of National AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day on December 1. The illumination of the building was an opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and address the stigma associated with the disease that may interfere with prevention, care and treatment. The Legislative Assembly highlighted the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by lighting the portico purple on November 24, 25, and December 6. An international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991, the 16 Days of Activism include the recognition of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and the International Human Rights Day.



Vimy Ridge Illumination on April 9

Legislature was also lit red from November 26 to December 2 in recognition of National AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day on December 1. The illumination of the building was an opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and address the stigma associated with the disease that may interfere with prevention, care and treatment. The Legislative Assembly highlighted the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by lighting the portico purple on November 24, 25, and December 6. An international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991, the 16 Days of Activism include the recognition of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and the International Human Rights Day.

In partnership with the City of Fredericton, the Legislature hosted a special Inspection and Changing of the Guard ceremony on July 1 to mark Canada 150. Held daily during the summer months in Officers' Square, period-dressed Ceremonial Guards represent the establishment of the Infantry School Corps, Company "A", and the birthplace of the Canadian Army through daily re-enactments and drill ceremonies.

In celebration of Canada 150, the first showing of a high-tech, multimedia presentation was projected upon the front exterior of the Legislative Assembly building on June 21 and continued throughout the summer. The 30 minute presentation, entitled MALA, which



Speaker Collins inspects the Ceremonial Guard on the grounds of the Legislature on Canada Day.



means “where I’m from” in Mi’kmaq, highlighted New Brunswick’s history through stories of key people and events. The presentation showcased major cultural events, partners, characters and stories from New Brunswick’s history, focusing on the cultural diversity of First Nations, Anglophones, Francophones and immigrants.

In recognition of National Peacekeepers’ Day, held annually on August 9, the United Nations flag was raised at the Legislative Assembly and members of the *Blue Helmets*, a Veteran Peacekeepers Association, planted a “Vimy Oak” sapling on the grounds of the Legislature.

Various award ceremonies took place at the Legislative Assembly during 2017, including the Canada Cord Ceremony on October 28, which is an annual award ceremony of the Girl Guides of Canada; the New Brunswick Council of Scouts Canada’s annual Chief Scout Awards on November 4; and the Duke of Edinburgh’s Silver Award Ceremony on November 18. Traditionally, the Lieutenant-Governor presides over all three ceremonies.

The annual Queen’s Counsel Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on October 30. The distinction of Queen’s Counsel is bestowed upon experienced lawyers in the province. The eleven recipients this year were: Lee C. Bell-Smith, Saint John; Nathalie Chiasson, Shippagan; Michael Comeau, Fredericton; George L. Cooper, Moncton; Chantal N. Daigle, Quispamsis; Annie Daneault, Grand Falls; Amanda Evans, Carters Point; Kathryn Gregory, Fredericton; David L.E. Peterson, Fredericton; William G. Stephenson, Fredericton; and Chantal Thibodeau, Dieppe.



The annual Provincial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on December 1 in front of the Legislative Assembly. Special guests included Lieutenant-Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau; Speaker Chris Collins; Member for Fredericton-West Hanwell, Brian Macdonald; Member for Fredericton South, David Coon; Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Donald Forestell; and Chaplain Father Shawn Daley. Hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served to the public by Epsilon Y’s Men and Epsilon Y’s Menettes. The evening’s entertainment was provided by the George Street Middle School Choir and the Stepping Stone

Singers. Following the tree lighting, a procession led by Santa Claus and the Fredericton Concert and Marching Band proceeded along Queen Street to continue the festivities at Fredericton City Hall for the city’s tree lighting ceremony.

On December 13, the Legislative Assembly hosted a reception, in partnership with the New Brunswick Women’s Council and Women for 50%, to recognize and honour the 50th anniversary of the first elected female Member of the Legislative Assembly, Honourable Brenda Robertson, and to encourage more women to participate in politics. Honourable Brenda Robertson was first elected in 1967 to represent Albert County and was re-elected four times to represent Albert County (1970) and the riding of Riverview (1974, 1978, 1982). Hon. Ms. Robertson was the first female elected to the Legislature and the first woman to hold a position in Cabinet. In 1984, she was appointed to the Senate where she served until 2004. Over her lifetime, Hon. Ms. Robertson received numerous awards and honours, including an appointment to the Order of New Brunswick.



PAGE PROGRAM

Pages are young people selected to serve as messengers of the House and to perform various duties to assist Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly. Pages are chosen from university-aged students of high academic standing. The presence of Pages in the Legislative Assembly is required for all regular sitting days, and for various meetings of standing and select committees. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, Pages distribute the daily *Order and Notice Paper* to Members and legislative staff. While the House is sitting, Pages deliver documents on behalf of Members and staff to the Speaker, the Clerks, and to other Members, as requested.

To serve as a Page offers an opportunity to learn about the political and legislative processes. Persons interested in working as a Page may download an application form from the Legislative Assembly website.

