



Legislative Activities



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

2003

Legislative Activities

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New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Bev Harrison
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

April 30, 2004.

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting this, the fifteenth annual report
of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



Loredana Catalli Sonier,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

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Year in Review

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Loredana Catalli Sonier

A June 9th provincial election, a lengthy fifth and final session of the Fifth-fourth Legislature, and an additional 79 days of Committee meetings, placed heavy demands on all aspects of Legislative Assembly operations.

The Fifth session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature resumed January 7, 2003, and sat until February 21, 2003, before adjourning until March 11. The House sat a further five weeks before adjourning on April 14. In total, the Fifth Session lasted 68 days, 48 of which were in 2003.

During the session, the Legislative Administration Committee, which was mandated in a previous session to consider the advisability of an *MLA Responsibility Act*, or a code of conduct for Members that would guide MLAs in the conduct of their duties and better inform the people of New Brunswick on the role and responsibilities of an MLA, tabled its report on April 3, 2003. The Committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly not enact an *MLA Responsibility Act*. The Committee recommended instead the adoption of a Code of Conduct and Statement on the Role and Responsibilities of the MLAs. The Committee's recommendations were not acted upon prior to the adjournment of the House.

Two Members announced that they would not re-offer in the next provincial election: Dr. Dennis Furlong, (PC-Dalhousie-Restigouche East); and Sheldon Lee, (Liberal-Charlotte).

On May 10, 2003, a proclamation dissolved the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly and ordered the issue of writs of election for June 9. At dissolution, the standings in the House were: Conservatives, 46; Liberals, 7; New Democrats, 1; vacancy, 1.

For the first time, election result coverage was broadcast live by the CBC from the rotunda of the Legislative Assembly Building.

The election significantly altered the standings in the House. Premier Bernard Lord's Progressive Conservative government was returned to power by a majority of 1 with the election of 28 Members. The Liberals increased their representation in the House from 7 to 26 Members. The Leader of the New Democrats, Elizabeth Weir, was re-elected, bringing the number of opposition Members to 27. In the final

analysis, 20 new Members were elected, of the 20, three had served in the Legislature previously.

Staff assisted caucuses by providing orientation for both new and returning MLAs. A new Members' Orientation Manual was published and on July 9, 2003, Members participated in an orientation session held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Topics covered during the one-day session included: the administrative structure of the Legislative Assembly Office including the services provided by the Clerk's Office, Debates Translation, Hansard and the Legislative Library; Members indemnities and allowances, conflict of interest legislation, the recall of the House, the election of Speaker, and the general functioning of the House and its committees.

In a ceremony held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on June 27, the Lieutenant- Governor, Her Honour Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, administered the Oath of Office to the new members of the 18-member Executive Council.

Members of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly took their Oath of Allegiance in a morning ceremony held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on July 29, 2003.

The First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly opened that same afternoon with the delivery of the Speech from the Throne outlining the government's main agenda of the session: - the need to deal with the rising cost of automobile insurance rates in the province. As the first order of business, the Hon. Bev Harrison, Member for the electoral district of Hampton was declared elected Speaker. Mr. Harrison served as Speaker during the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly. The focus of the House debate centred on Bill 1, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*. During the rare summer session, the House also appointed the standing and three select committees. On August 8, 2003, the session was adjourned until March 30, 2004.

The election and the summer session occupied considerable staff time and attention during what might otherwise have been the summer holiday period. The increased number of newly elected opposition MLAs precipitated the move of Debates Translation from the Jewett House on Secretary Lane

to the Edgecombe House, a nearby heritage home on King street.

The installation of Herménégilde Chiasson as the 29th Lieutenant-Governor for the province of New Brunswick took place in the Legislative Assembly on August 26, 2003. Dr. Chiasson replaces Marilyn Trenholme Counsel who had served as Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick since 1997.

During the fall of 2003, the escalating cost of public automobile insurance premiums and the reform of the province's *Crown Lands and Forests Act* were the major focus of committee activity. The Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance mandated to recommend a fair, affordable and accessible public automobile insurance system for all New Brunswick drivers consulted with New Brunswickers to hear their advice and opinions on what may constitute the best public automobile insurance model for the province. Public hearings were held in seven locations throughout the province. New Democratic Party Leader Elizabeth Weir, (MLA for Saint John Harbour), was elected chair of the committee.

The Select Committee on Wood Supply was mandated to inquire into and report on the status of sustainable wood supply from Crown lands in New Brunswick and to recommend legislative, regulatory or policy changes to be considered by government to improve and manage the current wood supply. The Committee, chaired by Progressive Conservative Member Kirk MacDonald, (MLA for Mactaquac), held 13 days of public hearings in seven locations throughout the province. Both select committees have begun their deliberations in preparation of their final reports for presentation to the House.

On November 25, 2003, Liberal MLA Bernard Richard resigned to accept the position of Ombudsman for the province effective January 3, 2004. Mr. Richard was first elected to the Legislature September 23, 1991, as the MLA for Shediac. He was re-elected September 11, 1995, to represent the new constituency of Shediac—Cap-Pelé. He served as Minister of State for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Education. He resigned from Cabinet in February 1998 and ran unsuccessfully for the leadership of the Liberal Party. He was re-elected June 7, 1999, and served as Interim Leader of the Opposition and as finance and justice critic. He was re-elected June 9, 2003, and was

Opposition House Leader at the time of his resignation.

Mr. Richard replaces Ellen King who served as Ombudsman since 1993. His resignation gave the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Bernard Lord a two-seat majority in the 55-seat House. On December 9, 2003, the House expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Ellen King for her over 10 years of professional and dedicated service to the Legislature and the people of New Brunswick as Ombudsman.

A procedural briefing session held December 4, 2003, was well attended by new and returning Members. The session focused on the conduct of business in the House, the rules of procedure and debate, ceremonial practices and decorum and voting procedures. On December 9, 2003, the First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly resumed and sat for a two-week period before adjourning to March 30, 2004.

Most of the debate during the two-week December sitting focussed on two Government Bills. Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act*, proposed to provide for the distribution of the unconditional grant for the calendar year 2004 and a special one-time grant for certain municipalities. Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*, proposed an increase in gasoline and motive fuel tax rates announced in the last budget and clarified the imposition of tax on single trip fuel permits issued to truckers.

Two Private Member's Public Bills introduced by Opposition Leader Shawn Graham, (Liberal MLA for Kent), were referred for further study to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments: Bill 2, *Volunteer Protection Act*, which proposed to protect volunteers in certain situations from being liable for damages caused as a result of their volunteer work; and Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, which proposed to expand the scope of worker's compensation coverage to protect both professional and volunteer firefighters who develop cancer directly related to their public service. The Committee recently began its deliberations on both Bills and is expected to report when the House resumes March 30, 2004.

On December 16, 2003, Minister of Finance Jeannot Volpé introduced the 2004-2005 Capital Estimates. Also tabled were the Supplementary Estimates 2002-

2003 Volume II and the Supplementary Estimates
2003-2004 Volume 1.

In an effort to make Question Period more effective, rule changes to limit the length of questions and answers were recommended by the Standing Committee on Procedure in a report presented to the House December 9, 2003. Among the Committee's recommendations were:

- (1) That the Clerk of the House maintain at the Table a Register of Paired Members in which any Member of the Government party and any Member of an Opposition party may have their names entered together by their respective Whips or House Leaders, to indicate that they will not take part in any recorded division held on the date inscribed on that page of the Register.
- (2) That an additional item of routine business entitled "Condolences and Messages of Sympathy" be added to the ordinary daily routine of business in the House.
- (3) That a Member asking a question speak for no more than sixty seconds and that a Minister's reply not exceed sixty seconds. That a Member asking a question be allowed two supplementary questions on the same subject matter.
- (4) That debate on an item of Private Members' Public Business be limited to 2 hours to ensure that Members are given the opportunity to introduce debate and influence issues of immediate and current concern to all.
- (5) That motions considered during the days allotted for Private Members' Business alternate between Opposition and Government Members to allow all Private Members the opportunity to debate issues of concern.

By agreement of both sides of the House, the Committee's recommendation to amend the Standing Rules to give the chair of the Committees of the Whole House a deliberative vote, and a second or casting vote in the event of a tie, was not adopted.

Subsequently, the House adopted a resolution (Motion 72) moved by Government House Leader Hon. Brad Green, (MLA for Fredericton South), and seconded by Opposition House Leader Kelly Lamrock, (MLA for Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak), that the Legislative Assembly acknowledge and confirm the agreement entered into between the Government and the Official Opposition as hereto set forth:

The Government and the Official Opposition agree that each shall provide the name of a Member of their respective caucus for the purpose of their entering into a pairing agreement to indicate that they will not take part in any recorded division held during any and all proceedings of the Committees of the Whole House during the life of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly.

During the December sitting, a woman chained herself to a radiator near the entrance of the Assembly Chamber to protest the decision of the government to relocate a hospital in her region. The demonstration was peaceful in nature; however, following repeated requests from the Sergeant-at-Arms and security personnel that she remove her chains and vacate the area, the woman's chains were cut and she was escorted out of the building.

On December 12, 2003, T.J. Burke, (Liberal MLA for Fredericton North), laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by concerned citizens who maintained that Ritalin was over-prescribed in the province. (Petition 14) The petition was organized by Charles LeBlanc of Saint John, N.B., who occupied the grounds of the Legislature for the previous 180 days and brought attention to the concerns of children suffering from attention deficit disorders. Mr. LeBlanc vacated the grounds after the tabling of the petition.

On December 19, 2003, Premier Lord announced the creation of a Commission on Legislative Democracy, fulfilling a promise made during the June 2003 election. The Commission is mandated to examine and make recommendations on strengthening and modernizing New Brunswick's electoral system and democratic institutions and practices, to make them more fair, open, accountable and accessible to New Brunswickers. David McLaughlin, former Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, is Deputy Minister to the Commission.

The commission's mandate will focus on three key areas: electoral reform that will look at changes to how we elect MLAs to the Legislative Assembly; legislative reform which will examine how we can enhance the role of MLAs and the legislature in the public and political life of our province; and democratic reform, which will seek to give a stronger voice to New Brunswickers in the decisions of their government and their legislature.

On December 19, 2003, the Session was adjourned until March 30, 2004, when Finance Minister Jeannot Volpé will deliver the budget.

During 2003, important work continued on the Legislature's south chandelier damaged in a fall caused by a failure of the chandelier's lowering system. The Legislative Assembly has been working closely with staff of the Heritage Branch.

A structural upgrade of the spiral staircase commenced June 10th, the day after the election and continued well beyond the expected completion date of the project. Many years from now, future Members and staff of this Assembly may uncover a time capsule left behind by legislative staff. The contents of the capsule will be left to be discovered in the future. However, Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson did contribute autographed copies of one of his books.

The Legislative Assembly acknowledges the financial contribution of the Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations and the federal Ministry of Canadian Heritage under the Canada-New Brunswick General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages. Funding received contributed to the success of the 2003 Annual Student Legislative Seminar, a non-partisan program whose objectives are to provide a comprehensive understanding of the functions and operations of government, to encourage the use of the model parliament in senior high schools, to promote positive relations between anglophone and francophone students in New Brunswick, and to develop informed and responsible citizens. Funding

under the agreement also assisted with the outsourcing of translation of the debates of the Legislative Assembly.

Staffing Changes

The majority of staffing changes occurred in the Office of the Official Opposition where several new staff joined the Office in 2003: Sheri Shannon, Special Assistant to the Leader, Jean-Stéphane Chiasson and Misty McLaughlin, Researchers, and Nathalie Chenard, Secretary to Members.

In Debates Translation, Natasha Bossé-Simard joined the Office as a Parliamentary Translator. Former Parliamentary Editor Lise L'Anglais joined the Office as a Parliamentary Translator. In the Office of Government Members, Terry Andow became the new Chief of Staff replacing Charles Ayles who pursued a career opportunity within government as did Marc Belliveau, Director of Communications. In the Hansard Office, Anne-Marie Acker joined the staff as a Parliamentary Editor. In the Clerk's Office, Diane Mercier-Allain joined the Office as Visitor Services Coordinator.



