

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions



March 27, 2025

CONTENTS

PENSIONS

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Ms. Holt

CARBON TAX

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Legacy

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Legacy

EDUCATION

Mr. Savoie

Hon. C. Johnson

PHARMACIES

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Dornan

MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Ms. Miles

NATURAL GAS

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Herron

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Kennedy

Mr. Savoie

IMMIGRATION

Hon. Mr. D'Amours

HEALTH CARE

Ms. Bockus

Hon. Mr. Dornan

FINANCE

Mr. Lee

Hon. Mr. Legacy

Mr. Lee

Hon. Mr. Legacy

HEALTH

Ms. Mitton

Hon. Mr. Dornan

Ms. Mitton

Hon. Mr. Dornan

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. LePage

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. LePage

Mr. Hogan

Hon. Mr. Gauvin

Ms. M. Johnson

PENSIONS

Hon. Ms. Holt

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Ms. Holt

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

[Translation]

PENSIONS

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Hello, everyone.

[Original]

Madam Speaker, the previous government, in order to save the pensions for thousands of New Brunswick CUPE workers, converted the plan to a shared risk model because it was underperforming by \$60 million to \$70 million per year. We actually had to invest about \$365 million in the conversion in order to stabilize things so that people could depend on a reliable pension and the New Brunswick taxpayers wouldn't be left on the hook.

We've learned that the current government is looking at repealing this or will repeal this and put these pensions at risk by putting them into another scheme, though we don't know what form or function it will have. We also learned this week that the Premier is looking at doing this with every single bargaining unit that comes along. She couldn't tell us what is going to happen with the \$365 million earlier. We have to assume that the same thing that happens with this is going to happen with all of the other pensions. Can the Premier be transparent and tell us exactly what is happening with the \$365 million?

Hon. Ms. Holt (Fredericton South-Silverwood, Premier; Minister responsible for Official Languages, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm happy to talk about the importance of making sure that we have stable and secure pensions for the hard-working nursing home union members and bus drivers who want to be at the table, negotiating the terms of their pension, and not having it hammered onto them by a legislative move. That is not what negotiated bargaining is supposed to look like. Our team has taken the funds that were meant to cover the shared risk and we've come back to the table to work out, in collaboration with the nursing home workers and the bus drivers, exactly what kind of pension we can both agree on that will be sustainable and affordable and that will provide them with the level of benefits they deserve.

CARBON TAX

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Either she doesn't know, or she won't answer, Madam Speaker. Either way, that bodes ill for New Brunswickers. I'm willing to give the Premier another chance.

On the cost of carbon adjustor, the 4¢ per litre, we're hearing different things coming out of the law amendments group and the Premier's Office. We're hearing two different things. So, I'm sort of curious. Is the Premier going to break her promise, or is she going to continue with what she promised and shut down half of the rural gas retailers in this province? Yes or no?

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We did get a report from the law amendments committee. We're reviewing it right now. As you know, we want to respect the work that was done by the members during the meeting with various people who came from the industry and from the public. We're going to take it very seriously. We'll come back with some recommendations and then will look at that bill in order to see where we go, going forward.

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Okay, so I guess that's zero for two so far, Madam Speaker. You know, we hadn't heard from the Minister of Finance all week, so let's give him another chance.

This week, we learned that two of his ministers are going to blow their budgets already.

The ink is not even dry on this budget yet, and they are already saying that they are going to blow their budgets. The question I have for the Finance Minister is this: Is he going to hold the line at the \$599-million deficit? Is that what New Brunswickers can expect? Or should we believe his ministers when they say they are going to blow their budgets? Which is it?

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know who they are talking about. I am not aware of... We delivered a budget. We are working with our staff to meet what we brought out. It is a plan. That is what we are going to do. We are going to work toward achieving what we have put forward and making sure that it is financially responsible and is going to provide the services and meet the needs of different departments and New Brunswickers, just as we outlined in the budget. I am not sure which coffee shop or Canadian Tire the member hangs out in, but I am not having that discussion. Everybody has gotten their budget. We are about to have a monthly review. You will have your chance to discuss the budget with every single minister and to ask your questions, so I am not sure why we are talking about hypotheticals right now.