The Pages who served during the spring 2017 sitting were Katie Avery, Lauren Colter, Emily Dow, Jennifer Estey, Trupti Gadkari, Melissa Gottschall, Austin Henderson, Katie Kim, Phoebe Marmura Brown, Abigail McCarthy, Corben Parker, Andrea Robertson, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), Mackenzie Taylor, and Nathaniel Wallace.

The Pages who served during the fall 2017 sitting were Sarah Albert-Bélanger, Erik Arsenault, Austin Henderson, Ellen Hiltz, Phoebe Marmura Brown, Corben Parker, Julie Roberge, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), Brandon Robinson, Jarrod Ryan, Matt Thompson, Deepigha Shree Vittal Babu, and Natasha Williamson.

The Regional Cadet Support Unit (Atlantic) of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Area had three Senior Cadets serve as honorary Pages on March 31 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and to serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by Canadian men and women during the First World War. Master Warrant Officer Bryanna Keddy, Chief Petty Officer Second Class Hannah Marie McCarthy, and Warrant Officer First Class Aidan McKenzie were present on the floor of the House to assist Pages with their duties during a sitting of the Legislature. Following which, the Lieutenant-Governor hosted the Cadets and Pages at Government House to recognize their service to the province.



The Pages and Cadets at Government House. In the first row: Katie Kim, Lauren Colter, His Honour Ronald Vienneau, Her Honour the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, Phoebe Marmura Brown, and Jennifer Estey. In the second row: Alex Robichaud, Trupti Gadkari, Emily Dow, Mackenzie Taylor, Austin Henderson, and Melissa Gottschall. In the third row: Bryanna Keddy, Hannah Marie McCarthy, and Aidan McKenzie.



BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has been televising its legislative 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 the community-access cable television channel 10. Coverage of the proceedings of the Legislature went live in 1989.

In the 1990s, the live coverage on channel 10, or channel 9 in some communities, was expanded to include almost an entire sitting day. In 2005, a committee of the Legislative Assembly resolved to launch the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service on a channel dedicated solely to the broadcast of legislative proceedings. The channel would provide gavel-to-gavel television coverage of all sitting days while the Legislature was in session. On March 28, 2006, the first broadcast took place on the dedicated channel.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service broadcasts the daily proceedings each sitting day in both official languages. In 2017, the proceedings continued to be broadcast on Rogers digital cable television channel 70 in select New Brunswick communities served by the cable television 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 is also available in all communities.

In 2017, Rogers continued to televise, at a designated time each sitting day, daily Question Period on various community channels. In addition, repeats of the daily proceedings were televised, usually commencing within 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

Bell Aliant also continued to broadcast the daily proceedings of the Legislature in both official languages as a video on-demand on Bell Aliant's community television channel 1 and 401. In 2017, the channels were available to all New Brunswickers with access to Bell Aliant, as well as those individuals with access throughout Atlantic Canada.

The proceedings of the Standing Committees on Economic Policy and Estimates and Fiscal Policy were also broadcast on Rogers channel 70 and Bell Aliant channel 1 and 401 in 2017, as they took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

In 2017, the video and audio of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continued to be streamed live on the Internet for webcasting purposes in both official languages. In addition, the audio of meetings of the Select Committee on Cannabis and the Standing Committees on Public Accounts, Crown Corporations, Law Amendments, and Private Bills was streamed live on the Internet.

In an effort to upgrade the original broadcast equipment, three new HD cameras were installed in the Chamber and a new video server was purchased for the production room in 2017. The intent is to upgrade the remaining equipment in 2018.

When the Legislature was not in session, a graphics computer generated a rotating sequence of textual messages pertaining to the following: regular sitting schedule; channel's distribution; tour information; upcoming Legislature events; and several specially produced sequences on the Legislature's function, history, traditions, and other subjects of interest. A photograph of each Member was shown with accompanying party affiliation, ministerial portfolio (where applicable), riding, and contact information.

