

# Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

## Oral Questions



**June 2, 2022**

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[Original]

### COST OF LIVING

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, finally, the Premier announced a program to try to help ease some of the pain of this huge increase in the cost of living. The Premier took—what?—three or four months to try to come up with a program, and even yesterday, he could not explain who would benefit from this new announcement. But one thing that he did not say yesterday is that there is no help for the hardworking working class—the New Brunswickers who go to work every single day and who are still struggling. Today, the price of gas went up again, by 4¢, to \$2.12.

Premier, as much as it is very critical to help the most vulnerable of society, those with the lower incomes in society, could you please explain who are the 75 000 people who will be benefiting from yesterday's announcement?

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Mr. Speaker, the announcement was very clear on who would benefit. There are about 75 000 recipients. They fall into three categories. There is the area of social assistance, and that includes those with disabilities and special needs. There is that area, and there is the area of low-income seniors, who are already qualifying for a senior's benefit. And it includes the money that went to the food banks. I do not know what the confusion is there. That is pretty straightforward.

The idea was that we could actually get it out in June. Unlike the previous Liberal government or a Liberal government of any type, which is about getting a headline out and worrying about the details later, what we worry about is how people get it once they know it is coming and are prepared for it. They need it, because it is a time when they can really use it. They will get it in June. It is not about this: It is coming soon, we are going to talk about it, we are going to think about it, and we are going to get a headline out for somebody to react to. It is about this: It is coming to you and it is coming to you in June and it is coming directly to you. When we do something, we do it right.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): We all remember how the Premier likes to throw out all kinds of stuff to try to get headlines. He threw out all kinds of different, spontaneous ideas along the way, and then he decided not to do them because he had not thought them through. Well, this morning, it seems that he has read his briefings and he kind of understands better what he announced yesterday. At the press conference yesterday, he could not explain who actually qualified and who maybe did not qualify.

But I can tell you, Mr. Premier, that as much as these low-income earners need help... This will provide some help to them, we have to admit. We concede that it is very important. But, Premier, can you explain something to us? When the everyday, hardworking New Brunswickers went to work today and tried to fill up their gas tanks, they were paying 4¢

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more—\$2.12 per litre. Why are you not trying to help that category of New Brunswickers, because they are also struggling?

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, member.

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Mr. Speaker, there is no question that people are getting hit hard at the pumps. People are getting hit hard when it comes to energy in homes. People are really impacted, and certainly, for the working poor, it is a significant and special hit. We are trying to alleviate the costs that are going down to those who really have no options about how they can afford to live or to feed themselves.

But, Mr. Speaker, the issue here around the whole gas thing is that we, as a province, cannot chase this. We are not big enough to chase world energy prices—world energy prices that are in the state they are in primarily through a flawed federal program that is killing the economy in this country. That is where we are, coupled with the Ukrainian crisis. So when we look at solutions, we have to look at a long-term solution. We have to look at how we can manage this going forward so that we do not have this continual program, which is exactly what the Liberal government planned on with its whole carbon plan: getting green and shutting the lights out. I guess you could call this “extreme green”, because people are not going to be able to afford to live in this environment.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Thank you, Premier.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, I would really like the Premier to clearly explain who will be entitled to this assistance. We are talking about 75 000 people. What criteria will these people have to meet to qualify? Also, what process will these people have to follow so that they can benefit from this assistance in June, as the Premier is saying?

I watched the news last night. I heard Ms. Thébeau, from Saint-Louis de Kent. It would seem that she could qualify for a one-time payment of \$225. What was her response? It will not make much of a difference in her life, unfortunately. She will still live month-to-month without knowing if she will be able to pay her rent or buy groceries the following month.

Mr. Premier, clearly explain how this will work, who the beneficiaries will be, and what the process will be.

*[Original]*

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Mr. Speaker, I think that kind of sums it up in many ways. You know, the reality is that



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we try to make incremental changes but we will not be able to make changes that are going to fix everything in a meaningful way. This is a \$20-million program. The expenses of the government are increasing by about \$125 million. When you have an ill-fated policy federally that is imposing different rules, shutting down our resources, and then expecting provinces to make up for it, it cannot be done. It is not going to happen.

