

Daily sitting 33

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier recognized the retirement of Sgt. Major Gilles Côté, who served as Sergeant-at-Arms since 2017. Madam Speaker joined in this regard.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. M. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that Ms. Scott-Wallace's and Mr. Coon's supplementary questions were unrelated to their initial questions. Ms. M. Johnson spoke on the point of order. Madam Speaker ruled the point not well taken.

Mr. Robichaud, from the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

May 5, 2026

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Madam Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

Your Committee met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on March 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, 2026, to consider the estimates referred to your Committee by resolution of the House adopted March 27, 2026.

Your Committee wishes to report that they have passed all estimates referred to them and outlined in this report. Your Committee recommends that these estimates be concurred in by the House.

(Sgd. :) Luc Robichaud, M.L.A.
Chair

The following are the items that were passed by the Committee:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2026-2027

RESOLVED, that there be granted to His Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2027:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	54,313,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	54,248,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Education Services	131,352,000
School Districts	1,703,251,000
Early Childhood Development	396,020,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	2,230,558,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	
Energy	95,385,000
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Corporate Services and Community Funding	3,645,000
Policy, Public Education and Engagement	1,792,000
Local Government	168,047,000
Local Governance Commission	1,201,000
Authorizations and Compliance	12,141,000
Environmental Science and Protection	7,116,000
Climate Change	35,279,000
Less amounts authorized by law	130,000
Voted.....	229,091,000
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE	
Office of the Clerk and Head of the Public Service and Executive Council Secretariat.....	4,152,000
Communications and Marketing	8,078,000
Office of the Lieutenant-Governor	607,000
Voted.....	12,837,000
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD	
Budget and Financial Management	915,000
Corporate Services	6,184,000
Treasury Management and Fiscal Policy	2,932,000
Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer.....	5,428,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	8,070,000
Office of the Comptroller.....	3,044,000
Revenue Administration	5,679,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	32,187,000

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Indigenous Affairs	7,292,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	7,227,000
Commissions Paid to Collectors of Pari-Mutuel Taxes....	455,000
Electricity Rebate.....	98,093,000
Enterprise Resource Planning.....	56,316,000
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	688,000
Intergovernmental Affairs.....	11,725,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	11,660,000
Legislated Pension Plans, Benefit Accruals, Subsidies, and Supplementary Allowances	93,306,000
Less amounts authorized by law	156,000
Voted.....	93,150,000
Office of Women and Gender Equity	25,269,000
Pension and Employee Benefits Plans.....	399,715,000
Less amounts authorized by law	2,000
Voted.....	399,713,000
Provision for Losses.....	14,200,000
Revenue Sharing Agreements with First Nations	62,800,000
Service New Brunswick.....	271,218,000
Supplementary Funding Provision.....	243,238,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	477,092,000
Medicare	1,173,274,000
Pharmaceutical Programs.....	297,461,000
Part III Health Services.....	2,853,506,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	4,801,268,000
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY	
Technical Safety and Corporate Services Division.....	28,175,000
Community Safety Division	282,520,000
Security and Emergencies Division.....	14,512,000
Office of the Attorney General	40,129,000
Justice Services Division	39,667,000
Legal Aid	18,093,000
Less amounts authorized by law	130,000
Voted.....	422,966,000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations.....	11,852,000
Less amounts authorized by law	5,020,000
Voted.....	6,832,000
Office of the Legislative Assembly	5,028,000
Office of the Auditor General	4,264,000
Offices of Leaders and Members of Registered Political Parties.....	2,117,000
Elections New Brunswick.....	13,962,000
Office of the Ombud.....	3,102,000
Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate.....	2,669,000
Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.....	894,000
Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance	725,000
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	410,000
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
Administration	9,533,000
Natural Resources	127,509,000
Mines	8,174,000
Land Management	4,064,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	149,215,000
NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING CORPORATION	
Corporate and Other Services	4,731,000
Housing Program Delivery	190,588,000
Housing Infrastructure	59,516,000
Tenant and Landlord Relations Office.....	5,151,000
Less amounts authorized by law	48,000
Voted.....	259,938,000
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER	
Administration	1,824,000
Less amounts authorized by law	97,000
Voted.....	1,727,000
OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Administration and Business Development Services	17,461,000
Financial Assistance	25,000,000
Competitiveness and Growth Program	21,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	48,000
Voted.....	63,413,000

OTHER AGENCIES	
Consolidated Entities	402,953,000
Less amounts authorized by law	402,953,000
Voted.....	0
Council of Atlantic Premiers	642,000
Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation	2,899,000
Labour and Employment Board.....	924,000
New Brunswick Police Commission	714,000
New Brunswick Women's Council	614,000
Premier's Council on Disabilities	362,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Labour and Strategic Services	19,972,000
Post-Secondary Education	554,976,000
WorkingNB.....	149,096,000
New Brunswick Public Library Service	19,971,000
Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification	16,930,000
Immigration	18,501,000
Economic Development Policy.....	174,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	779,555,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Development Projects and Operations.....	78,559,000
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT	
Service of the Public Debt	860,000,000
Less amounts authorized by law	855,900,000
Voted.....	4,100,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Corporate and Other Services	13,016,000
Seniors and Long Term Care	992,697,000
Disability Support Services.....	302,335,000
Child Welfare and Youth Services	247,598,000
Income Security	419,962,000
Other Benefits	36,700,000
Less amounts authorized by law	113,000
Voted.....	2,012,195,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Administration	3,880,000
Provincial Parks	20,354,000
Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation	9,393,000
Culture, Archaeology and Heritage	37,567,000
Tourism.....	21,692,000
Less amounts authorized by law	65,000
Voted.....	92,821,000