EDUCATION

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, we can only go by what they literally said here in the House, and this is not a coffee shop.

Now, let's move on to education. In her budget, the Education Minister is committing \$32.4 million more for EAs and behavioural intervention specialists and \$16.4 million more for teacher retention. We would like to know exactly what we are going to see in the classroom and whether she can give us the exact numbers, for this budget year, of how many more EAs, behavioural intervention specialists, and teachers we are going to see—

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

precise numbers. How many more are we going to see this year from this budget from this government? Thank you.

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to share our vision for behaviour intervention mentors and education assistants and our vision for retention and recruitment. It is fantastic. At this point, we have committed the money to it, and then you are going to get to hear all the great details during main estimates. It is fantastic because we need to work with the districts to figure out where the needs are. We are going to engage with these stakeholders as we figure out exactly where the needs are and where we are going to put these resources so that they can better support the students in our schools, so stay tuned.

PHARMACIES

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): That's zero for four, Madam Speaker. That is a bad day on the ball field. We will ask in estimates, but I hoped that the minister could answer today. Let's move on down the line. Let's move to health and the pharmacy pilot.

(Interjections.)

Oh listen, I know that the Premier is a bit agitated this morning, but that is okay. She will get her chance.

I know that the Minister of Health is a good man and that he wants the very best. He wants the very best for the New Brunswick health care system. We need to make sure that this pharmacy pilot continues. I am encouraged by the openness and the approachability of the Minister of Health. I know that he wants to see this continue and that he would like to find a way that we can bridge this to help get the funding to help this continue until they can get to their collaborative care clinics. My question to him is this: What can we do to help him convince his Premier that this is the right thing to do?

Hon. Mr. Dornan (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Thank you very much for those kind, kind words. Yes, we have been meeting with our pharmacy association and our pharmacy college. The pilot was a tremendous success in telling us how we need to move forward, and that means working with our pharmacists. We described a collaborative care team, but we also described collaboration between our pharmacists and our primary care people. The pharmacy pilot showed how we can pick people off the unattached list. We need to grow that. We need them to be part of our team. We need to work with primary caregivers. We are moving ahead. We are speaking with our pharmacists, our pharmacy association, and our college. This is a lesson that we have learned. The Premier and I are very keen to work with this very courageous and helpful group. Thank you.

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Okay, so we'll call that one for five. That's the Grapefruit League. That's the minor leagues. We'll give them credit for that one.

Now, let's move on to the Minister of Social Development. Yesterday, I asked her to get on her feet and offer an apology for her comments in the media, Madam Speaker. Today, I would ask her to do the same thing. Forget your expensive media training, forget your political answers, and take a moment to apologize to those you insulted—people who suffer from loneliness and mental health issues. Simply apologize. It's the best thing that she can do. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Miles (Hanwell-New Maryland, Minister of Social Development; Minister responsible for the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, L): Madam Speaker, through you to the member opposite, thank you for the opportunity to get up today and discuss mental health and the well-being of all New Brunswickers. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that my words were misconstrued. Mental health impacts us all in many different ways, unique ways, from grief and loss to loneliness and eating disorders. I share the concerns that the member opposite has about the well-being of New Brunswickers. That's why it is so important to ensure that we have the right services in place to support the unique needs of all New Brunswickers.

The decision not to renew the funding for Chimo was not taken lightly. It was done in deep conversation and deep consideration with the service provider. There are other opportunities and programs in place to support the evolving, changing needs that folks are facing. We have 988. We have the mental health and addictions line. We have other opportunities to support New Brunswickers in the best possible ways.

NATURAL GAS

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. We already knew that the Liberals cut the funding. All we were asking was for the minister to just show a bit of sensitivity to the folks she offended. That's okay. If she doesn't want to apologize, that's fine.