I have talked to my colleagues in Atlantic Canada. We are sending a letter to the Prime Minister. We are having a Council of the Federation (COF) meeting on this. We are sending letters and talking about real solutions. We could use help, because it is not a matter of sitting in here and saying that we can fix world energy costs. We have a policy in our country that is not only shutting down our country but also destroying our ability as a nation and as a province to be self-sufficient and to be helpful to our European colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we have solutions in Canada. There is a transition program here, not a “shut the lights out and hope for the best” program.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, every time we listen to the Premier, every single time he says something, it explains even more why people are so dissatisfied with his government and its performance. We are talking about the everyday struggles of New Brunswickers because of the cost of living. We are talking about people who are trying to fuel up their vehicles and cannot afford to go to work, and the Premier is talking about all kinds of stuff around the world that is not right now directly impacting the people of New Brunswick who are struggling. He is all over the map.

Premier, I have asked what the specific criteria and processes are for these 75 000 people who you say will benefit from your announcement yesterday. What are they? Explain it to us so that they can know how to go about getting this benefit.

**Hon. Mr. Fitch** (Riverview, Minister of Social Development, PC): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to weigh in on this conversation because it is a great time to be in opposition. You know, no matter what the government does, for the opposition, it is never enough for them. We have invested \$20 million in the most vulnerable people here in the province. That is on top of the social assistance reforms that have actually helped an additional 29 000 people through an investment of about \$29 million. That is the type of progressive government that is here today helping the people in New Brunswick, and all the opposition members can come up with is this: Well, it is not enough, and you need to do more. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a pretty weak opposition when that is all that it has.

The eligibility is pretty clear. It is pretty clear: social assistance recipients, those receiving public help, seniors, and people who are receiving housing payments. It is very simple.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, minister.

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[*Translation*]

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Thank you for the answer, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add something on the topic of yesterday's announcement. If we look at the details more closely, we see that \$1 million was announced for food banks. That may seem like a lot of money. It is a lot and it is significant.

However, when we listen to what Yves Sévigny, the director of L'Atelier R.A.D.O., in Edmundston, said yesterday... He told the media yesterday on the radio that the \$1 million added to food bank funding would only provide food for about one more week—one week. This means that New Brunswickers who are suffering and who are struggling to buy groceries will have to go to food banks, but it will only be for one week.

So, Mr. Minister, explain to us why \$1 million is only good for one week.

[*Original*]

**Hon. Mr. Fitch** (Riverview, Minister of Social Development, PC): Well, Mr. Speaker, again, the opposition is quick to point the finger. Again, we have invested \$20 million here in the province to help the most vulnerable. That is in addition to the \$29 million that went into this budget specifically for some of the reforms. We have done more than that as well. Any of my colleagues could probably stand up and talk about things, such as the increase to the minimum wage, that have helped people. They could talk about the increase to the social assistance payments to reflect inflation. They could talk about the increase in the salaries of some in the human services sector that, again, is helping people. We have decreased the out-of-pocket costs for various people in some of the reforms that we have put forward.

It is very easy for the Interim Leader of the Opposition to stand up and point the finger. He had four years when he was in government, and what did he do? He reached into the pockets of seniors, increased taxes...

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, minister.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, it is not about... He is talking about... It is about talking about the reality.

(Interjections.)

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Order.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Yves Sévigny, who is the director of l'Atelier R.A.D.O. in Edmundston, said yesterday that the incremental \$1 million for food banks is going to provide enough money to stock the shelves of our food banks for an extra week. Explain it, first of all, to New Brunswickers who are already going to the food banks,

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unfortunately, and also to all the other ones who are not getting any help from the announcement yesterday and who may have to go to the food banks. But they will have an extra week to do it. That is only going to fund an extra week based on today's demand, and it may get worse. Premier, where is your compassion, your heart, and your understanding of today's realities? A million dollars for an extra week is not enough.

**Hon. Mr. Fitch** (Riverview, Minister of Social Development, PC): Again, Mr. Speaker, that goes back to my commentary that the Leader of the Opposition is putting forward, that it is just never enough. That is the concern that we have as well. Again, there are still concerns out there in this environment, in this situation, but it is driven by a global demand for oil and a federal policy on energy that is just ill-conceived and ill-implemented. That is what we are seeing today in everything.

But we are not the only ones coming to the table here. We know that there are a number of nongovernmental groups, faith communities, and other people stepping up and really leaning in to help the food banks and those in need. The government is only one part of the solution. That is why we really appreciate what the community has done to help these people and to help the poor as well.

Mr. Speaker, when I look back at the time when the opposition was the government in power and was making the decisions before the chequebook was taken away, I see that it just increased taxes and reached into...

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, minister.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, some of the members of this government want to live in the past. The reality of New Brunswick is that their side is in office. They have been there for three years, and they need to start owning stuff. That side has to start owning it.