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Administration	25,652,000
Policy and Legislative Affairs, Strategic Partnerships and Trade Corridors.....	2,980,000
Maintenance.....	116,433,000
Winter Maintenance.....	78,071,000
Bridge and Highway Construction.....	4,128,000
Buildings Division	161,658,000
New Brunswick Highway Corporation.....	32,536,000
Less amounts authorized by law	30,592,000
Voted.....	390,866,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Capital Equipment	250,000
Strategic Infrastructure	1,900,000
Voted.....	2,150,000

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools - Capital Equipment	1,335,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Rural Districts	1,000,000

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Strategic Infrastructure	5,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Public Hospitals - Capital Equipment.....	42,294,000

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
Capital Equipment	60,000
Capital Improvements.....	12,050,000
Mine Infrastructure	11,200,000
Musquash Watershed Infrastructure - Capital Improvements	4,300,000
Sentier NB Trail Infrastructure	3,000,000
Voted.....	30,610,000

NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING CORPORATION	
Capital Community Housing Acquisition Fund	15,375,000
Office Buildings - Capital Improvements.....	2,594,000
Public Housing - Capital Construction.....	50,213,000
Public Housing - Capital Improvements.....	9,635,000
Voted.....	77,817,000

DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Deferred Maintenance Program	2,200,000
Strategic Infrastructure	3,000,000
Voted.....	5,200,000
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Canada - New Brunswick Integrated Bilateral Agreement...	30,000,000
Strategic Infrastructure Initiative	9,480,000
Voted.....	39,480,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Nursing Home Services - Capital Improvements	21,781,000
Nursing Home Services - Capital Maintenance	3,000,000
Voted.....	24,781,000
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Capital Improvements.....	7,176,000
Strategic Infrastructure	12,915,000
Voted.....	20,091,000
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Bridges	93,605,000
Highways	353,727,000
Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership.....	30,000,000
Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Program	69,583,000
Vehicle Management Agency.....	44,000,000
Public Works and Infrastructure	629,170,000
Less amounts authorized by law	118,912,000
Voted.....	1,101,173,000
LOANS AND ADVANCES	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES	
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000
Loan Programs.....	7,000,000
Voted.....	8,600,000
NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING CORPORATION	
Housing.....	3,224,000
OPPORTUNITIES NEW BRUNSWICK	
Financial Assistance to Industry	50,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LABOUR	
Student Loan Advances	90,500,000

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 2024-2025, Volume 2

RESOLVED, that there be granted to His Majesty sums not exceeding the following to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2025:

ORDINARY ACCOUNT	Voted (\$)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	364.00
Intergovernmental Affairs.....	1,403,428.36
Legislated Pension Plans, Benefit Accruals, Subsidies, and Supplementary Allowances	31,296,958.79
Pension and Employee Benefits Plans	9,827,086.65
Tobacco Legal Agreements	17,663,786.65
Women's Equality	905,489.79
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
Corporate and Other Health Services	33,000,000.00
Part III Health Services.....	24,618,528.13
Voted.....	57,618,528.13
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
Development Projects and Operations.....	2,061,582.07
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
Culture, Archaeology and Heritage	30,900.79
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	
Public Schools – Capital Equipment.....	695,321.32

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.2, Madam Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

- By Hon. Mr. Kennedy,
Bill 34, *An Act Respecting the Highway Act and the Salvage Dealers Licensing Act.*
- By Hon. Mr. McKee, K.C.,
Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Probate Court Act.*
- By Hon. Mr. Gauvin,
Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Legacy,
Bill 37, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2024-2025 (2)*.
Bill 38, *Appropriations Act 2026-2027*.

Madam Speaker announced that pursuant to Standing Rule 42.3(1), Bills 37 and 38 were ordered for second and third reading forthwith.

The following Bills were read a second time:

Bill 37, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2024-2025 (2)*.
Bill 38, *Appropriations Act 2026-2027*.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 37, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2024-2025 (2)*.
Bill 38, *Appropriations Act 2026-2027*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Legacy,
Bill 39, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Income Tax Act and the Small Business Investor Tax Credit Act*.
By Hon. Mr. Dornan,
Bill 40, *An Act Respecting Health Quality and Patient Safety*.

Mr. M. LeBlanc gave notice that on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Bills 34, 35, 36, 39 and 40 would be called for second reading.

Mr. M. LeBlanc, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 33 be called for second reading.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 33, *An Act Respecting the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 33 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 33, *An Act Respecting the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 2.51 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petition 8	April 1, 2026
Response to Petition 12	April 7, 2026
Annual Report 2024-2025 Office of the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate	April 8, 2026
Response to Petition 10	April 8, 2026
Annual Report 2024-2025 Labour and Employment Board	April 9, 2026
Response to Petitions 9, 13	April 9, 2026
Response to Petition 15	April 13, 2026
Certain Members' Public Disclosure Statements 2023, 2024 and 2025	April 13, 2026
Response to Petition 11	April 14, 2026
Response to Petition 14	April 23, 2026
Annual Report 2024-2025 New Brunswick Human Rights Commission	April 29, 2026