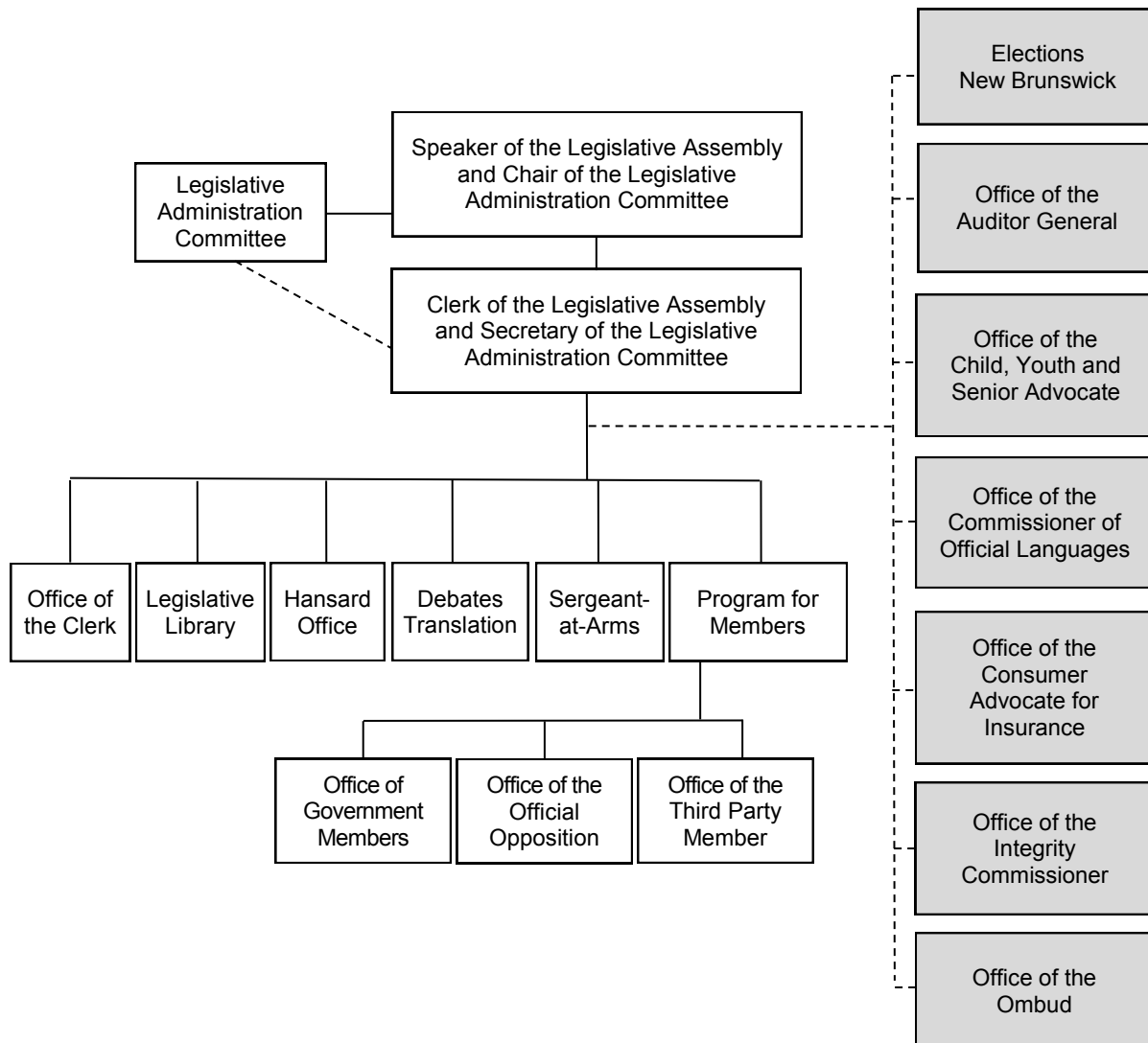


OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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





FUNCTIONAL STATEMENTS

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.

Office of the Clerk

- Produces the Journal, Orders of the Day and maintains the official permanent records of the Assembly.
- Provides advice to the Speaker and Members on questions of parliamentary law, procedure, and interpretation of the rules and practices of the House.
- 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 resources support to Elections New Brunswick, Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and Office of the Ombud.

Legislative Library

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

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.

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.

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.

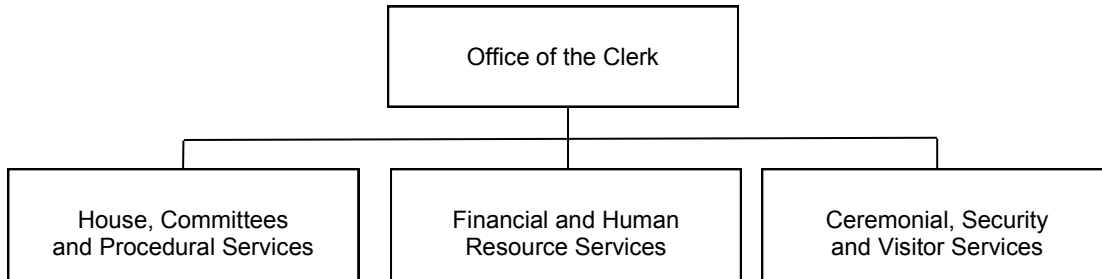
Program for Members

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



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — Shayne Davies



In 2017, 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 Office of the Clerk and its staff supports the activities of the Clerk. The Clerk and Clerks Assistant served as Table Officers and Law Clerks in the House. They assisted Members with the interpretation and application of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and other applicable legislation, and drafted or reviewed floor amendments, private Members' public bills and private legislation.

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

Journals and Publications

In 2017, the Journals Clerk compiled 57 unrevised journals. The journals of the House are the official record of matters considered and decisions taken by the House. Unrevised journals are posted online as soon as they are available in both official languages. At the conclusion of a session, unrevised journals are finalized, indexed and published. The 2015-2016 bound version of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly was published in 2017.

First reading bills continued to be published online. During the 2017 calendar year, 74 bills were introduced. The online status of legislation, which tracks the progress of bills as they proceed through various stages in the House, was produced and regularly updated.