We'll get you next time, and we'll skip over you. Tourism and DTI, you guys are the ones who are going to blow your budgets. We'll go to... I see that the Minister of Natural Resources is asking for a question. We'll go there.

Madam Speaker, we'll go to natural gas development. Through the article on CBC, we know that the minister is against natural gas development. We know that his bosses, Mark Carney and Dominic LeBlanc, want to see development happening in this province. I'm going to ask the minister to get on his feet and explain to the people of New Brunswick why

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

we can't have an economy that will thrive and grow on its own so that we don't need to rely on resources that come from other provinces. If his federal bosses are for it, why won't he stand up and help us be a prosperous province? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Herron (Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Natural Resources, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to share what my boss, the Premier, wants to do. Last week, I was very pleased to rise in this House to announce that this government will develop a comprehensive mineral strategy that will unlock the mineral and mining potential of this province. At the same time, it is the government's position that the social conditions have not been met to open up the moratorium on natural gas that's in place.

Also, Madam Speaker, you may be aware that, from a professional perspective, I actually come from the energy sector. It is unclear whether there is a market that would justify actually distracting us from the potential of developing our critical minerals. We're going to unlock wealth. There's an economic opportunity with respect to developing a comprehensive mineral strategy, and that's exactly what this government is going to do. Thank you.

MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. This government is willing to do the work to sell NB Power, but it's not willing to do the work that would make us prosperous. That is the difference.

We were at the UMNAB Advocacy Days yesterday, Madam Speaker. We heard from the local governments that they're still dealing with infrastructure deficits. We know that the current government is still going through the fiscal exercise to help change the structure for how we fund the municipalities in the province. I would ask the Minister of Local Government this: Can he rise, give us an update on the fiscal situation in the cities, and let us know whether there is any help coming to local governments this year as a result of this budget? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Kennedy (Quispamsis, Minister of Local Government; Minister responsible for Service New Brunswick, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to answer the first question related to fiscal reform. I appreciate that question from the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon. He and many members of this House were able to partake in the reception of the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick last night. The Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the leader of the third party, and I were there—separately, mind you—earlier in the day. We had a great robust discussion about the challenges facing municipal governments in New Brunswick.

Clearly, we are working toward fiscal reform. We are also working toward property tax reform in the province. We look forward to providing good news to the municipalities

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

when I rise again in this Legislative Assembly in May. We have told them all along that this is the timeline. We will be back with a bill that will show them we are moving forward with fiscal reform. Yes, indeed, there was some money in the budget tabled by the minister last week that allows municipalities to plan for the 2026 budget year. Thank you.

[Translation]

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

[Original]

Well, that's two for eight. We are getting a little bit better. We are trending in the right direction. Two out of eight is better than most days. We'll call that a win.

IMMIGRATION

Now I will ask a question to the Minister of PETL and immigration. We are hearing from a lot of business owners. The federal government has cut back the allocation. The federal government does the allocation, and then the province does the placements for immigration. We have seen the government prioritize certain sectors such as health care, construction, and education, but there are other sectors that are affected. We have seen our restaurants and service industries affected. These people pay taxes in New Brunswick. They are here now. They want to be here. Our businesses are suffering. It takes six months to train people, get them through the system, and get them working. Can the minister provide us with an update on what the government is doing to help people who are outside those priority sectors stay and work in New Brunswick?

[Translation]

Hon. Mr. D'Amours (Edmundston—Vallée-des-Rivières, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Acting Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Military Affairs, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for his question this afternoon. Madam Speaker, the immigration file is certainly very important. I would like to remind the Leader of the Official Opposition that his former boss had more or less minimized the immigration issue during the last election campaign. So, it is a little bit ironic for him to ask questions about this today. However, Madam Speaker, one thing is important: We have in fact identified priority sectors: health, education, and construction.

In the health file, certain realities must be considered, including the need to have professionals in hospitals and nursing homes as well as in schools. Housing needs to be built so that New Brunswickers have access to a place to live, whether it is an apartment or

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

a house. I can assure you, Madam Speaker, that we are continuing to work very hard. The situation is certainly much more difficult in some sectors, but one thing is certain, Madam Speaker: We will continue to work for all New Brunswickers—all of them.

