November 4, 2026

CONTENTS

EDUCATION

Ms. M. Johnson

Hon. C. Johnson

Ms. M. Johnson

Hon. C. Johnson

Ms. M. Johnson

Hon. C. Johnson

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. Savoie

Hon. C. Johnson

Mr. Savoie

Hon. C. Johnson

Hon. C. Johnson

Mr. Savoie

Hon. Mr. Herron

PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

M. Lee

Hon. Mr. D'Amours

Mr. Lee

Hon. Mr. D'Amours

Mr. Lee

Hon. Mr. D'Amours

NATURAL GAS

Mr. Coon

Hon. Mr. Herron

Mr. Coon

Hon. Mr. Herron

Mr. Coon

Hon. Mr. Herron

ECONOMY

Mr. Monahan

Hon. Mr. Legacy

Mr. Monahan

Hon. Mr. Legacy

Hon. Mr. Legacy

Mr. Monahan

Hon. Mr. Hickey

HOUSING

Ms. Conroy

Hon. Mr. Hickey

[*Original*]

EDUCATION

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, the Child and Youth Advocate's report points to a serious problem in our education system that this government cannot continue to ignore. In the 2024-25 Grade 4 English reading assessment, 72.7% of French immersion students met the appropriate or strong achievement standard, whereas, in English Prime, that number drops to just 55.3%. That's a 17.4 percentage point difference. The Advocate has made it clear that we need to look at unequal access to programs, resources, and learning supports rather than pointing fingers at inclusion.

[*Translation*]

The Advocate has made it clear that we need to look at unequal access to programs and learning supports rather than pointing fingers at inclusion. I want to remind the Premier that it was her government that appointed the Advocate.

[*Original*]

Will the Premier stand behind the Advocate's findings and tell this House what concrete steps the government will take to address this gap? Or will English Prime students continue to fall behind while the government talks about fixing the education system?

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity to respond to the very important report that came from the Child, Youth and Senior Advocate. We've read the report, and, on a lot of points, we agree. That's why we are in constant communication with the Advocate on how to make our system better. Now, there are a few specific points on which I'd love to say we completely agree with him. We are not looking to question inclusive education in New Brunswick. We have a strong history of inclusive education in New Brunswick, and we want to keep it. However, after 40 years, we need to look forward. We know that we have challenges with interpretation, implementation, and matching proper resources to students' needs. So we will continue to work toward inclusive education, as the Advocate pointed out that we should, and we are not looking to question its existence. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Madam Speaker, the Child and Youth Advocate has been very clear: We cannot blame inclusion for declining academic performance. Inclusion refers to children who were formerly educated in separate schools and separate classrooms, segregated from the general population. Of late, it has become a blanket term to denote students with special needs, students with behavioural issues, and oppositional students—essentially, any student for whom a

personalized education plan is required. In 1986, when inclusion first came into public schools, the lack of uniformity in delivering it was one of the greatest challenges, and the vision for it varied from district to district and, sometimes, from school to school. The school experiences of parents 30 years ago cloud and impact their ideas about children in classrooms. Teachers literally struggle every day to overcome mindsets over which they have no control.

[*Translation*]

We can't expect teachers to be able to do more with fewer resources, and students shouldn't be victims of a system that doesn't give them the support they need.

[*Original*]

Will the Minister of Education acknowledge that declining academic results are a reflection of shortcomings in the way the education system is being supported rather than the inclusion of—

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Madam Speaker, I agree. We shouldn't quickly point the finger at inclusion. The member opposite is absolutely right about that. Before we blame inclusion, I would love to take this opportunity to share exactly what we have done. We are making sure that students are well fed and well supported at school. That's really important for the sense of belonging. Students from different backgrounds want to be at school because they feel well supported and they feel good there. That's the first thing.

Second, we are targeting literacy, numeracy, and chronic absenteeism. Those are all early indicators that there may be challenges ahead, and we are reacting quickly, making sure that academic support teachers, EAs, and behaviour intervention mentors are right there with the students, as they learn alongside their peers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Ms. M. Johnson (Carleton-Victoria, Leader of the Official Opposition, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Child and Youth Advocate has raised serious concerns about systemic failures within New Brunswick's education system:

On average, all the warning signs of risk were present by the time children were seven years old. That's when risk factors like a diagnosis of a disability or condition, an assessment of developmental delay, and/or child protection involvement were on file.

For children with these serious risk factors, you would think that Integrated Services or a Complex Case designation would arrive immediately. Yet government, with its complicated routes to approve those responses, generally did not get a coordinated response in place until the child was, on average, past their 12th birthday.