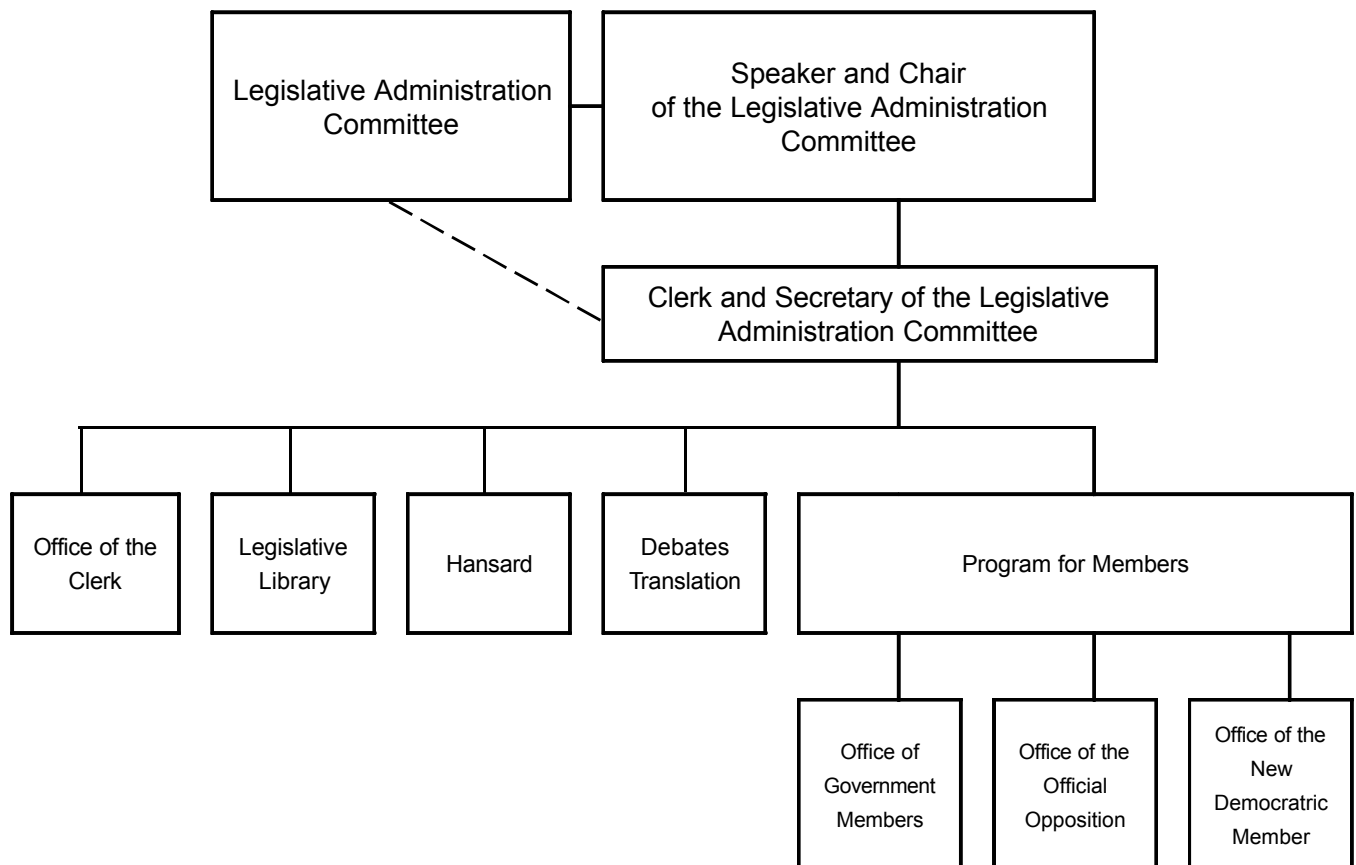
The installation of Herménégilde Chiasson as the 29th Lieutenant-Governor of the province of New Brunswick took place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on August 26, 2003. Left to right: Herménégilde Chiasson; Jolène LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk of the Executive Council, and the Hon. J. Ernest Drapeau, Chief Justice of the province of New Brunswick.

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Mission Statement

1. To assist the Legislative Assembly in fostering respect for the institution and privileges of parliamentary democracy.
2. To provide assistance and support to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, their staff and the public.
3. To provide impartial and confidential service to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.
4. To record the proceedings and maintain the records of the Legislative Assembly.
5. To provide public education and information services on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

Organizational Chart



Functional Statements

1. *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly*

- The Clerk is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker and to the Members and acts as Secretary to the Legislative Administration Committee. Appointed by resolution of the House, the Clerk is responsible for a wide range of administrative and procedural duties relating to the work of the House and its Committees. The Clerk of the Legislature is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a Deputy Minister of a government department.

2. *Office of the Clerk*

- Produces the Journal, Orders of the Day and maintains the official permanent records of the Assembly.
- Provides procedural advice and support services to the chairs and members of committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides public education and information services to Members, to government, and to the private sector.
- Provides administrative support to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides financial and human resource management services to the Legislative Assembly.

3. *Legislative Library*

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

4. *Hansard*

- Records and transcribes House proceedings (Hansard) for the members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; records and transcribes legislative committee proceedings for members of the Legislative Assembly.

5. *Debates Translation*

- Translates House proceedings (Hansard) and the Journal for members of the Legislative Assembly and for publication; translates speeches and statements for members of the Legislative Assembly, reports for legislative committees, and procedural and administrative material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

6. *Sergeant-at-Arms*

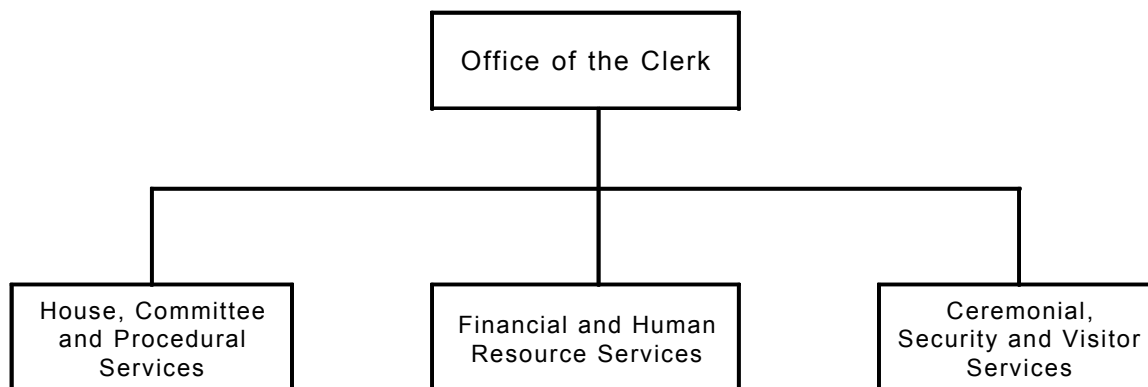
- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

7. *Program for Members*

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

Office of the Clerk

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — Donald J. Forestell



House, Committee, and Procedural Services

During 2003, the Assembly and its committees placed a heavy demand for services on all branches of the Clerk's Office. In total, the House sat for 64 days during the course of the calendar year. In addition, the committees of the House met for a total of 79 days.

In general, the number of days that the House is in session has increased to an average of 65 days each year from a previous average of 35 to 40 days per fiscal year. In addition, the activities of Legislative Committees, in terms of the number of meetings, budget and resources allocated, has increased with the appointment of Select Committees carrying out specific mandates each of the last number of years.

House Sittings and Activity

The Fifth session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly, which opened on November 19, 2002, resumed sitting on January 7, 2003. The House sat until February 21, 2003 and then adjourned until March 11. The House sat a further five weeks before adjourning on April 11, for a total of 68 sitting days during the session, 48 of which were in 2003.

The House was dissolved on May 10, 2003, and a provincial election called for June 9. At the time of dissolution the standings in the House were:

Conservatives	46
Liberals	7
NDP	1
Vacancy	1

The Conservative Party under Premier Bernard Lord was returned to power in the June election. The standings in the House following the election were:

Conservatives	28
Liberals	26
NDP	1

The Liberal Party under Leader Shawn Graham increased their representation in the House, returning a number of new and experienced Members. The Leader of the New Democratic Party, Elizabeth Weir, also retained her seat.

A new 18-member Executive Council was sworn in on June 27, 2003. Seven Members who had served as backbenchers in the previous House were promoted to Cabinet, as well as one newly elected Member.

The First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature was called into session on July 29, 2003, the Members having been administered their Oath of Allegiance in a ceremony earlier that day. As the first order of business, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly was required to preside over the election of Speaker. Accordingly, after announcing that only one candidate stood for election, pursuant to the provisions of the *Standing Rules* the Clerk declared Bev Harrison, Member for the electoral district of Hampton-Belleisle, elected Speaker of the House. As is the tradition in New Brunswick, Premier Bernard Lord and Opposition Leader Shawn Graham escorted Mr. Harrison to the dais. Mr. Harrison was first elected Speaker on July 6, 1999, and served as Speaker during the course of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly.

The Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Marilyn Trenholm Counsell, delivered a brief Speech from the Throne outlining the main purpose of the sitting, which was called primarily to deal with the issue of rising

automobile insurance rates in the province. The House dispensed with the introduction of the customary *pro forma* Bill. The government introduced instead Bill 1, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*. The effect of the legislation would be to require every insurance company doing business in the province to file rates with the Public Utilities Board, which would then review the rates to determine whether they are fair and reasonable to consumers, and to take any appropriate action as authorized under the Act.

Deputy Speakers Cy (Richard) LeBlanc, Member for the electoral district of Dieppe-Memramcook and Trevor Holder, Member for the electoral district of Saint John Portland, were appointed, on motion, and will also serve as Chairmen of the Committees of the Whole House.

Following the July 29 opening, the House sat for a total of eight days in what was a rare summer session. The close House resulted in a number of standing votes being called on various issues. During the course of the two-week session, the Speaker was called upon to give one casting vote from the Chair. Following a prolonged debate in the House and in Committee, Bill 1 was passed into law on August 8, 2003. The Official Opposition also introduced a number of Bills during the session, several of which were referred to legislative committees for review.

The House appointed eight Standing Committees and four Select Committees, including a Select Committee on Health Care and a Select Committee on Education. The Assembly also appointed a Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance, to be chaired by NDP Leader Elizabeth Weir. The Committee is charged with reviewing and identifying the most suitable form of public insurance system for New Brunswick, should the province conclude that a public system is required.

The Assembly also appointed a Select Committee on Wood Supply. The Committee will inquire into and report on the status of sustainable wood supply from Crown lands and make recommendations regarding potential legislative, regulatory or other changes that may be considered by government to improve upon the current wood supply and management system. The Committee is chaired by Kirk MacDonald.

During the Spring session, Donald Forestell, Clerk Assistant, continued his secondment as a Crown Prosecutor with the Office of Public Prosecutions.

Consequently, during the House sittings, Clerks from various other Canadian jurisdictions were invited to serve attachments at the New Brunswick Table. Visiting Table Officers included: Patricia Chaychuk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Bev Bosiak, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Neil Ferguson, Clerk Assistant, Nova Scotia House of Assembly; Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island; and Margaret (Meta) Woods, Clerk Assistant, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

On August 8, 2003, the Speaker announced to the House that Shayne Davies, who had been serving as a Clerk-at-the-Table in the Assembly, was being promoted to a Clerk Assistant, in addition to his duties as a Committee Clerk.

The House, which adjourned on August 8, 2003, resumed sitting on December 9 for a further two weeks. The main purpose of the fall sitting was to consider the 2004-2005 Capital Estimates.

Procedural Services and Research

As a result of the June election, the remaining six months of the calendar year brought an increased demand for procedural and legislative information from new Members and staff. On July 9, staff held an orientation session for new Members which focused on the administrative structure of the Legislative Assembly Office and services to Members. New Members were introduced to the staff of the Clerk's Office and other offices within the Assembly. Members were briefed on the role and services provided by each area.