[Original]

HEALTH CARE

Ms. Bockus (Saint Croix, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have been told by a very reliable source that two doctors and one nurse practitioner who wanted to practise in Charlotte County have been turned away by Horizon. The nurse practitioner wanted to work on Deer Island. Horizon told her there was no need for her there. One of the doctors wanted to work exclusively as a hospitalist at the Charlotte County Hospital. He was told no and that he needed to have a family practice too. The other doctor wanted to have a family practice only and not work as a hospitalist. He was told no and that it wasn't possible. Can the Health Minister tell us why Horizon is turning away doctors and nurse practitioners from rural areas when they are in such desperate need? Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Dornan (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Through you, Madam Speaker, thank you very much for noting that. I'm not aware of the specifics. However, we are moving ahead to allow family doctors to work primarily in their office practices. That's what we need. That's what New Brunswickers need. To balance that, we need to have doctors working as hospitalists. However, our hospitalists need to be rewarded appropriately.

Gone are the days when every physician had to work in everything including obstetrics, emergency, offices, and hospitals. In our work with the Medical Society, we are looking forward to recognizing those specialty needs in communities and hospitals. Going forward, there will be a team of health care providers.

Going forward, we would like to see, as you're suggesting, hospitalists working in hospitals and primary care people working in their offices. Thank you very much.

FINANCE

Mr. Lee (Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, PC): Thank you. Madam Speaker, I tend to be pragmatic in my understanding of and approach to economics and revenue. Now, I have my own family, and teaching both my teenage daughter and my young adult daughter about finances and spending is my parental duty. But if any of my children came to me with a visa bill where they spent more money than their limit allowed and now had to pay interest on the money they borrowed, which wasn't there in the first place, and then patted themselves on the back for doing so, I would be mortified.

My question is for the honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. He was quoted in a March 18 article by the Canadian Press as saying that the government has put together

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

a “transformational team” to look at “creative ways” to increase revenues. My question is this: What are those creative ways to increase revenues? What is being reviewed and discussed? Can he elaborate?

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question. There is a team that is working on this right now, and it is going to be a continued process that is going to come out. There are going to be some announcements, actually, not only on revenue generation but on different ways of using the dollars that we have. Now, we’ve heard a couple of times about spending and how our team has been spending. It’s funny that Richard Saillant actually said that we, as a government, have curtailed spending as compared to last year. So, we are actually doing some of the work already. They’re looking at the deficit, but we do know that is a revenue situation.

The other thing that’s interesting is that our platform and the number of promises in it get talked about all the time. We know that, during that campaign, there was only one promise from the Conservatives, and now we’re starting to hear that they would have broken that quite easily. That one promise was going to cost more than anything we were going to do and was going to cause a much larger deficit. Now, they’re clearly saying: We would have backed down on that. So, I’m not sure that I’m willing to accept—

Mr. Lee (Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the government website, there is a news release dated March 18: “Budget 2025-2026—driving heartache, delivering debt”. Oh, I mean “Driving Change, Delivering Progress”. There are many categories in the breakdown of how money in the budget is to be spent: responding to challenges from tariffs, prioritizing health care, youth and education, supporting aging New Brunswickers, and housing. Now, no one would argue that these areas of investment aren’t worthwhile, but when you’re using words like “expand”, “increase”, and “implement” but not “budget”, “affordability”, and “cost of living”, the average New Brunswicker is left wondering. Well, the cost of gas for my car is the same. The iceberg lettuce, avocado, and ground beef I was going to buy haven’t changed in price. The price of my power bill has gone up, and the shed that I was going to build will have to wait because a two-by-four will cost me the same as tuition for my daughter’s postsecondary institution.

My question is this: Besides the investments in programs that already exist, what is being tackled to make life more affordable?