The Assembly continued to archive online proceedings. The 2017-2018 budget speech and reply thereto, the Premier's closure of the budget debate, the October 24 throne speech and reply thereto, and the Premier's closure of the throne speech debate were all archived to the website. In addition, oral question period continued to be archived online, allowing the public to view the daily question period online, either live or as video-on-demand webcasts.

Biographical information and photographs of Members of the 58th Legislature were updated during the year. Any 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 prepared itineraries and coordinated business session topics for Members attending the Annual Presiding Officers Conference; the Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which included meetings of the Canadian Regional Council and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar; the annual meeting and regional policy forum of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference; conferences of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF); and the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees.

Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada is an organization composed of the Table Officers from every provincial and territorial legislature in Canada, as well as the House of Commons and the Senate. The objective of the Association is to advance the professional development of its members by enabling them to expand their knowledge of the foundations and principles of the parliamentary system and procedure in Canada.

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table list server (CATS) allows an open exchange of ideas and information. CATS is used by members of the Association to contribute information, pose questions, conduct surveys and seek advice on a wide variety of procedural and administrative issues.

In 2017, Clerks responded to numerous inquiries posted to the CATS system. Topics canvassed during the year included: constituency office political staff, indigenous language interpretation, judicial officers as witnesses, pairing, electronic petitions, prayers, and multiple sponsors of a bill.

Canadian Parliamentary Review

Staff of the Clerk's Office prepared quarterly submissions to the Canadian Parliamentary Review. The purpose of the publication is to inform Canadian legislators about the activities of the various branches of the Canadian Region of the CPA and to promote interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. In 2017, staff ensured that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick was included in each edition under the "Legislative Reports" section.



Tributes

Two former Members passed away in 2017:

Leland Watson McGaw (Progressive Conservative) on March 26. Mr. McGaw was elected on October 23, 1967, to represent the riding of Charlotte. He was re-elected in 1970, 1974, 1978 and 1982. During his time at the Legislature he served as Minister of Tourism, Deputy Speaker, Chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, and was a member on several standing and select committees.

David Adelbert Bishop (Progressive Conservative) on July 8. Mr. Bishop was elected in a September 30, 1974, by-election to represent the riding of York. He was re-elected in 1974, 1978 and 1982. During his time at the Legislature, he served on several standing and select committees.



FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

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

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

Financial Services Overview

Financial Services include the following responsibilities:

- Members' and Committee Expenses
 - Ensure timely and accurate payment of expenses.
 - Provide advice on the application of various rules and guidelines for eligible expenses for members.
- Purchasing of and Payment for Goods and Services
 - Ensure compliance with Acts and Regulations.
 - Ensure transactions are properly recorded for financial statement presentation.
- Financial Analysis and Expenditure Projections
 - Review the financial position of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and its various offices.
 - Advise clients of various issues related to expenditures.
- Budget Process
 - Coordinate budget process, prepare budget submissions and liaise with related departments or agencies.
- Reporting
 - Prepare quarterly and annual expenditure reports as prescribed by the *Legislative Assembly Act* and Department of Finance.

Financial Services Section

The House sat a total of 55 days during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, compared to 53 days in 2015-2016 and 55 days in 2014-2015. Since the annual budget of the Legislative Assembly only provides for expenses and allowances associated with approximately 40 sitting days in a fiscal year, additional funding was required for 2016-2017. In total, supplementary estimates in the amount of \$210,000 were approved to fund expenditures associated with the additional sitting days.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$13,211,800 based on a revised total budget of \$13,389,000 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$12,963,000 based on a budget of \$13,326,000 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.



Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017
(in \$ 000s)

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>		
Allowances to Members	7 991.0	7 840.6
Legislative Committees	231.0	377.2
Subtotal	8 222.0	8 217.8
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	430.0	435.9
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1 610.0	1 599.3
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	224.0	147.4
Hansard Office	585.0	575.6
Debates Translation	715.0	717.5
Subtotal	3 564.0	3 475.7
<i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	508.0	434.2
Office of the Official Opposition	940.0	929.1
Office of the Green Party	155.0	155.0
Subtotal	1 603.0	1 518.3
<i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i>	13 389.0	13 211.8

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Buildings were approximately \$789,000 in 2016-2017. Major projects included: continuation of the multi-phased roll-out of fire suppression and fire alarm systems upgrades throughout the legislative complex; hard surface and landscaping within the Legislative Assembly complex and grounds, including security perimeter and bollards; and the general maintenance and preservation of legislative buildings.

The operating budget for the Legislative Assembly was frozen for the 2017-2018 fiscal year (net of special appropriations in 2016-2017 of \$210,000). A total operating budget of \$13,073,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. As of September 1, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner merged with the Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner to become the Office of the Integrity Commissioner and as a result, \$75,000 was transferred from the Office of the Legislative Assembly budget to the Office of the Integrity Commissioner budget. Accordingly, the Office of the Legislative Assembly budget was restated to \$12,998,000.