On December 4 a procedural orientation session was held for Members in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Procedural staff spoke on the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly; the transaction of business in the House; the rules of procedure and participation in debate; and the process of decision making in the House.

In addition, the Office continued its regular involvement with the "Machinery of Government" seminars for Legislative staff, civil servants and executive staff members. The seminars focus on the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly in relation to the executive and judicial branches of government.

Public Education and Inter-Parliamentary Relations

Student Legislative Seminar

The 14th Annual Student Legislative Seminar was hosted by the Legislative Assembly from April 25 to 27. Speaker Harrison welcomed 55 students representing the various high schools from around the province. Students attended a reception at Old Government House hosted by Her Honour, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. During the course of the seminar, the students heard presentations from MLA Jody Carr on the role of a Private Member and from the Minister of Education, Hon. Dennis Furlong, on the role of Cabinet. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Loredana Catalli Sonier, spoke on the role of the Legislative Branch. The students were also briefed by Hon. David Walker, a Judge of the Provincial Court, on the workings of the Judicial Branch. The weekend culminated with the students participating in a model parliament held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Teacher's Workshop

Procedural staff in the Clerk's Office also participated in a workshop for provincial high school teachers. A number of teachers from around the province attended a summer workshop held in the Assembly Chamber. The teachers were briefed on the business of the Assembly, the role of Members and Cabinet Ministers, and the process of decision making in the House. The teachers participated in a mini-model parliament where issues of the day were debated through the introduction of legislation and motions.

Conference Planning

In the fall of 2003, staff of the Legislative Assembly, together with officials from the Office of the Auditor General, commenced the initial planning of the joint Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee 25th Annual Conference and the 32nd Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors Conference. The joint conference will be held in Fredericton from August 29 - 31, 2004. Delegates and their partners from across Canada are scheduled to attend and participate, including elected Members and Auditors General from all jurisdictions.

Legislative Committees

Legislative committees remained extremely active during 2003, holding a total of 79 meetings throughout the year. Eight Standing and four Select Committees were appointed during the First Sitting of the

House. In particular, two high-profile Select Committees were appointed to review and address major issues of importance to the New Brunswick economy and population. The Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance and the Select Committee on Wood Supply each held highly visible and well-attended public hearings throughout the province.

Detailed information on the mandates and schedules of the various legislative committees is now available on-line. Direct links to the major committee public hearings are available directly on the Legislative Assembly home page. The public is able to access all relevant information relating to a particular committee's meeting dates and locations. Individuals and organizations can submit briefs on-line and advise the Clerk's Office of their intention to participate in the public hearings. Overall, the past year has seen a dramatic increase in committee related communications through web-based and other electronic formats.

House and Committee Support

During 2003, Research Officer, Diane Taylor Myles, compiled the minutes of the House in the unrevised *Journal*, referred to in many jurisdictions as the Votes and Proceedings. The *Journal*, the complete, official, indexed record of House proceedings for a session, contains reference to all matters before the House including: election of Speaker, Throne Speech, Speaker's Rulings, motions, Bills, reports of Standing and Select committees and Committees of the Whole House, division votes and Royal Assent. All current sessional documents tabled in the House are noted in the *Journal*.

During the year, the research officer drafted and revised 61 Journals, daily sittings 21 through 68 of the Fifth Session of the 54th and the 16 sittings for the first session of the 55th Legislature. As well, the *Journal* for the Third Session (54th) 2000-2001 (63 daily sittings), was prepared and printed in the bound bilingual version. The Legislative Library vault houses the *Journals* of the New Brunswick Legislature beginning with the first session, 1786 through to the present day.

The Research Office tracks legislation as it progresses through the House and compiles and distributes on line a Final Status of Bills Report. Bills are of two types, public and private. Public Bills may be further divided into government and Private Members' Bills. Public Bills involve matters affecting all New

Brunswickers, while private Bills concern a specific group. Subject to certain conditions, Members may introduce either type of Bill in the House. The Status of Bills Report allows users to obtain up-to-date information on the progress of each Bill introduced. Users are able to ascertain whether a Bill has received First, Second or Third Reading, been referred to committee or received Royal Assent.

During the year, the Research Office collaborated with staff in Communications New Brunswick to design a data base which would culminate in a more easily read and printer friendly version of the on-line status of Bills. At the beginning of the 1996-1997 session, a simple html version of a status of Bills was posted to the Internet. Before that date, 500 printed copies of the status of bills were mailed out weekly during the session to other Legislatures, universities, law schools, the corporate sector, and civil servants across Canada.

The entire text of First Reading Bills are made available on-line in both html and pdf format. The data base was recently expanded to include amendments on line. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, Bills were first made available on line during the 1997-1998 session.

During 2003, the Clerk's Office prepared *Legislative Activities* for the 14th consecutive year. Begun as a 40-page pilot project in 1989, the 2002 issue grew to nearly 100 pages. Published in-house by the Queen's Printer, *Legislative Activities* continues to provide a ready reference for the multitude of legislative queries which the Clerks are called upon to answer on a daily basis.

The changes brought about by the provincial election resulted in 26 new members requiring biographical and constituency information. Biographies were kept up to date on line and the booklet *Biographies of the Members of the 55th Legislature* was prepared for publication. Similar versions were published after the elections of 1982, 1987, 1991, 1995 and 1999.

MLA online information flows from the province's GNB Infosource and culminates in the printed telephone directory. The project, initiated by CIMS and SNB continues to expand. The Research Office was involved in the preliminary planning sessions for the design and implementation of the directory. The address list for all Members in both their constituency and in their offices flows from the directory and is available in html and pdf format.

A legislative calendar in html format was expanded to include links to the orders of the day, public committee meetings and agendas. The Research Office provided research, editorial, and desktop publishing services to the Assembly. One example, the seating plan, was made available in a variety of formats: a paper copy with photographs of members for the convenience of pages, tour guides and visiting students; a small simple version for a quick name-constituency reference; a larger reverse for the convenience of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers, and an html version online for students and the public.

Technology Initiatives

During 2003, the digital recording system used by the Hansard Office for transcribing House and committee proceedings was upgraded. The system was converted from Novell to Windows 2000, and was one of the last Novell servers in government to be converted. Hard drive space was increased from 220 GB to 360 GB. The voice recorders used for converting analog voice signals to digital were upgraded with MPEG cards. Each 5 minute take is now stored in MP2 format resulting in better sound quality when transcribing. The client software was upgraded from DOS to a windows based program called Lplayer. The proprietary sounds card needed with the old system were discarded and the clients own sound card can now be incorporated.

An E Policy Orchestrator (ePO) was installed on one of the local servers. This system keeps virus software updated daily and allows better monitoring and reporting of virus activity and updates.

A review was conducted with respect to network and internet access in the Assembly Chamber and Committee Room. The existing policy permits the use of laptops in the House during Committee of the Whole proceedings only. The laptops cannot be connected to the network and cannot be used by a Member who is involved in debate. The matter was referred to the Legislative Administration Committee for review. Two proposals were put forth, one for hardwiring the Chamber and another for installing wireless technology. Various factors are being considered by the Committee, including Heritage considerations.

Activities of Standing and Select Committees

Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk — Shayne Davies

I. Introduction

Legislative Committees have existed in New Brunswick since the meeting of the first Legislative Assembly in 1786. Parliamentarians realized very early on the need to entrust some of their work to groups—or committees—made up of their own Members. Since that time, the role and importance of committees has increased dramatically, especially over the past 30 years. Much of this is due to the increase in volume of the work coming before the Legislature, the complexity of which has made it more urgent that work be delegated to committees. It is also due to the ability and experience of persons elected to public office, who have sought a more meaningful role for themselves in the legislative process. Committees also provide an avenue for elected Members to better utilize their diverse talents and abilities.

Legislative committees are an extension of the House and the makeup of a committee will generally reflect the overall distribution of seats in the Assembly. Proceedings in committee are often more informal and collegial than in the House itself, providing an atmosphere that is more conducive to collaborative thought and team work. Indeed, reports to the House are often agreed to unanimously, providing constructive recommendations that have received the support of all parties. Committees are able to carry out work that the Assembly as a whole would find difficult, if not impossible, to undertake. They are able to consult with the public on important matters in order to hear the views and suggestions of ordinary citizens. In addition, committees are able to travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from citizens in all areas of the province.

In 2003 the majority of committee activity occurred during the second half of the year. Between the first of January and the end of July only three committees met for a total of 5 days. This was a result of the Legislature being in session from the beginning of the year until April and the provincial election that followed on June 9, which caused the House to dissolve and committee work to cease until August.

The results of the provincial election saw many new Members elected to the Assembly. Consequently, staff of the Clerk's Office offered a training and orientation

session to the newly elected Members on the important role the committees play in the legislative process. Members were presented with an overview of the various types of parliamentary committees, their powers and authority, and various other aspects of the committee process.

On July 30, 2003, the House met and appointed three new Select Committees: the Select Committee on Health Care, the Select Committee on Education, and the Select Committee on Wood Supply. The Select Committees on Health Care and Education had also been appointed during the previous Legislature. In addition, eight Standing Committees of the Assembly were appointed on July 30 pursuant to the Standing Rules. On August 5, 2003, a fourth Select Committee was appointed: the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance.

In total, 79 meetings were held during the course of the year to complete the work mandated to the various committees. Two of the Legislature's Select Committees were the most active during the past year. The Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance and the Select Committee on Wood Supply held 26 and 19 meetings respectively.

The following chart presents a breakdown of the various committees and the number of days each committee met during 2003:

COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEETINGS
Crown Corporations	10
Education	2
Health Care	1
Law Amendments	2
Legislative Administration	4
Ombudsman	1
Private Bills	4
Privileges	1
Procedure	3
Public Accounts	6
Public Automobile Insurance	26
Wood Supply	19
TOTAL	79

II. Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations presented its First Report to the Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly on April 1, 2003. The report outlined the Committee's work during the years 2001-2002.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations met on August 6, 2003. Wally Stiles (Petitcodiac) was elected Chairman and Trevor Holder (Saint John Portland) was elected Vice-Chairman.

An orientation session was held for members of the Committee by the staff of the Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick on September 23, 2003. Topics of discussion included the role of the Office of the Auditor General, the annual report policy of government, and how to make use of a Crown corporation annual report.

The Committee met in the Legislative Council Chamber on September 24, 25, 26, 30, October 1, 2, and 3, 2003, to review the activities and financial statements of various provincial Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. Officials of the following Crown corporations and agencies appeared before the Committee:

Algonquin Properties Limited
Kings Landing Corporation
NB Coal Ltd. (*reviewed year ending March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003*)
New Brunswick Forest Products Commission
New Brunswick Liquor Corporation
New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation
New Brunswick Power Corporation (*reviewed year ending March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003*)
Provincial Holdings Ltd.
Regional Development Corporation
Service New Brunswick
Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick

On December 9, 2003, the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to receive and review the *2003 Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick - Volume 1*. The Auditor General briefed members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

On occasion bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly may not receive second reading, but, instead, be referred by way of motion to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for review. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation in order to receive input from interested stakeholders, groups and individuals.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Law Amendments met on August 6, 2003. Jody Carr (Oromocto-Gagetown) was elected Chairman and John Betts (Moncton Crescent) was elected Vice-Chairman.

During 2003 two bills were referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments. Bill 2, *Volunteer Protection Act*, was introduced July 30, 2003 and referred to the Committee August 1, 2003, for review. The proposed Act is intended to encourage volunteerism by protecting volunteers in certain situations from being liable for damages caused during the performance of their volunteer work. Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, was introduced August 5, 2003, and referred to the Committee August 7, 2003, for review. The proposed Act is intended to expand the scope of workers' compensation coverage to protect both professional and volunteer firefighters who develop cancer directly related to their public service. The Committee met on November 13, 2003, to begin its deliberations on both bills.

Legislative Administration Committee

The Legislative Administration Committee is responsible for administrative and financial matters concerning the Legislative Assembly and its Members and determines all policies of the House in relation thereto. The Committee is chaired by the Speaker, Hon. Bev Harrison (Hampton-Belleisle) and is composed of Members from all parties represented in the House.