Today, New Brunswickers who are going to work every single day are paying \$2.12 per litre at the pump, and there is no help for them, the hardworking New Brunswickers who are struggling right now. We want to help the most vulnerable, but we need to help the people in the middle class who are working really hard, who cannot afford gas for their tanks, and who cannot buy food for their children and families. There are many people struggling.

Premier, I know that you are cheap. We know that. That is why these people are struggling. They have to make difficult decisions. They need help. What is your answer to them? What is your answer to them, because the price at the pump is too high this morning?

**Hon. Mr. Steeves** (Moncton Northwest, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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(Interjections.)

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Steeves** (Moncton Northwest, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, PC): I find this to be especially rich, as it is coming from the man who was the Finance Minister during the seniors' asset grab and when the HST was raised. He never met a tax he did not like. I find it rather rich that this man would complain.

How about this? Let's run down a quick list that I looked at. There is \$10-per-day childcare. How about that? I think that helps some people. How about the social development reforms? How about minimum wage changes? How about tax cuts? How about rent caps? How about that? Spike protection... Listen for that later on today. There is some spike protection. How about the food and fuel program? There is \$20 million going out there, and there is \$40 million in tax savings in the last budget going out to help all New Brunswickers. There are 400 000 New Brunswickers helped by that. I find it odd that a former Finance Minister has forgotten about those things and some of the things that the last Liberal government did.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, when this government has no answers and no solutions, it blames others. It lives in the past. It blames Ottawa, it blames wars, and it blames everywhere else and everybody else.

Premier, people are paying \$2.12 at the pump this morning. There are a lot of New Brunswickers who, with your announcement yesterday, are getting zero help—zero help, Mr. Speaker. The Premier will stack up a whole bunch of revenues. We know that. Economists are saying that. He is going to stack up a whole bunch of revenues, and in the meantime, New Brunswickers are going to pay so much more at the pump and will not be able to fill their fridges and buy groceries for their children and families.

Premier, please stand and explain what your solution is for these New Brunswickers who are paying way too much. Get rid of the provincial gas tax for four months.

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition would go from one crisis to the next, and he really does not seem to appreciate just how well this province has been doing throughout. But now, we are hit with... We went through the pandemic, which he quit. We have gone through the greatest burst in population in 45 years and our greatest escalation in property values. There are new people coming to New Brunswick from all over Canada and from other countries. But, Mr. Speaker, we are challenged in this area.

If the previous Finance Minister, as was alluded to here, would like to sit down and look at where we are and what we, as a province, are spending, which is about \$124 million or \$130 million more because we, too, are being hit by this... Maybe the opposition would like



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to suggest where it would like to add more taxes on the people—on the working people—who are paying these bills and who are paying any sort of largesse. The opposition thinks they should move those across, and maybe they would like to say, well, okay, we want to tax more people here. Mr. Speaker, we are putting the money out that we are getting in from any area that is over and above what we committed to already. That is our goal.

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Premier. It was quite difficult, but I did. He seems to be enjoying blaming others and criticizing others, the federal government and us, the former government. But do you know who is not enjoying stuff this morning? New Brunswickers—the hardworking people who have to go to work and cannot fill up their tanks. They cannot afford the gas to go to work with their vehicles, or they cannot buy the groceries that they need to buy. The cost of food has gone up by 10%. The cost of gas has gone up by 38%. And there is zero—zero—help from this government, other than blaming others.

Seriously, are you really enjoying blaming others and not trying to help New Brunswickers? They are not enjoying paying so much more for gas and food. Help them out, Premier. Will you at least think about it?

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Do you know who is hiding from all these conversations? It is the Prime Minister of Canada. The Prime Minister of Canada has put together a national policy.

(Interjections.)

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Order.

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): He is allowing every province—allowing every province—to face it head-on, Mr. Speaker. We are in a situation where we have had a national energy policy imposed on us, and the Leader of the Opposition knows full well and every colleague knows full well that this is exactly what was planned. It happened more quickly than was planned. This is exactly what was planned through this whole process—raise the prices so that people cannot afford to live. But that was not talked about.

So how do we get green? We do it in a way that people can afford it. We do it in a way that we can manage our own energy security and can manage our national security and not be threatened by a nation such as Russia. We should not be held ransom. But what do they see over there? Simple discussions. Simple issues. We have big issues, and we need to talk about them right now, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, Premier.