Pursuant to the *Auditor General Act*, a qualified auditor is appointed annually by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to audit the accounts of the Office of the Auditor General. Finance and Human Resources staff facilitated this process for the financial statements of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, including inviting and reviewing a proposal from the audit firm, coordinating the audit process with the auditor and officials from the Office of the Auditor General, and ensuring receipt of the auditor's report by the Speaker.

Pursuant to a decision of the Legislative Administration Committee, the Legislative Assembly provides direct payment service of constituency office rent on behalf of all Members.



Human Resource Services Overview

Human Resource Services provide services to Ministers, Members, and employees of the Legislative Assembly and Statutory Offices. The responsibilities include:

- Payroll and Benefits
 - Ensure timely and accurate payment of salaries and benefits.
 - Provide payroll and benefit orientation to all new Members and employees.
 - Administer and track employee leave.
- Personnel Administration
 - Assist in recruitment process.
 - Ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits of staff.
 - Maintain payroll and personnel records.
 - Communicate policies and benefits.
- Human Resource Development
 - Facilitate staff training for both professional and personal development.
 - Administer and promote the Employee and Family Assistance Program.
- Personnel Policies
 - Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province and the Legislative Administration Committee.

Human Resource Services Highlights

In 2017, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 11 permanent competitions of statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered the commencement of 16 employees and the termination arrangements for 20 employees who either retired, resigned or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

Economic increases were processed for employees during 2017. The Members and Ministers indemnities and salaries were not adjusted during the same period. Eligible employees received merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance and current salary level.

The section continued to provide a payroll service on behalf of Private Members for their constituency office staff. Constituency office employees of Private Members are paid bi-weekly using the Province's Human Resources Information System (HRIS). Constituency Office employees are paid from the Constituency Office Allowance as prescribed in the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

A total of 60 students and other individuals were employed under various casual or term employment 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 a Record of Employment) of each of the related employees.

In 2017, the section continued to host employee wellness sessions provided by the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP). Staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by UNB, GNB, the Human Resources Association of New Brunswick, and the Financial Management Institute, as well as French 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	5	0	0	4	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0
Sergeant-at-Arms	3	0	0	5	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	2	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	10	0	0	3	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	4	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	10	0	0	4	0
<i>Office of the Third Party Member</i>	2	0	0	8	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	18	0	0
<i>Members</i>	0	49	0	0	36
<i>Total</i>	59	49	18	28	36



LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff of departments of government in order that they may better serve the people of New Brunswick. The Legislative Library may acquire by gift, bequest, loan or purchase any book, periodical, newspaper, film or publication that may serve the Members and staff 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 and each government department are required to deposit with the Library four copies of every government publication issued under its authority within 30 days of its printing date. The Library has broadened its mandate to receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications. A repository for electronic government publications has been established whereby selected publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access. It should be noted that the Library still maintains a print collection of all government documents. A significant challenge has been adapting to the rapid expansion of electronic information resources. The Library continues to stress the importance of producing print copies, as well as electronic versions, of government publications for future generations and for members of today's public.

The Library strives to serve Members, Legislative Assembly staff, civil servants and the public in an efficient and accommodating manner. All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a nonpartisan fashion. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. When the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and an incredible resource for the province. In 2017, several publishers and individuals donated materials to the Library. The Legislative Library is grateful to the following who donated books during the past year:

Publishers and Groups

Bouton d'or Acadie Inc.; Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; Goose Lane Editions; and La Grande Marée.

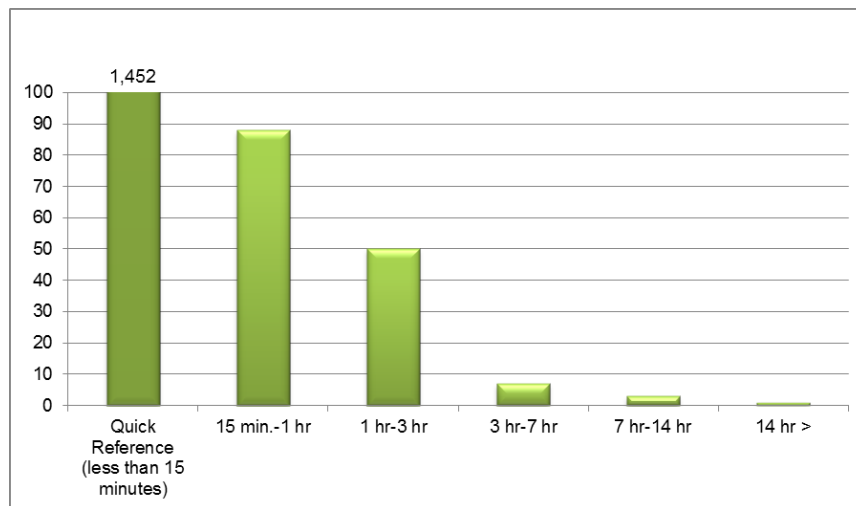
Individuals

Alexander Gibson Briggs; Chuck Chiasson, M.L.A.; Jacques Gagnon; Dawn Bell Logan; Neill McKay; Janet McNeil; Diane Mercier-Allain; Margie Parker; John Swanton; Janet Trail; and Jim Whalen.