The Legislative Administration Committee held 4 meetings in 2003. The Committee met on March 27, August 6, October 27 and December 18.

By motion of the House adopted June 7, 2002, the Committee was mandated to consider the advisability of introducing an *MLA Responsibility Act*, a code of conduct for Members, or some similar guideline that

would serve as an aid to MLAs in the conduct of their duties and would better inform the people of New Brunswick of the role and responsibilities of an MLA. The Committee presented its report to the Assembly on April 3, 2003, and recommended against the enactment of an *MLA Responsibility Act*, however, the Committee did recommend the adoption of a Code of Conduct and Statement on the Roles and Responsibilities of the MLAs. These recommendations were not taken into consideration by the House prior to the dissolution of the Assembly.

The Committee also considered the following matters in 2003: the structural upgrade of spiral staircase; televised election coverage in rotunda; the transfer of personnel and administrative functions of other statutory offices to the Legislative Assembly; the standardization of committee report covers; security upgrades within the precincts, the modification of the gallery guardrail to address safety concerns; the provision of internet access and power outlets at Members' desks; the relocation of Debates Translation staff to Edgecombe House and a portion of the Office of the Official Opposition to Jewett House; and the readjustment of the budget for Members' Offices as a result of the provincial election.

Standing Committee on the Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman ensures that individuals are served in a just, fair and reasonable manner by departments, agencies or organizations of the Government.

Under Standing Rule 91, all reports to the House of the Ombudsman stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman. The Committee is mandated to meet annually or as required to review the Annual Report of the Ombudsman and to consider other questions relating to the Office of the Ombudsman as they may arise. The Ombudsman is a statutory officer of the House and reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Committee.

The Committee met once in 2003. Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman met on August 6. Michael (Tanker) Malley (Miramichi-Bay du Vin) was elected Chairman and John Betts (Moncton Crescent) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Pursuant to Standing Rule 115, Private Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly are referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills after First Reading. Any person whose interests or property may be affected by a Private Bill may appear before the Committee to express their concerns.

In 2003, during the Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly, the Committee considered the following five Private Bills:

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, N.B. & P.E.I. Division Inc.*

Bill 34, *An Act to Incorporate Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.*

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Université de Moncton Act.*

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the Maritime Forest Ranger School.*

Bill 56, *Anglican Church Act, 2003*

The Committee met on January 23, 2003. In a report to the House on February 4 the Committee recommended Bill 17 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bill 17 received Royal Assent on February 21, 2003.

The Committee met on March 20, 2003. In a report to the House on March 27 the Committee recommended Bills 34, 35 and 38 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bills 34, 35, and 38 received Royal Assent on April 11, 2003.

The Committee met on April 8, 2003, and reported to the House the same day that the Committee recommended Bill 56 to the favourable consideration of the House with certain amendments. An amended Bill 56 received Royal Assent on April 11, 2003.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Private Bills met on August 6, 2003. Milton Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield) was elected Chairman and John Betts (Moncton Crescent) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Standing Committee on Privileges

Pursuant to Standing Rule 9(2), the House may, by resolution, refer a matter or question directly concerning the House, a Committee or Member to the Standing Committee on Privileges.

The Committee met once in 2003. Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Privileges met on August 7. The Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green (Fredericton-South) was elected Chairman and the Minister of Transportation, Paul Robichaud (Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Standing Committee on Procedure

Pursuant to Standing Rule 92, all Standing Rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Procedure met on August 7, 2003. The Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green (Fredericton-South) was elected Chairman and the Minister of Transportation, Paul Robichaud (Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou) was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Committee held two meetings on November 28 and December 3, 2003, and commenced a review of the *Standing Rules* and practices of the Legislative Assembly. On December 9, 2003, the Committee presented a report to the Assembly that recommended several amendments be made to the *Standing Rules*. A summary of the more noteworthy recommendations are as follows: that the Clerk of the House maintain at the Table a Register of Paired Members; that Standing Rule 35 be amended to include “Condolences and Messages of Sympathy” during Routine Proceedings provided that prior notice is given to the Speaker; that Standing Rule 41 be amended to codify the practice of allowing two supplementary questions during oral question period and to provide for a sixty second time limit on all questions and answers; that Standing Rule 44 be amended to reduce the length of speeches during Private Members’ Public Business (from 30 to 20 minutes for the proposer of an item of Private Members’ Public Business, from 20 to 15 minutes for Members speaking in reply and from 20 minutes to 10 minutes for the mover of the original motion to close

the debate); that debate on an item of Private Members’ Public Business be limited to 120 minutes, and that a rotation for the consideration of Private Members’ Public Business be established alternating between the official opposition, government, and other Members of the House; and that Standing Rule 81 be amended to allow for the Chair of the Committees of the Whole House to cast both a deliberative vote and a second or casting vote in the event of a tie.

On December 19, 2003, each recommendation contained in the Committee’s report was concurred in by the House “except for any and all recommendations amending Standing Rule 81”, which resulted in the Chair of the Committees of the Whole House retaining the original casting vote in the event of a tie.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts presented its First Report to the Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly on April 4, 2003. The report outlined the Committee’s work during the year 2002.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on August 6, 2003. Frank Branch (Nepisiguit) was elected Chairman and Milton Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Following an organizational meeting on September 30, 2003, an orientation session was held for members of the Committee by the staff of the Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick on October 9, 2003. Topics of discussion included the role of the Office of the Auditor General, the annual report policy of government, and how to make use of a departmental annual report.

The Committee met on October 10 and November 14, 2003, to review the annual reports and financial statements of the various government departments for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. Officials of the following departments appeared before the Committee:

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Supply and Services
Department of Transportation
Office of the Auditor General
Office of the Comptroller

On December 9, 2003, the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, to receive and review the *2003 Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick - Volume 1*. The Auditor General briefed members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

III. Select Committees

Select Committee on Education

The Select Committee on Education is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of education in the province and to consider other such matters and materials as may be referred by the Minister of Education.

On March 14, 2003, the Committee presented its First Report to the Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly. The report was the result of the Committee's deliberations on a Bill entitled "*An Act to Amend the Education Act*" (Bill 57), which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the Fourth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature and referred to the Committee for its consideration. Bill 57 would prohibit smoking on all school grounds in New Brunswick. Based on the input and advice received from the public consultation process, the Committee was of the opinion that tobacco use must be eliminated from all school grounds. However, the Committee did not recommend the immediate enactment of legislation, such as Bill 57. Instead, the Committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to consider the advisability of mandating District Education Councils, in consultation with school staffs, administrations, parents and student councils, to submit to the Minister of Education a smoking cessation plan that would lead to the total elimination of smoking and the use of other tobacco products on all school grounds.

Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Select Committee on Education met on August 5, 2003. John Betts (Moncton Crescent) was elected Chairman and Jody Carr (Oromocto-Gagetown) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Select Committee on Health Care

The Select Committee on Health Care is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of health care in the province and to consider other such

matters and materials as may be referred by the Minister of Health and Wellness.

The Committee met once in 2003. Following the provincial election and the appointment of the committees, the Select Committee on Health Care met on August 5. Claude Williams (Kent South) was elected Chairman and Milton Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance

The Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance was appointed on August 5, 2003, to inquire into and report to the House on the most suitable form of public insurance system for New Brunswick should the province conclude that a public system is required.

The Committee was mandated with the responsibility of inquiring into and identifying:

- 1) the most suitable model of public automobile insurance to ensure fair, affordable and accessible public automobile insurance for all New Brunswickers, including:
 - a) the type of public automobile insurance system to be recommended;
 - b) the types of coverage and benefits to be offered;
 - c) a proper risk rating system for establishing individual premiums;
 - d) the method of distribution;
 - e) the types of insurers;
- 2) the start-up costs for establishing the proposed model;
- 3) the fixed and recurring costs of operating the proposed model;
- 4) the legal and trade implications involved in setting up the proposed model;
- 5) the downstream impact of the proposed model on the legal community, the physiotherapists and other therapists, as well as on the brokers, independent adjusters, automotive repair shops and other trades or professions;
- 6) the impact on provincial finances with respect to the health services levy, premium tax, cost

recovery of the PUB and the Superintendent, and the impact on medicare;

- 7) the benefits of common inter-provincial and regional approaches; and
- 8) the creation of a basic automobile insurance policy within a public system.

The Committee met on August 7, 2003, to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Elizabeth Weir (Saint John Harbour) was elected to Chair the Committee and Wally Stiles (Petitcodiac) was elected Vice-Chair.

The Committee held an organizational meeting on September 2, 2003. Further meetings were held on September 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, October 17 and 25, to consult with senior officials from the four existing public automobile insurance corporations (B.C., Man., Que., Sask.) and with senior officials from relevant provincial government departments.

Public hearings were held around the province on October 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 30, 31, November 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13, 2003. The Committee heard approximately 100 presentations during thirteen days of public hearings held in Bathurst, Campbellton, Caraquet, Edmundston, Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton, and Saint John. The Committee also received over 100 additional written briefs. Further meetings were held on November 28 and 29, 2003. The Committee is expected to table a final report when the House resumes sitting in March, 2004.

Select Committee on Wood Supply

The Select Committee on Wood Supply was appointed July 30, 2003, to inquire into and report to the House on the status of sustainable wood supply from Crown lands in New Brunswick and to make recommendations regarding what legislative, regulatory or policy changes may be considered by government to improve upon the current wood supply and its management.

The Committee was also mandated to address the following matters:

- 1) opportunities and strategies arising from the Jaakko Pöyry Report to increase the available wood supply from Crown lands in New Brunswick; and

- 2) opportunities and strategies for the future direction of Crown land forest management.

The Committee met on August 5, 2003, to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Kirk MacDonald (Mactaquac) was elected to Chair the Committee and Wally Stiles (Petitcodiac) was elected Vice-Chair.

The Committee held meetings on October 7, 8, November 12, December 11, and 16, 2003, to develop a work plan and consult with senior officials from relevant provincial government departments. Public hearings were held around the province on November 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, December 2, 3, 4, 5, 17, and 22. The Committee heard approximately 180 presentations during thirteen days of public hearings held in Campbellton, Edmundston, Fredericton, Miramichi, Paquetville, Petitcodiac, and Saint John. The Committee also received over 240 additional written briefs. The Committee is expected to table a final report after the House resumes sitting in March, 2004.

House Statistics

54th Legislative Assembly

	<i>Second Session</i> 1999 - 2000	<i>Third Session</i> 2000 - 2001	<i>Fourth Session</i> 2001 - 2002	<i>Fifth Session</i> 2002-2003
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	65	63	71	68
Evening Sittings	18	15	17	23
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	49	62	63	50
Received Royal Assent	45	60	63	48
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	3	10	4	5
Received Royal Assent	2	7	4	5
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	2	-	1	7
Received Royal Assent	1	-	0	0
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	8	10	12	10
Number debated	6	8	6	6
Number agreed to	6	8	12	6
Number withdrawn	1	2	-	-
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	144	118	83	92
Number debated	11	5	6	4
Number agreed to	4	4	4	0
Motions for returns	130	102	53	71
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	35	32	41	35
In Committee on Estimates	-	-	-	-
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>				
	64	54	71	57
<i>Petitions</i>				
	16	16	13	16
<i>Written Questions</i>				
	0	4	3	1

Financial and Human Resource Services

Director — Peter Wolters

The Director of Finance and Human Resources is accountable for the proper and effective management of the financial and human resource support systems of the Legislative Assembly.

The provision of a high standard of support services to the Members and other branches of the Office of the Legislative Assembly is a priority and, to that end, staff attended information and training sessions such as the following:

- Courses and seminars on changes and enhancements to the Province's Human Resource Information System (HRIS) including performance management, access security and online maintenance of payroll and personnel records.
- Seminars entitled "Organizational Performance Management", "Managing Change", "New Directions in E-Commerce" and "Current Financial Issues" that covered areas such as career and succession planning, financial planning and budgeting, and current issues in the area of purchasing, accounting and auditing in governments.
- Training seminars on recent advancements in information technology affecting areas such as electronic procurement, online input and processing of financial documents, and protection of online personal information.