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[*Translation*]

**Mr. Melanson** (Dieppe, Interim Opposition Leader, L): It is unbelievable, and it is even harder to hear, Mr. Speaker. We are saying it, and New Brunswickers are saying it every day. We hear it from people with whom we have discussions; we hear everywhere that the current Premier is not assuming his responsibilities. He always blames others. He passes the buck. He does not want to do anything for people who work hard every day and have to pay too much for certain things.

Gas costs \$2.12 a litre at the pump today. The cost of groceries has gone up by 10% over the past year. The price of gas has gone up by 38%. The Premier has the nerve to get up and say that it is other people's fault and that it is other people who are doing nothing. My goodness, Mr. Speaker, we will talk about real issues here. People are struggling. They are suffering and experiencing difficulties. How many times do I have to say it? Get out of your office and go listen to the people. Hear them out and take action.

[*Original*]

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, member.

**Hon. Mr. Higgs** (Quispamsis, Premier, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, PC): Mr. Speaker, it is easy to sit over there in a bubble, and it is easy to sit and look at short-term fixes that are going to have long-term ramifications. What we have seen are policies that have long-term ramifications, and they kind of just came into the program even faster with the crisis in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, they can ignore the reality of it all, but the other Premiers that I am talking to are facing it head-on. Just yesterday, I was talking with my colleagues in Atlantic Canada and saying that we need a national program here because we cannot chase world energy prices. For the Leader of the Opposition to suggest that is even conceivable is ludicrous. It is just showing the level of depth that does not exist in the thinking process because you cannot chase world energy prices. We do not have the wherewithal to do that, but there is an ability to do it in terms of how we manage our own resources and how we give a future to our people. We have a nation that is strong but only made weaker by policies that have been self-imposed upon us.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, Premier.

## FIRST NATIONS

**Ms. Mitton** (Memramcook-Tantramar, G): Woliwon, Mr. Speaker. It is Indigenous History Month, so let's take a moment to acknowledge the history of this land. New Brunswick is on the unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqi, and Passamaquoddy peoples, and despite the Higgs government and the Minister of Local Government rushing



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through local governance reform and discouraging Indigenous names, there are other name-change requests that this government needs to address. For example, the Saint John River needs to be returned to its original name, the Wolastoq, and there are still seven locations in this province that use the derogatory S word. Those names need to be changed. My question is for the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. When will the Wolastoq return to its original name, and when will the racist S word be removed from our map?

**Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace** (Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Minister responsible for Women's Equality, PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I do appreciate the opportunity to speak to that. The derogatory names that we are seeing across the province are absolutely unacceptable. It is something that we are addressing and that we are addressing now. We have had conversations with all the First Nations communities. We have asked for names for the specific communities that you are talking about—those with the S names that you just referred to. Some of the First Nations communities have asked for an extension of one month to provide other names for them. That is unfolding, and it has been successful so far.

**Ms. Mitton** (Memramcook-Tantramar, G): Wela'lin, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that there is finally movement on removing the S word from our maps. I would like to hear an update on the Wolastoq because that is a longstanding issue. It would be nice to see a sense of urgency on that and on other things and to see political will from the Higgs government to show that it has a commitment to truth and reconciliation because its track record does not show one.

We have the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs advocating against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Minister of Finance suddenly canceling agreements with no heads-up, and the Premier refusing to have an Indigenous-led, independent inquiry into systemic racism. One simple measure that this government could take to move toward reconciliation would be to formally recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, just as many provinces and many municipalities within our province have done. Will the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour be bringing in legislation to make this a provincial holiday before the Legislature adjourns next week for the summer?

**Hon. Ms. Dunn** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for Economic Development and Small Business, Minister responsible for Opportunities NB, Minister responsible for Immigration, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, PC): Thank you to the member opposite for the question. I just want to apprise the House that there has been lots of work going on with respect to First Nations. I have offered before, during our discussions, to have you come to the department so that we can apprise you of all the work. I do not know how many in the House have actually read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and read about the work that has been done, but we have worked on 27 of the 31 recommendations that the province is responsible for. That is historic.



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The other thing that I want to mention, which I think is very important, is that every single week, we are in meetings with the First Nations—with every one of the First Nations right across the province. Here is the kind of stuff that we are talking about that is very important to them: justice reforms; the Gladue reports; Indigenous policing; restorative justice; court support worker programs; repatriation and repatriation of their artifacts and their human remains; toponymy, as my colleague just mentioned; and economic development. They need to be part of that equation.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Thank you, minister.

### IMMIGRATION

**Mr. LePage** (Restigouche West, L): Mr. Speaker, we all know that every sector of our economy is urgently looking for qualified staff and that the COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected our restaurant and tourism operators. At the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy last April, the Minister responsible for Opportunities NB said that the labour supply was her number one priority.