[*Translation*]

Some students fall behind, teachers have trouble tracking students' development, and families wonder if their children are getting the education they deserve. Madam Speaker, inclusion is not the problem. What is a problem is the inability to adequately support inclusion.

[*Original*]

For how much longer will this government continue to allow students and teachers to bear the consequences of its inaction?

[*Translation*]

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Madam Speaker, we agree that we must act quickly. As soon as there are signs that a student is dealing with certain learning challenges… We don't want to wait to act. We agree that we have to act quickly. That's exactly why we are currently creating screening tools.

I'd like to point out another thing. As soon as a child faces a challenge, we don't wait for a diagnosis. We intervene immediately to provide the support that the child needs to continue learning and to feel cared for and supported alongside their peers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, PC): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

Madam Speaker, the lunch program was to be in place for September 2025 at a cost of about $26 million. It was to have local, nutritious food. It was to be a pay-what-you-can model, and it was not to be run by teachers. The reality is that it was a year late, was not universally implemented, and does not have local, healthy food. You have to pay $4 to $5. It displaced volunteers where, in many of those schools, meals were free for everybody. Teachers now have to administer the program, which includes helping people who are not able to navigate the system get free lunches. The ordering systems are not in place, so teachers are ordering massive amounts of extra food because they have no idea how much to order. This food is being given away to whoever wants it, creating extra food waste and extra cost. Kids are walking away with bookbags full of food to take home, or it's being thrown out. Will the minister admit that this is just another failure of this government to ensure that the rollout was done properly? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I cannot jump quickly enough to my feet to talk once again

about the amazing school food programs that we have rolled out. Just to remind everybody, last year, we did a universal free breakfast program in every single school. Yes, there's a lot of food available because that's what we want. We want students' bellies to be full so that they feel well supported and ready to learn. For the affordable lunch program, we wanted it to be sustainable. That's why we're offering affordable, nutritious lunches in—hold on—98% of schools as of last week. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, PC): Maybe the government members could take credit for failing in the first place, Madam Speaker. The minister is excited because she's never had to eat that food. No matter whether you paid $4 or $5 for your meal, so much food has been ordered that students are loaded up with extra food to take home, and it hasn't been paid for. I can guarantee you that the company is not giving away this extra food for free. Taxpayers are paying for it. The government had a year to test its pilot and ensure that ordering systems were functional on day one. There are thousands of extra meals across the system for each and every day of the school week.

Who is the minister going to blame for this one? How will she explain the extra cost to New Brunswick taxpayers? My guess is that she really doesn't care, as the government has already overspent its own budget by $3 billion. This is a lack of preparation to ensure that systems were in place, or it's a lack of respect for taxpayers, who pay for this. Minister of Education, which one is it?

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Madam Speaker, our affordable lunch program is exactly that. It's affordable and sustainable, and we're very, very proud of that. As a dietician and a parent, myself, I am really happy with the quality and the nutrition that students are getting in schools. The member opposite asked me if I tasted the food. I did. I served it, I tasted it, and my own children eat it regularly.

(Interjections.)

Hon. C. Johnson (Moncton South, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, L): Yes, and they're very happy about that. They're trying foods they've never tried before. They're excited to learn about new foods alongside their peers. I'm hearing really good feedback about students who are feeling well supported and parents and families who are now getting the support they need from a government that cares. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Savoie (Saint John East, PC): Thank you very much.

[*Original*]

We have to hold this government to account for its failures. It set an expected date for this program, and it set a budget. It has failed on both counts. It was a year late, and still, not all schools have this program in place after a year-long pilot program. Systems are not in place and thousands of meals paid for by taxpayers are being taken home because this government is, again, not getting it right and has to "blunder and trip over working out the kinks on the backs of students and teachers in the middle of a school year". We all know who said that. The Premier got that exactly wrong. She forgot about respecting taxpayers, who have to pay for this.

Will the Minister of Education be radically transparent and try to pass the test of being part of the most radically transparent government in the history of New Brunswick by telling taxpayers exactly how this happened and how much extra they are paying for this? I'll give New Brunswickers a little hint: The minister is going to get a zero on this transparency test. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Herron (Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Natural Resources, L): Madam Speaker, I think that, as a rule, in this business, you generally want to be nice to your constituents. I'm very proud of the lunch program that this government has brought in. I'm very proud of the breakfast program this government has brought in. If the honourable member wants a partisan fight in the riding of Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, he can meet me on the ballot in the next election.