During the year the workload in each of the Finance and Human Resource areas was significantly increased by the June 9, 2003 general election. The election resulted in twenty-two new Members being elected, the appointment of eight new Cabinet Ministers, and the appointment of two new Deputy Speakers. Finance and human resource assistance was provided to the twenty-one Members who were not re-elected to aid in the transition from public service. In addition, finance and human resource assistance was provided to the family and estate of Progressive Conservative MLA for Riverview, Pat Crossman, who passed away December 30, 2002.

The Director of Finance and Human Resources participated in an orientation session for the Members of the Legislative Assembly following the general election. Staff provided administrative assistance and guidance to newly-elected Members with respect to their indemnities and allowances and setup and

operation of their constituency offices. A significant number of staffing and organizational changes in the Members' offices occurred as a result of the election involving commencements, transfers and terminations of employees. The number of authorized full-time equivalents in the Office of the Official Opposition was increased, along with corresponding funding, to reflect the increase in the number of elected members of the Official Opposition.

The Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administrators (CAPA) is an association for parliamentary staff responsible for providing support services in the areas of finance, human resources, technology and administration. Its mission is to provide a means for consultation and information sharing among parliamentary organizations and to foster co-operation and understanding of the unique requirements to support these organizations. The Director attended the third annual conference of this association in September 2003 to share best practices with representatives from legislatures across Canada.

During 2003 the Finance and Human Resource section continued to provide financial and human resource support to the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, and the Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing components of the Legislative Assembly, including performing certain payroll and human resource administrative responsibilities. In addition, beginning in April 2003, the Finance and Human Resource section assumed responsibility for and began providing all finance, purchasing, payroll and human resource administration support for the new Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. Training was provided to staff in all offices on ordering supplies using NBON and purchasing of goods and services, in compliance with purchasing legislation.

I. Financial Services

Overview

Financial Services include the following responsibilities:

- * Payroll and Benefits (Ministers, Members, public service and casual employees)

- Ensure timely and accurate payment of (and provision of information relating to) salaries and benefits.
- * Members' and Committee Expenses
 - Ensure timely and accurate payment of expenses based on legislation and decisions of Legislative Administration Committee.
- * Purchasing of and Payment for Goods and Services
 - Ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations of the province. Ensure all transactions are properly recorded for financial statement presentation and safeguarding of assets. Ensure proper record keeping and storage for future reference purposes.
- * Financial Analysis and Projections
 - Review financial position of Legislative Assembly and responsibility sections within the Legislative Assembly. Advise individual managers of changes in expenditure status using customized reports and specialized reports when required.
- * Budget Process
 - Coordinate the budget process, prepare the budget submission for the Legislative Administration Committee, and liaise with the related central agencies of the province of New Brunswick.

Financial Services Highlights

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003 the Legislative Assembly met budgetary objectives and maintained a reasonable level of services to the Members and staff in the program areas of Members Allowances and Committees, Office of the Legislative Assembly, and the Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties. The accompanying financial statement shows actual expenditure savings amounting to \$105,700 (or 1.04%) of the total budget of \$10,197,100 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003. This includes \$87,300 in the Members Allowances and Committees component, \$14,700 in the Office of the Legislative Assembly component and \$3,700 in the Offices of Members of Registered

Political Parties component.

The Legislative Assembly was in session a total of 100 sitting days during the 2002-2003 fiscal year in comparison to the 40-day average during the 1990s. When the House is in session, the Legislative Assembly incurs a number of additional expenditures associated with members sessional allowances and expenses, translation and interpretation services, security, page and messenger services, television broadcast and communication services and other House related services. To accommodate this significant increase, additional budget was approved for the Members Allowances and Committees component in the amount of \$175,000 to cover the expenditures associated with the additional 60 sitting days.

The retention of the budget of the Legislative Assembly for the 2003-2004 fiscal year at a level similar to the previous fiscal year provides a major challenge to maintain a reasonable level of services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly is facing significantly increased demand and expenses in the area of the safety and security of the Members, the staff, and the public, in and around the Legislative Assembly Complex. In addition, areas such as the translation, interpretation, and transcription of House proceedings, the televising and recording of House proceedings, the activities of Legislative Committees and services to Members, are all increasing in cost and activity level.

Seven months into the calendar year, the Legislative Administration Committee adopted the government wide in-year budgetary reduction, which mandated a five percent reduction in the budget for non-statutory expenditures. Meeting the expenditure reduction targets and addressing and prioritizing the pressures outlined above, while maintaining a reasonable level of services to Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly and their staff, will be a significant challenge for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

II. Human Resource Services

Overview

Human Resource Services include the following responsibilities:

* Personnel Administration

- Participate in recruitment process and ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits through maintenance of payroll and personnel records.
- Update and communicate changes in the areas of policies and benefits to all employees.

* Human Resource Development

- Facilitate staff training to enable employees to develop professionally and use their capabilities to further both organizational and individual goals.

* Personnel Policies

- Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province, Legislative Administration Committee decisions and the unique environment of the Legislative Assembly. Ensure proper communication of personnel policies to all employees.

Human Resource Service Highlights

A total of thirty-four students were employed under the Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED) program and other programs administered by the Finance and Human Resource section. These programs include the MLA SEED program, which began in 1997, under which each Member may employ a student in their constituency for a period between May and August, for work associated with the duties of a Member of the Legislative Assembly. The Finance and Human Resource section's responsibilities include coordination of the SEED program and the commencement (payroll setup and notices of hiring), payment (weekly time sheet input) and subsequent termination (removal from payroll and issuance of Record of Employment) of each of the related students. The students employed included twelve Pages for the 2003-2004 session, four Tour Guides for the 2003 tourism season, and an information technology student.

Legislation amending the *Legislative Assembly Act* was introduced and passed by the Legislative

Assembly in 2001, that provided for the annual indexation of the indemnity of Members based on the three-year average change in the "Average Weekly Earnings of New Brunswick Employees". Pursuant to this legislation, the Members of the Legislative Assembly received a 2.567 % increase in their annual indemnity and expense allowance effective January 1, 2003. Legislation was also introduced and passed amending the *Executive Council Act*, requiring a similar increase in the salaries paid to the Premier and Ministers. These increases and all the necessary adjustments were processed by the Finance and Human Resource staff.

Finance and Human Resource staff processed cost of living increases during 2003, affecting a total of seventy-one positions. Staff processed regular merit increases for employees and requests for position reclassifications, and assisted in the interviewing and hiring process for the Visitor Services Coordinator, one Parliamentary Translator, the Warehouse Supervisor (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer), four Tour Guides and twelve Pages for the Legislative Assembly. With respect to the full-time employees of the various offices of the Legislative Assembly, a total of fifteen employee commencements and three terminations, including two transfers to government departments, were processed by staff during the year.

2002-2003 Financial Summary - Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2003
(in \$ 000's)

	Budget	Actual
Members' Allowances and Committees		
Allowances to Members	6,244.3	6,134.7
Legislative Committees	185.0	207.3
Subtotal	6,429.3	6,342.0
 Office of the Legislative Assembly		
Legislative Library	381.0	377.7
Office of the Clerk	1,046.6	1,045.5
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	129.0	87.7
Hansard	444.0	441.9
Debates Translation	590.0	623.1
Subtotal	2,590.6	2,575.9
 Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties		
Office of Government Members	514.2	511.9
Office of the Official Opposition	543.0	541.6
Office of the New Democratic Member	120.0	120.0
Subtotal	1,177.2	1,173.5
 Total - Legislative Assembly	 10,197.1	 10,091.4

Staff Complement as of March 31, 2003

	Permanent	Elected	Sessional	Wages	TOTAL
General Administration	8	0	0	3	11
Finance and Human Resources	3	0	0	1	4
Security	1	0	15	4	20
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	1	0	0	0	1
Legislative Library and Research Services	7	0	0	0	7
Hansard	10	0	0	0	10
Debates Translation	9	0	0	1	10
Members	0	55	0	0	55
Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties	18	0	0	0	18
Pages and Tour Guides	0	0	12	4	16
 TOTAL	 57	 55	 27	 13	 152

Ceremonial, Security and Visitor Services

Sergeant-at-Arms — Daniel Bussières

The Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature came to a close on April 14, 2003, the 68th sitting day. On May 10, 2003, the Legislative Assembly was dissolved and the writ of election issued for June 9. For the first time, a CBC television crew set up in the rotunda to provide live coverage of the election. Final results in the House were 28 Progressive Conservatives, 26 Liberals, and 1 New Democrat.

In a ceremony held in the Assembly Chamber on June 27, 2003, Her Honour Lieutenant-Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell administered the Oath of Office to the eight new Members of the Executive Council. Newly elected Members were sworn in at a ceremony held on the morning of the Opening of the First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature. With the recall of the House set for July 29, staff hastily identified students who could serve as pages during the two-week summer session. Following the adjournment on August 8, staff turned their attention to the busy summer tourist season and the many visitors to the Legislative Assembly.

The Sergeant-at-Arms and Executive Officer Gisèle Osborne assisted with the 2003-2004 House of Commons Page Recruitment Program by conducting final interviews on behalf of the House of Commons; two New Brunswick students were selected to serve as House of Commons pages.

On April 3, 4 and 5, four Saskatchewan Legislative Interns visited the Assembly to observe proceedings in the House and to meet with the Speaker and Legislative staff.

On April 15, the NB Arts Board held its Annual Awards Ceremony in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. The recipients for 2003 were Herménégilde Chiasson, M. Travis Lane, Freeman Patterson, and Claudette Thériault.

From April 25 to April 27, the Legislative Assembly hosted the fourteenth annual Student Legislative Seminar. Throughout the weekend, students attended workshops and lectures focusing on the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. Students gained first-hand knowledge from guest speakers: Minister of Education, Hon. Dennis Furlong; Judge David Walker of the Provincial Court, Judicial District of Saint John; and Jody Carr, MLA

for Oromocto-Gagetown. Speaker Bev Harrison presided over the model Parliament as students used the information they had gained throughout the workshop to proceed through periods of oral questions and members' statements. Students entered their own debates in the House to pass or defend motions and pieces of legislation, all of which they had written themselves on topics of concern. Fifty-four students from 38 high schools throughout the province participated in this successful and popular educational initiative.

On June 22, eight recipients were honoured at the Lieutenant-Governor's Annual Literacy Awards.

On July 24, 2003, the Legislative Assembly hosted the first Legislative Seminar for Teachers. The seminar, co-sponsored by the Department of Education, allowed 21 teachers from across the province to gain a better understanding of how the Legislative Assembly functions and how it conducts its business. The ultimate goal of the seminar was to provide teachers with the necessary information to share with their classroom students.

From August 12-13, a delegation of five Members from the Scottish Parliament visited the province to gain a better understanding of the workings of government and the Legislature. During the visit, the delegation met with government and Legislative staff. Discussion focused on the parliamentary process, including legislative scrutiny.

The installation of Dr. Herménégilde Chiasson as the 29th Lieutenant-Governor of the province of New Brunswick took place in the Chamber on August 26, 2003. His Honour was born and educated in St.-Simon, New Brunswick. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the Université de Moncton, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Mount Allison University, a Master of Aesthetics from the Université de Paris (Sorbonne), a Master of Fine Arts from New York State University, and a doctorate from the Université de Paris (Sorbonne). One of the first events presided over by the new Lieutenant-Governor was the annual Girl Guides' Canada Cord Ceremony which took place in the Assembly Chamber September 27, 2003.

In late September, a legal translation team from the National Assembly of Wales visited the Legislative

Assembly as part of a Canadian visit which included a visit to the House of Commons and the Senate, and meetings with procedural staff, and members of the Canadian Association of Legal Translators. After meeting with government officials for briefings on the legislative drafting process and training, members of the team met with the Clerk of the House to discuss the functioning of a bilingual Assembly and Legislative scrutiny.