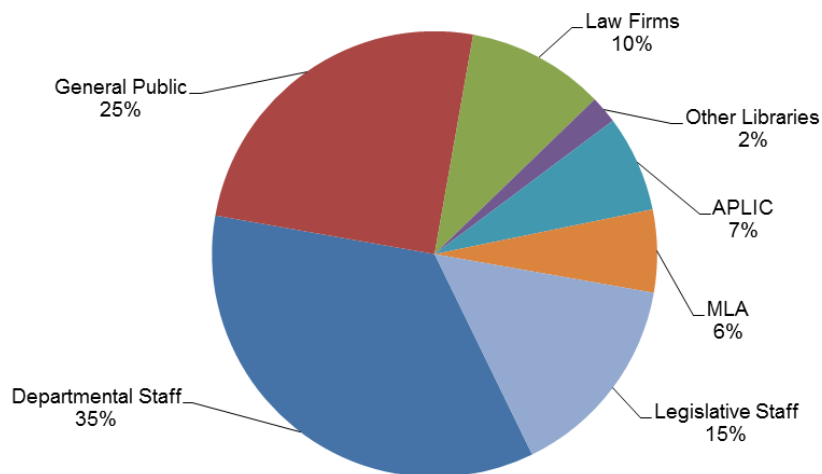
Reference, Library Services, and Outreach

Reference staff members were busy in 2017. There was a 15% increase in the number of reference questions received. Several of the questions were complex and required numerous hours to answer. The Library's statistics reporting system allows staff to record the amount of time spent to answer each question. The following graph shows the number of questions corresponding to various time ranges.



Number of Questions Per Time Range

The following chart shows a breakdown of the types of patrons requesting information from the Library, in person or otherwise, in 2017.



Patron Types Requesting Information



The inter-library loan service the Library offers was active in 2017. A total of seven requests were sent to other libraries requesting material on behalf of our patrons. The Library received three loan requests from other libraries to borrow our material.

The Library's display case in the rotunda was changed on a regular basis throughout the year in an effort to celebrate Canada 150 by showcasing books and library materials on various subjects. The themes included Prominent New Brunswickers, Fathers of Confederation, New Brunswick Authors, Canada 150, Symbols of New Brunswick, Aboriginal History and Culture in New Brunswick, New Brunswick Sports Figures, New Brunswick Military (focus on diaries and memoirs) and New Brunswick Entertainers.

Government Documents

The New Brunswick Government Publications collection is housed separately in a small building located across the street from the main Library. Documents staff manage a physical collection of catalogued print items numbering over 8,000, as well as a large collection of uncatalogued print materials including duplicate copies. In addition, staff also manage the electronic repository of New Brunswick documents. During 2017, a total of 212 electronic government documents, including both monographs and annual reports, were added to the repository. To date, over 2,600 documents are available.

Projects and Initiatives

In the spring, the Library deployed the first version of the new in-house digital document repository system; "DocVault". This web-based application is intended to provide a means for Library staff to easily collect, organize and search digital media, including text, video, photos, and audio. Staff has the ability to create collections and add items along with flexible metadata. For text-based material, advanced full-text searching is supported using an ElasticSearch backend. Library staff has started adding collections of Royal Gazettes and provincial press releases. By the end of 2017, 1,901 government press releases from the 1960s and 1,373 Royal Gazettes dating from 1972-1997 were scanned, OCR'd , and added to DocVault with metadata.

In the fall, phase two of DocVault was started which included better searching and record management tools.

Staffing

Janet McNeil, Government Documents librarian, retired on April 28 after 28 years of service at the Legislative Library. Her knowledge and expertise will be missed.

Rebekah Wheaton, a Masters of Library and Information Sciences co-op student from Western University, started with the Library in early May and finished her term in August. She helped staff the reference desk during the summer as well as helping to advance different projects in the Library.



HANSARD OFFICE

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey

As in other British Commonwealth jurisdictions, the official reports of the debates of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, the *Journal of Debates*, are referred to as “Hansard”. The name originated with Thomas Hansard, who published the debates of the British Parliament in the early 1800s as Hansard’s Parliamentary Debates.

The New Brunswick Hansard Office produces transcripts of the House sittings and committee meetings of the Legislative Assembly in both official languages and provides audio and recording services for proceedings and special events. As described herein, in 2017, the Hansard staff produced 3.06 million words of House and committee proceedings and tended to the audio and recording requirements of 151 events.

Hansard Transcript Production

The Hansard Office produces both blues and finalized transcripts. The blues are transcripts that have had a first edit and are posted to the Assembly network. Finalized transcripts are those blues that have had a second edit, further research if necessary, the attachment of opening pages, and reposting.