[*Translation*]

PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

M. Lee (Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, PC) : Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Original*]

Private colleges across New Brunswick are alarmed by a letter they received from this government. They are being told to hand over financial security deposits tied directly to their annual tuition revenue, with some institutions facing demands as high as $160 000 and with half of it to be paid by December 1. Although the government claims this is a measure to stop fly-by-night operators, legitimate private institutions describe this as a shakedown. These institutions train 4 000 New Brunswickers every year without it costing taxpayers, yet the government is imposing financial requirements so steep that many schools say it will ruin them.

My question for the Minister of PETL is this: Why did the minister choose a security formula tied to annual tuition revenue that is disproportionate and so punitive that colleges

owe tens of thousands of dollars immediately? Can he explain how this will not hurt the very students and institutions he claims to be protecting? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. D'Amours (Edmundston—Vallée-des-Rivières, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the member opposite for his very important question. In the past few years, a relatively simple process was set in motion. The burden was on students. Students in private colleges in New Brunswick had to pay an additional percentage of their tuition for protection and put money into an account in case of problems with the private college. I want to repeat that.

Now, Madam Speaker, let's look at the situation and talk about what we are looking for. Changes will be proposed. Instead of requiring students to pay more tuition, we're asking colleges to assume the responsibility. That way, if a situation arises in the future, students will be able to get support. So, the changes are to protect students in New Brunswick.

[*Original*]

Mr. Lee (Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The minister claims this direction had been signalled since back in 2022, but, from this government, folks don't know about the timing and the financial impact. The government says the financial requirement will not burden students, yet basic economics says otherwise. When the government forces private colleges to pay tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, those costs do not disappear. They are passed on. Tuition increases become inevitable.

Eight jurisdictions in Canada protect students using something called a surety bond, which is a standard and affordable insurance-based mechanism. The private college sector proposed adopting the same model used across the country. The minister rejected it. He insisted that New Brunswick must propose a far harsher cash-based security deposit, even though other provinces successfully protect students without crushing their private institutions. My question is this: Why did the minister reject the standard surety-bond model used across Canada and choose the most financially punishing option for colleges in New Brunswick?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. D'Amours (Edmundston—Vallée-des-Rivières, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister

responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Again, I thank the colleague opposite for his question. You know, Madam Speaker, New Brunswick has always been a leader in post-secondary education and private colleges. We want to ensure that the process established here in New Brunswick takes student protection into account. So, you will understand that, because of the work we have been doing for several years to continue making improvements and protecting students, we have decided to update the existing regulations.

Madam Speaker, if we want to be leaders nationally and we are, it may be because we are doing things differently. Perhaps some jurisdictions in Canada have gone off on tangents. As for us, we've decided to go in the other direction. However, Madam Speaker, there's one thing that must be borne in mind, and it's that we allow colleges to make payments over more than one year to enable them to do what is necessary for us to ensure that the requirements…

[*Original*]

Mr. Lee (Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville, PC): Well, thank you, Madam Speaker, but I didn't hear an answer about why the government didn't use surety bonds. These deposits are not small. They are life-changing sums. The government has not provided a mechanism for return, transfer, or reimbursement. A critical question that the minister has not answered is this: If a school is sold or if an operator legitimately closes after fulfilling all obligations to students, can it recoup its security deposit? Without clarity, operators face the possibility of permanently losing hundreds of thousands of dollars, even when they act responsibly and ethically. This is not student protection. This is financial confiscation. My question is this: Will the minister state clearly, without deflection, whether the security deposit is a one-time requirement or an annual, ongoing financial obligation? Will private institutions be able to recover their security deposits when they sell their institutions or legitimately close after meeting all student obligations? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Mr. D'Amours (Edmundston—Vallée-des-Rivières, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Minister responsible for Military Affairs; Minister responsible for the Research and Productivity Council, L): Madam Speaker, I will answer the question from my colleague opposite. However, I really find the premise of his question debatable. He rises and immediately asks if colleges will close here in New Brunswick. Our goal is not for colleges to close. They can continue their operations in New Brunswick in an effective and regulated environment that will protect students in the event that problems arise. It is about protection. We always want to protect students.

What are we doing? Right now, as I mentioned, protection is solely focused on students, who have the responsibility to pay an additional amount, an additional percentage. Well, Madam Speaker, in the event that a decision is made to close, in a situation where everything would be okay and there wouldn't be any problems, the institution would be reimbursed. So, I don't understand what my colleague opposite is trying to do politically. He should be trying to help students, instead.

[*Original*]

NATURAL GAS

Mr. Coon (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On August 26, the Premier announced that her government was launching a public review of the province's moratorium on fracking. She said that, every month, she would share the work they're doing with the public. Well, it's now been two months since her announcement and nothing has been shared. Instead, people were invited to complete a poor excuse for a public survey filled with leading questions, manipulative queries, and suggestive prompts, which could be submitted by the same person over and over and over again. Apparently, there are a number of secret working groups filled with anonymous people who have been asked to fulfill an undisclosed mandate. Can the Premier tell this House exactly who was sitting around the consultative tables and why this is a secretive backroom process?