November 5 was *Take Your Kids to Work* day. As part of the day's activities, employees in the Departments of Justice, Supply and Services, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, brought their children to the Legislative Assembly for a special tour and briefing on how a Bill becomes law; 21 students participated. On November 6, Speaker Harrison conducted a tour of the Assembly for a delegation from Shenzhen province in China, and staff of the Department of Education, various schools, and Concord College. The annual Chief Scout Ceremony was held November 8. From November 12 to 13, Peter Bennison, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Tasmania, met with legislative staff. On November 19, as part of an outreach initiative of the Renaissance College, a program administered by the University of New Brunswick, students had the opportunity to meet with Members, ask questions, and make presentations.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Thursday, December 4, 2003. An estimated crowd of 300 braved the extreme cold and chills to attend. On December 15, a Queen's Counsel Appointment Ceremony took place in the Legislative Council Chamber despite a severe winter storm that forced the closure of government and private sector offices. Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson presided over the ceremony in which 11 recipients, their families and friends took part.

The number of tourists visiting the Legislative Assembly through organized bus tours decreased; however, the number of visitors for 2003 was up significantly. This change may be the result of better access control and tracking of traffic. Total traffic for the year was 21,401; of this number, 17,275 were visitors.

Visiting dignitaries included The High Commissioner of India, Her Excellency Shashi Tripathi; the Consul General of Korea, Choi Jong-moo; the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Serge April; the Ambassador to Iceland, His Excellency Hjalmar W.

Hannesson; the Consul General of the Netherlands, Albert Emile Moses; the Ambassador to Norway, His Excellency Ingvard Havnen; the Consul General of Germany, His Excellency Hartmut Scheer; and the Ambassador of Slovenia, Her Excellency Veronika Stabej. The Legislative Assembly welcomed a large delegation from the Norwegian Ministry of Defence and CFB Galetown, which included dignitaries from 25 different countries.

Security

The security of Members, staff, visitors, and Legislative Assembly assets within Parliament Square and adjoining Legislative buildings continues to be a priority. Commissionaires supported by state of the art technology continue to be on duty on a 24-hour basis and during the session plainclothes constables offer on-site protection. Since the adoption of the 2003 Threat and Risk Assessment Report by the Legislative Administration Committee, many of the report's security initiatives were implemented. Development of contingency plans, updating policies and procedures, and related training, continued.

Buildings, Furniture and Fittings

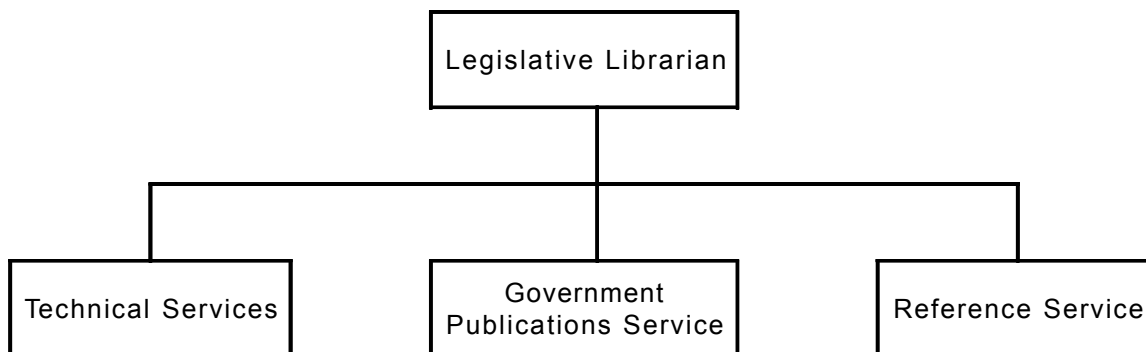
Work to upgrade the structural support of the spiral staircase commenced June 8, 2003. King Construction Ltd. was awarded the contract to do the structural upgrade made necessary due to the age of the staircase and the sagging of its support systems. Although the work was expected to be completed within a 12- to 16-week time frame, unplanned contingencies delayed completion of the work until 2004.

During the year, the Legislative Assembly retained the services of heritage consultant Nancy Reid and the engineering firm D.M. Steeves and Associates to oversee the repair and restoration of one of the Chamber's ornate brass chandeliers damaged in November 2002 during the collapse of the chandelier's lowering mechanism.

Condition reports on the chandelier's crystal and glass components and frame were prepared. Work in 2004 will focus on commissioning replacement crystals and globes and identifying companies qualified to undertake the rebuilding and restoration efforts. Work on the damaged chandelier is expected to be completed in late fall of 2004.

Legislative Library

Legislative Librarian — Margaret Pacey



Mandate

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, “The Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of departments in order that they may better serve the people of New Brunswick. The Legislative Library may acquire by gift, bequest, and loan or purchase any book, periodical, newspaper, film or any publication that may serve the members of the Legislative Assembly or the departments in the performance of their duties. The Legislative Library is designated as the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications. The Queen’s Printer shall deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by her. Subject to the government publications deposited by the Queen’s Printer, all departments shall deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by it or under its authority within thirty days after its printing.”

The Legislative Librarian and the Clerk are developing proposals for amendments to the *Legislative Library Act* to ensure that New Brunswick publishers are mandated to deposit publications with the Library. The Library’s New Brunswick Collection is the largest collection of New Brunswickana and such legislation would preserve New Brunswick’s written heritage. The Library will seek to broaden its mandate to automatically receive all online government publications. Currently each department must deposit any printed government publication and this practice will be extended to include electronic publications. The establishment of an e-repository for downloading New Brunswick government electronic

publications would enhance preservation and provide better access.

The Legislative Library receives requests for information from Members, legislative staff, the civil service and the public. All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a nonpartisan fashion. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. five days a week and 24-hour access is available through phone, fax and e-mail. When the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

Highlights

The Legislative Library hosted a very successful book launch on Thursday, October 30, 2003. Key Porter Books was approached to launch Geoffrey Stevens’ biography of Dalton Camp entitled *The Player, the life and times of Dalton Camp*. This well attended function included a reading and a question and answer period with the author. Dalton Camp loved the Legislative Library and he was a frequent visitor when in Fredericton. Following the book launch, the Legislative Librarian and Mr. Stevens attended the Dalton Camp Memorial Lecture given by Joe Schlesinger, one of Canada’s most recognized senior foreign correspondents, which was held at St. Thomas University.

The Library’s second annual wine and cheese reception for Members and staff was held December 11, 2003. More than 80 people were in attendance, including 32 of the 55 MLAs.

Library statistics indicate a significant increase in usage. The Library welcomed 8% more MLAs in 2003. There was a significant increase in the number of Reference Questions answered, up 29% from the previous year. The Library's online searches are up 29%, due in part to the increased use of online resources to respond to reference questions. There is also an increase in research-type questions as opposed to ready-reference questions. More and more of the questions take significant time to answer, the result of both the availability of quick facts on the web, and an increase in requests from government. Since regular updates have served to inform departments of library services that are available, the Library has seen an increasing number of queries of a more demanding nature. Regardless of the factors that can be attributed for this increase in use, it is a positive reversal in today's world of declining library use.

The Library invited all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to a one-on-one tutorial session. There was a very favourable response and many Members polished their web searching techniques and received tips on e-mail methods and etiquette. The sessions were tailored to each Member's prior knowledge of the Internet and varied from one to three hours in length. Kathleen Jeffries, who has a Master degree in Adult Education, was the instructor for these sessions. Each participant was also given a tour of the Library and met the Reference Librarian, Peggy Goss, to discuss services available. The objective is to continue this initiative and to include other computer applications.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and is an incredible resource. New Brunswick publishers were once again approached to donate their books to the Library. Specific authors of privately published books were also approached. A great many donors accepted the idea and, as a result, the New Brunswick Collection is expanding. The Library acquired more New Brunswick books during 2003 than in the previous year, 398 compared to 378. Of that total, 22% were donated. The Library expresses appreciation to the following individuals and publishers who donated books:

Individuals:

- Anita Boudreau
- Stephen Branch
- Astrid Brunner
- Robert G. Butler
- Denise Clavette
- Judson M. Corey
- Roger Crouse
- Norman DeMerchant
- Vaughan DeMerchant
- Deborah Doherty
- Ernie Fitzsimmons
- Wendell Fulton
- Frances Gammon
- John Glass
- David and Sandra Hamilton
- Constance Hill
- Fred Horgan
- Camille Lang
- Ross I. MacCallum
- Horace R. Macaulay
- Charles McFadden
- Stephen Palmer
- Marie Resmer
- Lucide Rioux
- Conrad Stairs
- Rudy Stoczek
- Greg West
- Richard Wilbur
- John Williamson

Publishers/Associations:

- CCAF-FCVI Inc.
- Conservation Council of New Brunswick
- Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches
- DreamCatcher Publishing
- Environment and Local Government
- Environmental Affairs
- La Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick
- The Fredericton Region Solid Waste Commission
- Goose Lane Editions
- Les Éditions La Grande Marée
- Irving Eco-Centre
- New Brunswick Museum, Archives & Research Library
- Saint John Energy
- University of New Brunswick Art Centre

The Library gratefully acknowledges a grant received through the Viscount Bennett Trust Fund which was used to purchase several rare New Brunswick publications reflecting the intellectual heritage of the province: *History of St. Andrew's Society of Saint John, N.B., Canada, 1798 to 1903*, *The Administration of criminal law in relation to insanity, The northeastern boundary of the United States* [1832], and *The St. John River in Maine, Quebec, and New Brunswick* [1894]. Without this generous grant, purchase of the titles mentioned, and other valuable New Brunswick books, would not have been possible.

The Library added several new periodicals to the collection this year: *Science & Vie*, *Walrus*, and *HERizons*. During 2003, the most utilized part of the Library's collections was the periodical collection: 2,338 periodicals were perused.



Library Assistant Tom Stillwell designed a new bookmark which was produced to give the Library more visibility.

Marketing/Outreach

The Library's two main publications *Selected Accessions List* and *Government Documents Checklist* are available on the Library's web site. Members are sent paper copies of the Selected Accessions List and approximately 10,000 New Brunswick civil servants receive e-mail versions of the document. Each version of the *Selected Accessions List* includes notes emphasizing a Library service, or some aspect of the collection, along with selections from the accessions list thought to appeal to employees of a particular department.

The *Government Documents Checklist* is no longer produced in a print format. It is on the web page under «Publications.» (<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/leglibbib/publications/publications-e.asp>).

The Library's popular *Periodical Contents* now includes a cover sheet specifying particular articles on the contents pages. This addition highlights, and therefore alerts, Members to the themes in the periodical literature.

Library Assistant Tom Stillwell designed the bookmark displayed on the left which was produced to give the Library more visibility.

The Legislative Librarian was interviewed in relation to newspaper articles and television programs on the Legislative Library. A headline in the November 4, 2003, issue of *The Telegraph Journal* stated: "New Brunswick's Legislative Library is a provincial treasure." The article recognized the Legislative Library's value and related significant detail on the Library's history and purpose.

The Library's complete four-volume set of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* was the focus of a Fredericton Heritage Trust annual meeting held at the Library June 5, 2003. Several members of the association have been doing research at the Library since this initiation.

Several displays were mounted throughout the year. One complemented the Dalton Camp book launch; another highlighted releases of books and films of the new Lieutenant-Governor, Hermenegilde Chiasson, writer, filmmaker, and artist, who was installed as the province's 29th Lieutenant-Governor August 26, 2003. Other topical displays centred around issues of the day, including automobile insurance, electricity restructuring, and aquaculture.

Initiatives

The MLA database, 1784 to the present, is in its final revision. There are more than one thousand biographies; many include a photograph of the Member. The entries for deceased MLAs are quite comprehensive; many biographical sources have been consulted. Database entries for recent and current MLAs are less of a true biography, but simply fast facts. As time goes by the entries will be updated. The database is a reflection of the dedicated work of Kevin Plummer, a graduate student in history, who was hired on a casual basis. The database is currently available in-house and will eventually appear online.

The *New Brunswick History Checklist* has been consolidated, updated and converted into a searchable database. It includes over 11,000 bibliographic records relating to the history of New Brunswick from prehistoric times to the present. References included are books, book chapters, periodical articles, and documents. This in-house online database is a wonderful complement to the Library's New Brunswick Collection. The database is currently available in-house and will eventually appear online.