Staff completed the blues for 101 full sittings and meetings, and they completed finalized transcripts for 79 full sittings and meetings. As well, staff completed blues transcripts for portions of every House sitting and some committee meetings as a result of priority transcripts being completed each workday. The following table displays the transcription word count achieved in 2017.

TRANSCRIPTION WORD COUNT		
Transcript Source	Word Count	Percent of Total
Legislative Assembly	1,553,714	51%
Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy*	401,932	13%
Standing Committee on Economic Policy*	578,504	19%
Other Standing and Select Committees**	527,654	17%
TOTAL WORD COUNT	3,061,804	100%

*By motion carried, the transcripts of these committees were appended to the Legislative Assembly transcripts

**Crown corporations, law amendments, public accounts, cannabis, and procedure, privileges and legislative officers



During House sittings, particular transcripts are routinely set as priorities and thus are completed and posted first. The following table displays the number of such transcripts produced in 2017.

PRIORITY TRANSCRIPTS PRODUCED			
Oral Questions*	Introductions, Condolences, Congratulations	Requests	TOTAL
55	774	355	1,184

*Ordinarily 30 minutes daily and may be extended

Oral questions transcripts were posted and distributed within approximately three hours of question period concluding. Opposition members posed 823 questions, of which the most frequent topics were health care, property tax, and government policy and procedure.

There were 318 introductions, 225 statements of congratulation, and 231 statements of condolence. These transcripts were completed and posted within a day of being delivered in the House.

Of the transcript requests received (179 for House sittings and 176 for committee meetings), 145 were completed and distributed on the same day they were requested. Requested transcripts varied in length, from excerpts to full sittings and meetings. In comparison with the previous year, there was a 44% increase in the number of requests received in 2017.

Audio and Recording Operations

The Hansard Office was increasingly active throughout 2017 with audio and recording tasks prior to and during proceedings and events: conducting audio and recording tests; entering, monitoring, and modifying events in recording computers; setting up and operating consoles; scheduling and training console staff; traveling to offsite committee meetings; and record keeping. After events, staff scanned and filed the research documents collected, calculated and recorded statistics, and edited and reposted the console logs.

Audio and recording support was provided for 151 events: 57 House sittings, 80 committee meetings, and 14 special events. The following table displays the hours expended during the year.

AUDIO AND RECORDING HOURS				
Hours of Console Operation			Hours of Related Tasks	Total Hours
House Sittings	Committee Meetings	Special Events		
190	334	34	368	926



Professional Activities—Hansard Association of Canada

The role of the Hansard Association of Canada is to enhance the expertise of those who produce Hansard, to serve as a channel of communication among reporting services across Canada and the Commonwealth, to provide assistance regarding Hansard production, and to inform and educate others about Hansard. The office continued to be active in the association by contributing to its newsletter, responding to queries from other jurisdictions, and taking part in the annual conference.

Human Resources and Activities

Throughout the year, Hansard staff attended second language training and professional development courses. Staff gave a presentation and conducted an office tour for staff of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Staff also made presentations and provided handouts during the two orientation sessions held for the legislative pages. As well, staff participated in the selection and orientation of new employees, carried out training and provided guidance and feedback with respect to transcript production and console operation, and created and maintained in-house reference materials and manuals.

In June, the office was given, by Pamela Fulton, a collection of Hansard volumes from 1900 to 1972 that had belonged to her late husband, Wendell Fulton. This donation completed the volumes being collected for a project that will result in transcripts of past sessions being available electronically. Project work was commenced by Hansard staff, who are grateful to the Fulton family for its valuable contribution to the project.

In the upcoming year, staff will continue to collaborate on the implementation of new efficiencies and processes to improve the services provided by the Hansard Office to the Legislative Assembly.



DEBATES TRANSLATION

Chief Translator — Rebecca Colborne

Debates Translation provides professional translation services for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Debates Translation team includes three autonomous translators, two intermediate translators, and a junior translator, as well as a terminologist and the Chief Translator.

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

House

Debates Translation staff members translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings (Hansard and Journal), as well as motions introduced in the House, the Order and Notice Paper, Speaker's rulings, and other documents. Translation of Hansard accounted for 57.7% of total production in 2017, compared to 62.8% of production during the previous year. About 23% of this translation was into English, which represents a significant increase in French-to-English translation in comparison to previous years. This change is due to the translation of question period transcripts for publication, which began during the 2017 year. Non-Hansard work involved the translation of 2,384 pages, or 443,771 words.

In 2017, translation of the daily Journal represented 7.1% of production. Translation of the Journal is usually completed shortly after the session ends. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for 9% of production. These documents are translated the same day. Primary responsibility for the bilingual production of the Order Paper was transferred from Debates Translation to the Office of the Clerk at the end of the spring sitting in 2016, and it is now revised for each sitting day by Debates Translation staff.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Debates Translation is responsible for the translation of statements and speeches delivered in the House by members, including Cabinet ministers and opposition members. The material translated includes messages of condolence, congratulations, and the introduction of guests, statements by ministers and members, the introduction of bills and speeches on second reading, speeches related to debatable motions, speeches on the tabling of special documents, and, of course, the speech from the throne, speeches related to the throne speech debate, and the closure of the debate, as well as the budget speech, speeches related to the budget debate, and the closure of the debate. Speeches on budget estimates for the various departments are also translated.