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again, thank you for the question. I’m struggling to understand the messaging from the other side, because all morning, we have been hearing their talk about reckless spending and then their talk about cuts. Spending and cuts are not the same thing. Either you are worried about the deficit or

Oral Questions

you want us to invest more. What I'm not hearing—what I haven't heard yet—is one suggestion about the reckless spending they feel we should take away. Where are we spending right now that you feel is irresponsible? Where in housing? Where in health? Where in education would you like us to remove some dollars and make things harder on New Brunswickers? We're putting the money back into programs that are needed to make this province stronger, to make New Brunswickers stronger. So if you feel that some of those dollars aren't worthwhile for those people, please indicate that to us. Let us know, and we'll see. But you'd better be strong in what you're saying, because New Brunswickers really need it.

HEALTH

Ms. Mitton (Tantramar, G): Madam Speaker, I was glad to finally hear an update from Public Health today on the steps it is taking to look into the high rates of New Brunswickers experiencing atypical, rapidly progressing neurodegenerative symptoms of an unknown cause. However, I am concerned about the limited scope of the investigation outlined by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, who said that Public Health will only be looking into contaminants tested for by Dr. Marrero, such as heavy metals and pesticides. It will not be looking into other possible environmental causes such as cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. This has been identified as a possible environmental factor that should be investigated as well by experts such as Dr. Neil Cashman of UBC.

Will the Minister of Health ensure that the scope of the investigation includes testing for possible environmental factors other than heavy metals and pesticides?

Hon. Mr. Dornan (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Thank you very much to the member opposite for the question. I am not an epidemiologist. I am not going to direct the Public Health Agency of Canada or the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to what they should be looking for.

I am very pleased that there was a technical briefing this morning by our Chief Medical Officer of Health, and I am very pleased to also report that, later today, Premier Holt and I will be speaking to folks identified as having this mysterious neurological phenomenon.

In short order, over the next couple of months, we are looking forward to a report from the collection of our own Chief Medical Officer of Health in the department as well as PHAC that will address the issue of this unexplained phenomenon. The results of that investigation and their conclusions will direct us further. Thank you very much.

Ms. Mitton (Tantramar, G): Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the minister and Premier are finally meeting with the patients and that we're finally starting to see action on this file.

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

[Translation]

However, the people of the province no longer trust Public Health New Brunswick to conduct an independent investigation. Last week, the Premier stated that her government had asked the Public Health Agency of Canada to play a leadership role and that the request was turned down. However, today, she was contradicted by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, who said that he hadn't asked the Public Health Agency of Canada to conduct the investigation.

Madam Speaker, it's not too late to rebuild trust in this investigation. Will the Minister of Health officially ask the Public Health Agency of Canada to take the lead in the investigation?

[Original]

Hon. Mr. Dornan (Saint John Portland-Simonds, Minister of Health, L): Thank you very much for the question. Our concerns are primarily with the people, the people who have this phenomenon, and ensuring they get the right care from the right practitioners in New Brunswick. We work collaboratively with the Public Health Agency of Canada, and it's not a matter of who leads and who doesn't lead. This is primarily a responsibility of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. He works collaboratively on a weekly basis with PHAC. PHAC provides advice. We will be looking at the data. Do you lead, do you not lead, or do you work together? Our choice has been to encourage these organizations to work together for the well-being of New Brunswickers. Thank you very much.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Hogan (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The citizens in my riding living in the Beardsley Road area around Murray's Irving are extremely concerned about the environmental disaster that has occurred there. My question is for the Minister of Environment. People want to know what's going on. They want to be assured that their drinking water is safe, and they want to know what the Department of Environment is doing to make sure that it happens. I ask the Minister of Environment to hold a public meeting with the citizens of that area so that they get the information. Thank you.

[Translation]

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

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

[Original]

Thank you very much for the question. As I stated yesterday, again, the concern is for the citizens right now. The investigation is still ongoing. As soon as we get the results of the investigation, we will publicly release that information.

Now, I want to make sure the member is aware that the mayor, the council, and the residents in the area have been briefed on their situation. We will get those results, and as soon as we do, we will release them to the public.