Enhancements to the Library's website in the "Special Projects" section include a listing of female Members of the Legislative Assembly, with biographical notes attached. A comprehensive list of New Brunswick Government Ministers and Deputy Ministers is posted, including a list of departmental name changes. A list of past New Brunswick premiers is also posted.

In March 2003, after signing with a vendor, EBSCO, the Library obtained access to the following commercial databases *Academic Search Fulltext Elite* and *Canadian Reference Centre*. *Academic Search Elite* provides journal coverage for most academic areas of study, and *Canadian Reference Centre* is a comprehensive Canadian reference database combining magazines, news wires, reference books and company information. Subscription to EBSCO databases has proven to be satisfactory. The full text of these databases is particularly appealing and reference staff find EBSCO products easy to use. The Library maintains its subscriptions to Factiva and CEDROM.

Among the more time-consuming reference questions facilitated by the Library's electronic databases were: note taking in the Gallery, development of the

European Union, trade relations between New Brunswick and Colombia, models for gas price regulation, politics and the media, guidelines for home economics interventions in child welfare, assimilation of French language and culture, how polls influence public policy, regulations for hypnotherapists in other jurisdictions and federal applications, treatment of women in non-traditional, male-dominated careers, New Brunswick's policies on advanced nursing practices in primary health care and challenges to the *Right to Information Act* in this province and the rest of Canada.

During 2003, the Library provided research support to Standing and Select Committees at the Legislative Assembly as requested. In particular, the Library assisted the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance. Assistance was also provided to the Provincial Capital Commission Study Team, and the Commission on Legislative Democracy.

An unusually severe New Brunswick winter with a large amount of snow and the possibility of a spring flood precipitated the development of a disaster plan to protect part of the Library's collection stored in the basement of the Legislative Building.

Library Restoration

Improvements to the interior of the Library include the acquisition of several native cherry handmade stools, designed and crafted by Peter Atkinson Woodenworks. Craftsperson Michiel Oudemans produced a hand carved cherry wood sign for the Library. It features New Brunswick's Armorial Bearings and the name of the Library.

The Library continues to host rotating exhibits of New Brunswick artworks generously loaned by Gallery 78, a private local gallery.

Despite the fact that a number of repairs have been undertaken, a leaky roof continues to plague the Library. Legislative staff are working with staff from the Department of Supply and Services and the Culture and Sport Secretariat to solve the situation.

While renovations continued on the circular staircase, the main entrance to the Library remained blocked. While the House was in session, Library users had to be escorted past anterooms and media scrums. Completion of the renovations will be welcomed by all Legislative staff and Library users. The Legislative

Library contributed to a time capsule hidden in the wall of the staircase.

Space/Storage

Space continues to be at a premium at the Legislative Library. Weeding is ongoing but does not keep up with the vast numbers of acquisitions. After being formally asked to vacate the Library's largest storage facility, an alternate location became a priority for the Legislative Librarian. Supply and Services are attempting to locate space for our duplicate New Brunswick Government Documents Collection. Negotiations are underway with the Depository Services Program and the University of New Brunswick and Mount Allison University to have a joint storage facility for federal government documents. The new Lieutenant-Governor acknowledged his appreciation of the significance of the Library's collection to New Brunswick's heritage and has agreed that sections of the stored rare book collection be shelved at Old Government House.

Staffing

The Library hired three casual employees in 2003 to fill one full-time vacant position bringing the staffing complement to nine during part of the year. An across the government 5% budget cut midway through the year curtailed purchases, continuing education, and shortened casual employee work terms.

Peggy Goss continues to manage the reference functions. In addition she performs the conservation and preservation work and is training two other staff members in this area. Documents Librarian Janet McNeil continues to work several shifts at the main reference desk every week. She remains as the librarian in charge of the Government Documents Collection. Jean-Claude Arcand remains in charge of Technical Services. He assisted two students with the cataloguing of the serials collection which makes for better access to this collection. Library Assistant Kathleen Jeffries continues on the reference desk and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Government Documents Section where she uses the CODOC classification system in conjunction with HTML. Library Assistant Tom Stillwell works in Reference and in Government Documents and recently revamped the New Brunswick pamphlet file to include a new Index. Jean Weissenhorn DeLong assists the Technical Services Librarian with

cataloguing and classification. Jean is also responsible for claims and accounting. Summer student Anthony Lovesey worked part-time on the Library's web page and designed several databases. Summer student Kevin Plummer worked almost exclusively on the MLA database.

The 2003 summer students included Angela Wisniewski (her fifth summer with the Library), Sarah Richard, Mike Caverhill, Kevin Plummer, and Anthony Lovesey. Appreciation is conveyed to the Members of the Legislative Assembly who provided the work weeks necessary to hire these students.

In January 2003, the Library began a program of staff tutorials covering a variety of topics: arrangement of the collections in the Government Documents building, types of Bills and how to trace a Bill through the House, searching the MLA database, searching the online catalogue, contents of the vaults in the Departmental Building, searching the on-line *Hansard*, searching *NewsScan*, and circulation procedures. A training manual for new staff is being put together as the handouts for these sessions are gathered.

Continuing Education

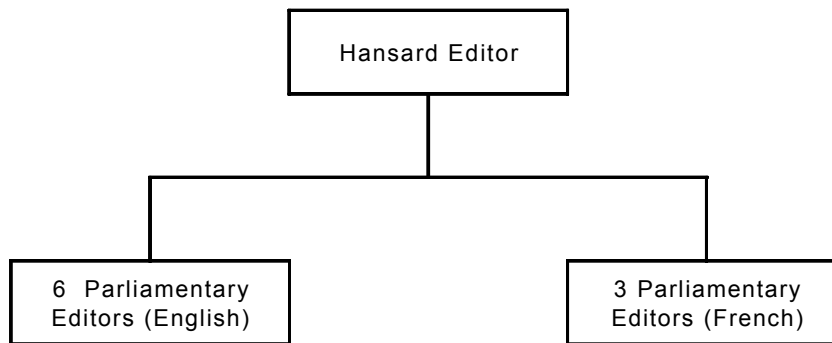
In April, Peggy Goss attended a teleconference at UNB on Reference Services. In June, Margie Pacey attended the Canadian Library Association Annual Conference in Toronto; members of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada took advantage and also met while in Toronto.

Memberships

Margie Pacey is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Special Libraries Association, Canadian Library Association and the Association of Parliamentarian Librarians in Canada. Jean-Claude Arcand is a member of and Treasurer of the Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick. He is also a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

Hansard

Hansard Editor — Susan Kennedy



Mandate

Under section 8 of the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick, “The records, journals and reports of the Legislative Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published in English and French”. This requirement is enshrined in subsection 18(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: “The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.”

More specifically, the Hansard Office records, transcribes and publishes the proceedings of the House (“Hansard”) in both official languages, with emphasis on oral questions; records, transcribes and makes available the proceedings of the standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly in the spoken word; and responds to inquiries relating to recorded proceedings.

Highlights

- One casual was hired to assist staff during the year.

House

Objective: to record, transcribe and edit House proceedings, with priority given to oral questions and requests for specific excerpts of transcripts or information.

Oral question transcripts are provided to 300 clients on a daily basis. Tables 1 and 2 provide a breakdown by party of oral questions, as well as statements by ministers and members.

During the 2002-03 fiscal year, there were 100 sitting days, with 33 night sittings. This entailed the recording, transcribing and editing of 600 hours, or 7 390 five-minute takes.

Hansard daily reports are provided to 32 subscribers. As of the end of the fiscal year, with the exception of four daily sittings, dailies for the 2000-01 session had been distributed up to Daily Sitting 57, Daily Sittings 1 to 3, 7 and 30 had been distributed for the 2001-02 session, and Daily Sittings 1, 3 and 15 had been distributed for the 2002-03 session.

Table 3 provides comparative statistics on the number of days, hours, and tapes and/or takes for the past five sessions.

Bound volumes of Hansard are published in both official languages. Hansard volumes are provided to 67 subscribers—Members of the Legislative Assembly; government departments; political party offices; legislative, university and public libraries throughout Canada; the media; and interested citizens.

During the 2002-03 fiscal year, there were 383 requests for specific excerpts of House proceedings.

Committees

Objective: to record, transcribe and edit proceedings of the standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly, with priority given to requests for specific excerpts of transcripts or information.

During the 2002-03 fiscal year, a total of 15 meetings of standing committees were recorded: Crown Corporations, 4; Crown Corporations/Public Accounts, 1; Private Bills, 5; and Public Accounts, 5. A total of 2 select committees were recorded: Private Passenger Automobile Insurance, 1; and Education, 1. These committee meetings entailed the recording, transcribing and editing of 52 hours, or 672 five-minute takes.

Table 4 shows the percentage of committee work compared to House work.

During the 2002-03 fiscal year, there were 53 requests for specific excerpts of committee proceedings.

Special Events

Hansard staff operated the sound equipment throughout the three-day Student Legislative Seminar in April 2002.

Hansard staff assisted with the business sessions of the 41st Canadian Regional Conference - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from July 17 - 20, 2002.

Cheryl Fulton attended the annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada held in Ottawa, Ontario in August 2002.

Staff

Two Parliamentary Editors were hired to fill vacant positions in 2002, Marc Poitras and Lise L'Anglais.

Lillian A. Tait
 Former Official Reporter Lillian A. Tait died June 27, 2003, in Fredericton.

She was educated at the Jacquet River Convent and, at age 17, she came to Fredericton to work at the Office of the Provincial Secretary. Later, she worked at the Legislative Assembly when the House was in session, first as a stenographer on the floor of the House, and advancing to translation and editing of Legislative Assembly Reports, and then to Assistant Official Reporter. In the mid-sixties she was appointed the Official Reporter. At the time of her appointment, the Canadian Press reported that Lillian Tait was not only the first woman Official Reporter in Canada, but the first in the British Commonwealth. She held that position until her retirement in 1978. In recognition of her accomplishments, she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977.

Table 1: Oral Questions by Caucus, 2002-03 Fiscal Year

Caucus	Questions	Minutes
Progressive Conservative Party		
Liberal Party	342	2 725
New Democratic Party	88	291
TOTAL	430	3 016

Table 3: Comparative Statistics for Sessions

	1998-99	1999 + 1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Days	40	1 + 65	63	71	68
Hours	235	1 + 376	340	396	410
		7*+			
	1 519#	4 766#	4 199#	4 826#	5119#

* Tapes
 # Takes

Table 2: Statements by Ministers and Members, 2002-03 Fiscal Year

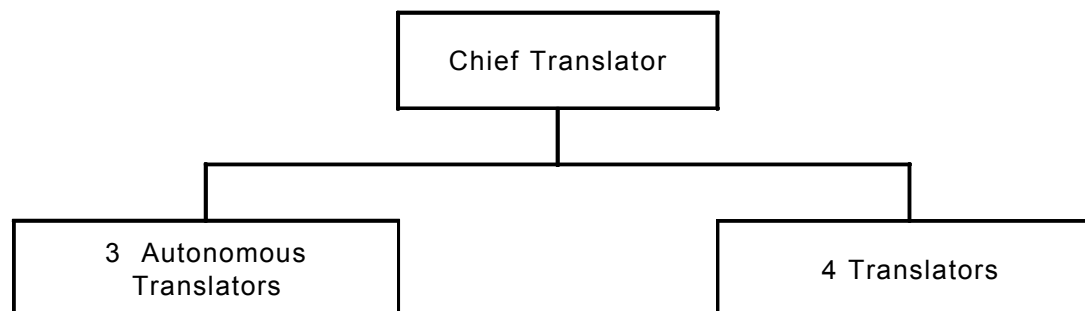
Caucus	Ministers	Members
Progressive Conservative Party	410	439
Liberal Party		460
New Democratic Party		84
TOTAL	410	983

Table 4: Takes Recorded, 2002-03 Fiscal Year

	5-Minute Takes	% of Workload
House	7 390	92
Committees / Conferences	672	8
TOTAL	8 062	100

Debates Translation

Chief Translator — Aurella Losier-Vienneau



Mandate

Under section 8 of the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick, “The records, journals and reports of the Legislative Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published in English and French”. This requirement is enshrined in subsection 18(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: “The statutes, records and journals of the legislature of New Brunswick shall be printed and published in English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative.”