The translation of speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for 15.9% of total production in 2017. During the year, 332 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 99% of production. Over 99% of the translation was into French.

During the intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members included correspondence and press releases. Translation for members, offices, and committees of the Legislative Assembly is generally done on the same day or the day after, as resources allow.



In 2016-17, Debates Translation undertook an initiative to provide earlier public access to documents frequently requested through the Legislative Assembly, and began submitting the transcription and translation of Oral Questions for posting on the Legislative Assembly website, as time and resources permitted.

Committees

Debates Translation staff members translate reports, agendas, summaries of presentations, notices of meetings, and other documents for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. Translation for committees represented 3.5% of total production in 2017.

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 6% of total production in 2017.

Human Resources

In 2017, the Debates Translation office held two competitions to fill vacancies. One former employee was rehired at the senior level, and a junior translator was recruited and began work in September.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance processes within the Debates Translation office, an open competition was held in the autumn for the position of terminologist. The successful candidate was a translator in the office. An intensive training period was provided by senior translators in the office, as well as coaching sessions with a retired senior translator and the terminologist at the provincial Translation Bureau. The addition of this position has facilitated work at all stages of our process at Debates Translation.

Senior staff members continued to coach and train junior and intermediate translators and to develop tools and resources to refine procedures and increase production. Various members of the team took training courses in computer programs and translation skills. Standard operating procedures for all aspects of Debates Translation work were developed and updated, and guidelines for clients were updated and distributed.

Debates Translation staff continued to show considerable dedication in ensuring that Members and other clients received timely, true, and accurate translations of their documents.

Technology

Debates Translation continued to adopt current best practices in the translation industry. The addition of a translation memory in 2017 was an initiative aimed at increasing efficiency and benefiting from technological advances in the field. Translation memory software was purchased through Trados, and staff spent several months converting translations to supply the database and building up a terminology database with the tool to facilitate future translation. The software is expected to enable the office to draw from work it has been doing for many years, in order to increase the efficiency of translation and deliver more standardized results in a more timely fashion.



Conclusion

In 2017, 868 translation requests were processed, and frequent requests for prompt translation made by telephone and email were also dealt with. Debates Translation staff translated 135 statements, 197 speeches, 29 press releases, 192 documents for the offices of the Legislative Assembly, 92 documents for committees, 82 motions or amendments to motions, and 64 Journals, as well as revising 54 order papers, and translating 23 question periods and several sitting days in 2004–05 Hansard. New 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.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc

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 seek outside funding to assist catch-up efforts. During the year in review, no outside funding for translation outsourcing was available.

The second component was internal funding for translation outsourcing. During the year in review, no internal funding for outsourcing was available.

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

- Hansard translation demand was 1.66 million words, compared to 1.72 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 4%.
- Hansard translation output totaled 0.61 million words, compared to 0.83 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 27%.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 1.05 million words, compared to 0.89 million words in the previous year. Over the past five years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.23 million words per year.

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

Results

- Online translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 20.83 years earlier than the published volumes.
- At year's end, translation of dailies up to May 4, 2005, was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly.
- A total of 660 Hansard dailies in dual-column PDF format are available for the 1993 to 2004-05 sessions, including 25 replies to the throne speech and budget speech up to December 2017. These finalized, translated dailies can be viewed, printed, and are fully searchable electronically.



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

Results

- The Hansard translation backlog rose by 1.05 million words, compared to 0.89 million words during the previous year, an increase of 18%.
- During the year in review, 57 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 18 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 39 sitting days, compared to an increase of 24 sitting days in the previous year.
- Hansard translation was trailing by 151 months (or 748 dailies), compared to 143 months (or 709 dailies) at the end of the previous year.

Quality Control

The *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* was updated monthly during the year. It serves as a repository of over 55 700 research findings that pertain mostly to national and provincial organizations and programs. All entries are fully referenced, and some provide hyperlinks. The *Parliamentary Stylebook* was also updated.

Both the stylebook and directory are available for consultation and download at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>.

Conclusion

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the parliamentary translators at Debates Translation, 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.



PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

Program for Members

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

Each party grouping or 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

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 the *Legislative Assembly Act*, 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 political party combine this funding to obtain and share research, secretarial and receptionist personnel.

Under the Act, funding is approved annually for the leaders of registered political parties represented in the House (Leader of the Opposition and Third Party Leader) to be used for salaries of staff, salaries 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 of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, secretarial and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Government Caucus. Members and staff of this office occupy the second and third floors of the Departmental Building.

Office of the Official Opposition

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

Office of the Leader of the Third Party

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties to support the Leader of the Third Party. The Member and staff of this office occupy the third floor of the Departmental Building.