Hon. Mr. Herron (Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Natural Resources, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the question from the member opposite. Madam Speaker, last evening, we had our first community meeting on the review with respect to natural gas. I'm very proud to be able to say that event was a dialogue to share different perspectives. It wasn't a debate. We had thought leaders from the civil service on issues with respect to the stewardship of water and air, the environment, climate change, geology, and understanding the royalty regimes that could exist should we go forward. Madam Speaker, I want to make it very clear: A decision has not been made with respect to what the next step will be. We're going to review this information in a very transparent way. In real time, New Brunswickers are going to be able to see the evidence that we will use to formulate that decision come January.

Mr. Coon (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Madam Speaker, it's true that last night, the Holt government held a community dialogue in Sussex regarding its push to lift the fracking moratorium. However, the meeting announcement only appeared on social media last week, and not on the main GNB website. A CBC article quoted the Premier as saying that more meetings are coming, but apparently not until her secret working groups have gathered more information. Again, I ask the question: Who is actually sitting at these working tables, and why are they conducting the work in secret?

Hon. Mr. Herron (Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Natural Resources, L): Madam Speaker, the leaders in the working groups on water, air, climate change, and

geology are thought leaders in the New Brunswick civil service who are hard-working individuals and who have actually met New Brunswickers where they are.

[*Translation*]

I am so proud to have had the opportunity, yesterday, to hold the first public meetings on natural gas. As part of the review, we are discussing perspectives on water, air, climate change, and geology. We held the first meeting yesterday. There will be more in the future.

[*Original*]

Mr. Coon (Fredericton Lincoln, Leader, G): Perhaps you're going into the witness protection program after the work is done.

Madam Speaker, on June 8, 2023, when the Premier was the Leader of the Official Opposition, she voted in favour of my bill to prohibit further fossil fuel development in New Brunswick, a position adopted this year by the New Brunswick Medical Society. At that time, Hansard states that the now Premier said that the "scientific evidence is clear. Our planet is warming at an alarming rate" and that we "have to commit to moving away from fossil fuels". She went on to say that she was "pretty discouraged" to see Premier Higgs "looking in the rearview mirror" at a time when the rest of the world was finding ways to get off fossil fuels. She called out Higgs for pitching "yesterday's energy solution", saying it was not only "a poor business strategy" but also "pretty embarrassing."

Doctors are saying no to fracking, as the Premier, herself, did just three years ago. Will she remain true to herself and just say no?

Hon. Mr. Herron (Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins, Minister of Natural Resources, L): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We do not want to be stuck in yesterday. We want to go into the future. In this nation, we understand that we need new relationships of economic and political interdependence. We also know that we have a duty to consider every opportunity that may be before us. It doesn't mean we have to grasp every opportunity. However, we owe it to New Brunswickers to have an appropriate, measured consideration of this review on natural gas. We're going to fuss over the things New Brunswickers want us to, whether that be the stewardship of water and air, climate change, or geology.

We're making sure that First Nations are at the centre of this discussion. Madam Speaker, you are probably abundantly aware that we have an extraordinary relationship with our First Nations today. We are able to have this discussion because of the stewardship of the Minister of Natural Resources and this Premier.

ECONOMY

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): Madam Speaker, the member opposite would have us believe that the previous government was a poor steward of the budget and that we were reckless in our spending. Statistics Canada has reported that, in August, our economy stalled for a second consecutive month, with preliminary estimates suggesting a further decline. At the same time, New Brunswickers are facing rising costs for groceries, electricity, fuel, and housing, while higher interest rates threaten to put additional financial pressure on households and businesses.

With our province already facing a projected billion-dollar deficit, weaker economic growth raises serious concerns about government revenues and the sustainability of provincial spending. Can the Minister of Finance tell this House whether his department has assessed how this slowing economy will affect New Brunswick's revenue projections and whether this province's already troubling deficit could grow even larger?

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Obviously, departmental staff look at economic activity. We actually publish reports on it every quarter. We kind of look at the review. I'll make sure the member opposite gets a second copy because he must have missed the first one.

The reality is that this government is dealing with a structural deficit. We walked into a structural deficit—a deficit of infrastructure and a deficit of programs—and we're trying to catch up. It's not only the extra dollars but also the partners. Everything in this province slowed down, while every other province just kept going ahead.