We have just learned that, effective May 20, ONB has temporarily paused the intake of applications in all immigration streams for food service supervisors, food counter attendants, and food and beverage services, that employers seeking these positions are directed to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for options through its temporary immigration programs, and that immigrant employees are leaving this province for employment in neighbouring provinces because they can get permanent residency more quickly. Can the minister explain the reason for the pause on the intake of these occupations and indicate how long this pause will be? And please, do not blame the feds.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time, member.

**Hon. Ms. Dunn** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for Economic Development and Small Business, Minister responsible for Opportunities NB, Minister responsible for Immigration, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question. I have no intention of blaming the feds, even though the IRCC is backed up substantially and has been for a number of months. It is having a massive impact on the entire nation. I want to make sure that is clear.

In terms of the changes that we have made to the New Brunswick Express Entry program stream, those were required, and the reason is that we actually have not yet received our numbers from the federal government. It is very late in the season to be receiving those numbers, but we have not received them. We actually had to do a balancing act, because if you look at some of the priorities that we have in this province that are taking care of our citizens, making sure that their health is paramount, and making sure that we have the qualified people in this province to do the work, you see that we have to balance those against the numbers that we have through this Express Entry stream. If we use all our



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numbers on that one side of the ledger, then that means that we cannot attract these people to come to this province and do the work that needs to be done. The other thing that is going to happen is that the international students who are here right now are not going to have jobs because they will not have a stream to actually utilize. These are things that we have to consider.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time.

**Mr. LePage** (Restigouche West, L): If that was not blaming somebody else, I do not know what is.

[*Translation*]

The minister also indicated that the immigration target for 2022 is 3 300 newcomers to New Brunswick and that, of that number, we are aiming for 30% Francophones. We know the war in Ukraine could enable New Brunswick to welcome refugees. We also know that the whole housing issue is an obstacle to retaining our newcomers.

[*Original*]

Can the minister please reveal the actions taken so far to attract newcomers and refugees? Can she name the prioritized sectors of employers or workers, and can she reveal her targets? Can she tell us whether there are any other pauses on the intakes of occupations, temporarily or in the near future?

**Hon. Ms. Dunn** (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for Economic Development and Small Business, Minister responsible for Opportunities NB, Minister responsible for Immigration, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question. First of all, I want to clarify that we have a record level of individuals coming into this province, both from other countries as well as interprovincially. We have 9 000 new immigrants who are now part of the labour force. Those are unprecedented numbers, never before achieved.

The other thing that I want to mention in terms of the targets... You have heard this. You have seen this. You have heard everyone talk about this. Employers right across this entire province... This is not unique to the province of New Brunswick as it is happening everywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker. We do not have the health care workers. We do not have the transport drivers. We do not have the skilled trades professionals. This is something that has been out there for a number of months, and we know this. We also have an issue with respect to people who are currently on EI. These are all things that we are trying to balance. Never before has it been done.

I would say to you, we have our eye on the priorities. We know what they are. We are working with PETL. PETL has WorkingNB to make sure that we are covering all these gaps

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and these voids, and we are going to continue working with these employers to make sure that we get the job done.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Time. Order.

### AIRPORTS

**Mr. Legacy** (Bathurst West-Beresford, L): It is too much, too much.

Mr. Speaker, we have time for one more question. Maybe we could get an update. A little over a year ago, I stood in the House and I asked the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to give us an update on when the report on airports and the airline industry in New Brunswick was going to be released. At the time, I was told that this government does not release reports in draft form. It has been over a year, Mr. Speaker. I mean, how hard can it be to convert a draft copy of a report? It is not that hard. Even the Minister of Health scratched a couple of notes on the back of a matchbook and called it a health reform. It cannot be that hard. When are you going to release this report, minister?

**Hon. Ms. Green** (Fredericton North, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, PC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, to the member opposite, your question is extremely timely. We will be releasing the report next week. I would also like to say that it will not be in draft form. We will be releasing the report. We will be talking to all our stakeholders and giving them detailed information about what is contained in the report. We will also be releasing the information about the new air service delivery fund that we have created to accompany the report. Everything will be released next week. If you would like to come in early and have a briefing before it is released publicly, I open that up to you as well because I know that you are very interested in the report. Thank you for your question. It is next week, sir.

**Mr. Speaker** (Hon. Mr. Oliver): Unfortunately, the time for question period is over. Order, please.