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

Highlights

- During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, over 2.6 million words were translated, an increase of 21% over the previous year. Table 1 provides a breakdown.
- During the year, over 1 728 translation requests were processed, 420 more than the previous year.
- The number of daily sittings increased by 58 %, from 64 during the 2001-2002 fiscal year to 101 in 2002-2003.
- Translation of the Hansard increased by 13% over the previous year.
- In the fall of 2002, two translators resigned, one TR2 and one TR3 (autonomous translator). In late January, the TR2 position was filled from the eligibility list from a previous competition, but, due to the candidates’ lack of experience, a TR1 was hired.

- In March 2003, another competition was opened to fill the still-vacant position.
- During the year, Debates Translation was challenged by the turnover of support staff. However, the staff of translators are to be commended for their continued output of high calibre translation under difficult circumstances.

House

Objective: to translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings, as well as motions introduced in the House.

Translation of Hansard accounted for 45% of the workload. Approximately 27% of Hansard translation was into English. Table 2 provides comparative statistics on the number of words for the past five sessions.

The daily Journal represented 3% of the workload; translation is usually completed shortly after the session. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for 29% of the workload, a 48% increase over last year. The Order Paper and notices of motion receive same-day translation.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: to translate, as resources allow, statements and speeches delivered in the House by members, including Cabinet ministers and opposition members.

Translation for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for approximately 16% of the total workload.

During the 101 sitting days in the fiscal year under review, 737 translation requests were processed, representing 1 910 pages. These included the throne speech, the budget speech, as well as 656 statements and 79 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. An average speech is 11.5 pages in length. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 85% of the workload. Approximately 97% of translation was into French.

During intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members include correspondence and press releases. The Office of the Official Opposition was the largest client comprising 77% of workload. The Office of Government Members and the New Democratic Member's Office accounted for 11% and 12% of the workload respectively. Translation requests by Members of the Legislative Assembly usually receive same-day or next-day service, as resources allow.

Committees

Objective: to translate reports, agendas, and notices of meeting for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Translation for committees represented over 3% of the total workload during the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: to translate material of a procedural and administrative nature for the Speaker's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Legislative Library.

Translation for the Office of the Legislative Assembly represented 5% of the total workload in 2002-2003.

**Table 1:
Debates Translation Output,
2002-2003 Fiscal Year**

(in thousands of words)

HOUSE

Notices of Motions and Order Paper	742
Journal	75
Hansard ¹	1 168

MEMBERS

Speeches and Statements	370
Correspondence, releases	36

COMMITTEES	85
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OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	124
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TOTAL²	2 600
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¹ Includes a carryover of 1.16 million words (60% of 1998-99 Hansard, 100% of 1999 Hansard, and 8% of 1999-2000 Hansard, as well as Sittings 3 and 15 of 2002-2003 Hansard) from the previous fiscal year.

² Excludes a carryover of approximately 9.38 million words (92% of 1999-2000 Hansard, 100% of 2000-2001 Hansard, 100% of 2001-2002 Hansard, and Sittings 1 to 60 of 2002-2003 Hansard) into the next fiscal year.

**Table 2 :
Comparative Statistics for Sessions**

	1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Days	1	65	63	70	68
Words*5		2 497	2 380	2 500**	2 450**

* In thousands.

** Estimate.

Special Project

Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc

Background

When Debates Translation was established in 1977, its mandate was to translate House proceedings (“Hansard”) before the next session. This differs from other legislatures in Canada, where proceedings are usually made available within 24 to 48 hours. A translation backlog of Hansard developed in the early nineties, and the Legislative Administration Committee approved in September 1997 a strategy to address the issue. This strategy had three components.

The first component was to maintain outside funding to assist catch-up efforts. In 2002-03, for the eighth consecutive year, a translation outsourcing contribution was received under the Canada/New Brunswick General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages. The Legislative Assembly appreciates the cooperation of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and Canadian Heritage in support of its efforts to meet the objective of making documents available simultaneously in both official languages.

The second component was internal funding for outsourcing. In 2002-03, the \$100 000 added to the Debates Translation budget for outsourcing was maintained. One portion was used for a casual support staff.

The third component was designation of a senior staff member as Special Project Officer, reporting to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, to focus full-time on elimination of the translation backlog. Duties also included updating the *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* and leadership in setting standards and quality control.

The special project has three objectives.

Objective 1: Maintain the Hansard translation workflow.

Results

- In 2002-03, Hansard translation demand reached an estimated 4.0 million words, an increase of 60% over the previous fiscal year.
- In 2002-03, Hansard translation output totaled 1.2 million words, an increase of 20% over the previous fiscal year.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 2.8 million words. Over the past five fiscal years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.1 million words per year.

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

Results

- In 2002-03, on-line translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 76 months earlier than the published volumes.
- As of March 31, 2003, translation of dailies up to Day 8 (December 10, 1999) of the 1999-2000 session was posted on the network.
- Dailies up to Day 17 (January 26, 1999) of the 1998-99 session were available in bilingual dual-column format on the network. This material can be viewed, printed and is fully searchable electronically.

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

Results

- In 2002-03, the Hansard translation backlog increased by a net 2.8 million words, compared to a net increase 1.2 million words in the previous fiscal year.
- During the fiscal year, 101 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 32 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 69 sitting days, compared to an increase of 33 sitting days in the previous fiscal year.
- As of March 31, 2003, Hansard translation was trailing by 39 months (or 244 dailies), compared to 38 months (or 175 dailies) at the end of the previous fiscal year.

Quality Control

The *Parliamentary Stylebook* and the *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* were updated during the year. Both documents are available for consultation and download at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>.

Conclusion

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the 8 other parliamentary translators at Debates Translation as well as 15 professionals in the private sector, in close cooperation with staff at the Hansard Office. Efforts will continue to offer a product that not only meets high-quality standards but that is also provided on a more timely basis for members and staff of the Legislative Assembly, government departments, and New Brunswickers.

Program for Members

The function of the Program for Members is to provide legislative and administrative support for the Private Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Private Members are provided with furnished offices in the legislative complex in Fredericton.

Funding is provided for Members' support staff in their Fredericton office. Members of each political party combine this funding to obtain and share research, secretarial and receptionist personnel.

The staff of each office provides primary and secondary research support with respect to topics and issues of interest to the Members. The Office helps handle correspondence relating to Members' legislative and public duties and provides many other support functions.

Office of Government Members

This Office consists of a chief of staff, an office manager, a director of communications, a senior researcher, a researcher, two secretaries and a receptionist.

Office of the Official Opposition

This Office consists of a chief of staff, an office manager, a director of communications, a communications officer, a senior researcher, a researcher, and two secretary / receptionists.

Office of the New Democratic Member

This Office consists of an executive assistant to the Leader and a research assistant.

Publications

Debates Translation

Comeau, Georges. *Listing of Definitions in Legislation*, 1993- (on disk only) / *Recueil de définitions législatives*, 1993- (sur disquette seulement)

LeBlanc, Valmond. *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations*. [Online in PDF, regularly updated] 1979- <<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>>

LeBlanc, Valmond. *Parliamentary Stylebook*. [Online in PDF, regularly updated] 2001- <<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>> /

Sauvageau, Alain. *Parliamentary Translation Forms*, 1995- (on disk only) / *Formules pour la traduction parlementaire*, 1995- (sur disquette seulement)

Hansard

Journal of Debates (Hansard). 2000-01, Third Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly, dailies 24, 31 to 53, 57; 2001-02, Fourth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly, dailies 2, 30; 2002-03, Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly, dailies 1, 3, 15

Office of the Clerk

Legislative Activities 2002

Employee Handbook Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick 1998

Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, Fifth Session, Fifty-fourth Legislature, 2002-2003 (Unrevised, 68 issues); First

Session, Fifty-Fifth Legislature (Unrevised, 16 issues) *Order and Notice Paper*, November 19, 2002-April 11, 68 issues; July 29, 2003-December 19, 2003, 16 issues* *Orientation Manual 2003*

Seating Arrangement, First Session, 55th Legislature
*Status of Legislation Introduced during the Fifth Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly**
*Status of Legislation Introduced during the First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly**
Legislative Reports, Canadian Parliamentary Review, 2003

The Clerk's Office serves as a repository for hard copy versions of annual reports, discussion papers, committee reports, Bills, motions and documents filed in response thereto, amendments, and Journals of the House.

Legislative Library

The Development of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, 1841 - 1991

Elections in New Brunswick, 1784-1984

*Index to the Private Acts of New Brunswick, 1929-2003**

*New Brunswick Government Documents Annual Catalogue**

New Brunswick Legislative Library Handbook, 1999.

Periodicals Contents (monthly)

Selected Accessions (quarterly)*

* Available on the Internet only.

Tributes

Margaret Anderson

On December 9, 2003, Leader of the Opposition Shawn Graham paid tribute to Senator Margaret Anderson from Miramichi who passed away December 8, 2003:

Ms. Anderson was appointed to the Senate Chamber in 1978, to the senatorial division of Northumberland-Miramichi, by Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Ms. Anderson retired from the Upper Chamber in 1990.

Ms. Anderson gave freely of her time to various community organizations and served as President of the New Brunswick Women's Liberal Association from 1972 to 1976. She was a successful businessperson, working closely for years with her father in the family business in Newcastle. Her father was the late William Stafford Anderson, a former Cabinet minister in the McNair government.

Maurice Dionne

On December 9, 2003, Mr. Graham paid tribute to the memory of Maurice Dionne, a Liberal MP who died November 17. He was first elected to represent the Northumberland-Miramichi riding in 1974, and reelected in 1979, and in 1980. He served until 1984. He was reelected in 1988 and served until 1993.

His work with the Alzheimer Society and his appearance on television brought greater awareness of a disease that affects 6,600 New Brunswickers and their families. He leaves a great legacy as an educator, as an elected representative, and as an activist.

John Mooney

On April 1, 2003, Mr. Lee, MLA for Charlotte, paid tribute to former MLA John Mooney, who died March 29, 2003:

Mr. Mooney was the last Liberal to hold the provincial riding of Saint John South, now Saint John Harbour. A professional engineer with deep family roots in Saint John, Mr. Mooney served two terms as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He first went to Fredericton from 1974 to 1978, when the Liberals were in opposition, and he was reelected during the Liberal sweep of the province under Frank McKenna in 1987.

Mr. Mooney was committed to public service from a young age, when he served as President of the Saint John Young Liberals Association. He held many positions within the Liberal Party and was a candidate for the leadership in 1978.

Charles VanHorne

On December 9, Premier Bernard Lord extended condolences on the passing in August of former Conservative Party leader, MP, and MLA J.C. (Charlie) Van Horne of Campbellton:

Charlie Van Horne lent his energies to building Campbellton and the Restigouche region, to help make it prosper. This unique man worked hard to promote the province and to create a brighter economic outlook for the Restigouche area.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1950s and 60s, Charlie lobbied government to build a bridge to connect Campbellton with the Québec communities across the Restigouche River. That bridge is known to all as the J.C. Van Horne interprovincial bridge.

[Translation]

As tourism minister under the late premier Richard Hatfield, he was instrumental in developing several initiatives in the province, including Sugarloaf ski hill in Atholville. [Translation]

As a politician, Charlie Van Horne left a legacy of boldness in the face of adversity. He was never afraid of challenging complacency and standing alone if that was necessary to what he believed was right.

William James Woodroffe

On September 30, Premier Lord noted the passing of former PC Member and Speaker, William Woodroffe:

Bill Woodroffe had a long career in public life, beginning on the Parish Council for Simonds Parish in 1965, and later on Saint John Common Council after amalgamation. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1967 and served as Member for Saint John-Fundy for three terms. He was elected Speaker of the Legislature in March 1973 and served until he retired in 1978.