There is one other thing. Remediation to lessen the effects on our environment is still ongoing. Thank you.

Mr. Hogan (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Madam Speaker, I can appreciate the fact that we want to have an investigation as to what happened. You know, everyone knows there was a huge diesel spill of 100 000 litres or maybe more. That's not the point. People drive by that site every day. They see trucks sucking stuff out of the ditch. They see wells going in. Yesterday, they saw 16 white helmets having a meeting there. And they are digging up more ground. People want to know what's going on. All I'm asking for is a public meeting with the citizens, not to say what happened, because that's under investigation—I understand that—but so that the citizens know that the government thinks that good drinking water is important, so that they know what the government is doing about that to ensure they have good, safe drinking water in the future.

[Translation]

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

[Original]

I remind the member that it's very, very important to note all the monitoring that has been done. The wells surrounding this site have been tested, and there's no contamination of the drinking water. First of all, that is one thing that we're doing.

We are still fixing the problems. But under our strict rules and regulations, and I could name a few, this process is very complicated. We want to make sure that we give you the right information at the right time. People will know about the investigation very shortly. I will not start giving false information or wrong information in this House. I will get the right report. Thank you.

Mr. Hogan (Woodstock-Hartland, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not asking to be given wrong information or false information or to presuppose what might have happened to cause the leak. All I am saying is that there are all kinds of rumours circulating

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

throughout the community. There are all kinds of things being said. It's the perfect opportunity to have a public meeting so the citizens know what's going on in terms of remediation, why it's happening, what will continue, and how it will be addressed in the future, and so the citizens can know they're going to have safe drinking water and their health is not at risk. It's not a difficult thing. I'd like to see a public meeting. I'd like the minister to direct his staff to have one. The town wants one. I spoke to the mayor last night, and she is in favour of that as well. So, when is that meeting going to happen?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. Gauvin (Shediac Bay-Dieppe, Minister of Public Safety; Minister responsible for la Francophonie, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As Minister of Public Safety, I speak with my colleague, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. He answered the question. When the answers are available, he will give them all to you publicly. He will give the answers to the people in your region; there is no problem.

That being said, I would like to talk about what I heard from the other side of the House. Opposition members talked about what we literally said and said there were inconsistencies.

I sat on the other side of the House for six years, and I can tell you about the inconsistencies I heard. I'm pleased that there are young Francophones here; you will see what sort of government you had before we took office. We were promised that the Premier would learn French, that the government wouldn't close emergency rooms, that it would eliminate the double tax, that it would reduce the number of patients without a family doctor, that it would not take rights away from Francophones, that investments for Anglophones and Francophones would be equal, and that it would bargain in good faith. The government said it had received thousands of emails when only one was found.

The problem with the Leader of the Opposition is that he has a black belt in karate; however, when it comes to politics, he is certainly no expert.

[*Original*]

Point of Order

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, PC): On a point of order, Madam Speaker, apart from the fact that my ears are ringing now, I do not believe that the answer from the Minister of Public Safety had anything whatsoever to do with the question posed by the member for Woodstock-Hartland.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Ms. Landry): To your point of order, the Speaker does not monitor or decide which questions are good or bad, so I do not decide whether the answer is good or bad.

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Oral Questions

Oral Questions

PENSIONS

Hon. Ms. Holt (Fredericton South-Silverwood, Premier; Minister responsible for Official Languages, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. On Tuesday, I took a question from the Leader of the Official Opposition under advisement. I have the answer, so I would like to respond.

On the question of pension rights for the 2 500 workers, the government of New Brunswick is in talks with the unions right now. Subject to eligibility requirements, all employees who are members of the union can participate in the determined plan.

[Translation]

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Will it continue for these employees, when it comes to the new system they choose in the future? I hope the Minister of Public Safety is pleased with my question.

Hon. Ms. Holt (Fredericton South-Silverwood, Premier; Minister responsible for Official Languages, L): Yes.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Ms. Landry): Question period is over.