Now we're catching up and trying to rebuild. That's where the dollars are going. We are rebuilding this province one infrastructure project at a time and one program at a time to give hope to the people of New Brunswick that this province is once again moving forward.

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): You walked into six years of SS—structural surpluses.

Economic growth is slowing. This government continues to make spending commitments, while the economic outlook is increasingly uncertain. Slower growth can mean weaker consumer spending, reduced business investment, and lower-than-expected tax revenues. Yet New Brunswick is already borrowing heavily to finance its operations—debt, debt, debt, debt, debt—and higher borrowing costs could further strain provincial finances.

Families and businesses need to adjust their budgets to reflect their economic realities, and one would think the government should be expected to demonstrate the same discipline.

Will the Minister of Finance commit to reviewing government spending and identifying concrete savings now versus allowing declining revenues and continuing spending growth to push New Brunswick even deeper into debt?

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* L): Madam Speaker, there was a structural deficit in infrastructure. There was an abdication of taking care of business. Let me give you an example. There are, give or take, 300 schools in this province. They last 100 years. We need to do midlife upgrades after 50 years and more at 100 years. It takes six years to build a school. This means that every year, roughly, we should start building 6 schools and finish building 6 schools. Over a 6-year period, there should be about 36 active projects. In 2022, we had 6 active projects—6.

(Interjections.)

Hon. Mr. Legacy (Bathurst, Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Treasury Board; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* L): Total—not for that year, but 6 in total. The year after that, there was 1. We talk about economic activity. Try to tell a contractor that we're building schools when there is 1 extra project in a year. It was devastating to the industry. Nothing was moving. This year, we're up to 24 projects, and we're still going up. We're fixing a situation that existed with the previous government.

Mr. Monahan (Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills, PC): I'd like to remind the member opposite that, back in 2021-22, there was something called COVID-19. A lot of kids weren't even going to school, and they were being educated at home. But, hey, I'm just making sure all the government members are aware of that.

Cutting spending alone will not solve New Brunswick's financial challenges. With national growth slowing, interest rates rising, and businesses facing increasing operating costs, New Brunswick cannot simply depend on economic growth to improve its financial position. This government must demonstrate that it has a credible strategy to strengthen private sector investment, improve productivity, and expand the provincial tax base without placing additional financial burdens on struggling families. New Brunswickers deserve more than assurances that the economy will eventually improve. They deserve measurable targets and a clear financial plan. Can the minister identify the measures the government is taking to stimulate this private sector growth and provincial revenue growth without increasing taxes on New Brunswick families and businesses?

Hon. Mr. Hickey (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The member opposite wants to talk about private investment in New Brunswick. Let's look at our record. We are leading the country in per capita housing starts right here in this province. The Higgs-Allain record was clear. It lagged behind us by 70%. We know that, when the Conservatives are in charge of

government, private investment decreases. We made sure that the housing market was primed. We made sure that we were positioned to have the most competitive development landscape in Atlantic Canada, and we have the record to prove it.

In the face of the affordability crisis, and in the face of a housing crisis, this government is choosing to build. We know exactly what the Higgs-Allain government would do. It would scrap the rent cap. It would put a modest levy on electricity, and it would leave New Brunswickers further behind.

HOUSING

Ms. Conroy (Miramichi East, PC): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Over the past couple of years, I have stood in this Chamber questioning the Housing Minister in concern and disappointment over the rising—the ballooning—wait list for affordable housing in New Brunswick. This feels like a little bit of déjà vu. After last year's throne speech by the Holt government, I questioned the Housing Minister, and, at that time, the wait list had approximately 13 000 families. Now, a year later, the wait list has well over 14 000, and it's still growing. My questions for the Housing Minister are these: Of the newly announced housing units, which government members keep announcing, how many are being strictly allocated to rent-supplemented housing units rather than market-rate rentals? What is the strategy to immediately house the 14 000 families currently trapped on the wait list? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Hickey (Saint John Harbour, Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, L): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our commitment was clear from day one. We committed to building 573 new public housing units within our mandate. As of September 8, through our Affordable Rental Housing Program, we have delivered a total of 1 288 new units.

We continue to deliver on our commitment, directly dealing with the massive wait list in this province. That continues to grow. New Brunswickers are feeling the impact of an affordability crisis in this province, and we are choosing to build. We are choosing to respond.

Here is my problem. In this House, the opposition members want to advocate for affordability. When they go out and talk to the media, they want to scrap the rent cap. I don't know who to listen to. There's only one solution I see. Daniel Allain needs a seat on the floor of this Legislature, and he needs to step up for the people of the province and start asking us questions.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Ms. Landry): Question period has expired.