



Legislative Activities



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

2004

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, 2005.

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 sixteenth annual report
of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2004.

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

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick and the Committees of the Assembly sat a record number of days in 2004.

The First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature, which opened July 29, 2003—several weeks after a provincial election—and sat during August and again during December, resumed March 30, 2004, with the presentation of the budget by Finance Minister Jeannot Volpé. The House continued until adjournment on June 30, 2004, and was officially prorogued on Thursday, December 2, 2004, after sitting a total of 62 days. The first session spanned an 18-month period.

In late February, Rogers Cable informed the Assembly that it would no longer broadcast coverage of Legislative proceedings on Rogers Television and Télévision Rogers' community channels effective March 30, 2004, in order to remain in compliance with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission regulations. Rogers Television continued to televise proceedings for archival, webcast and closed circuit telecast purposes. The Assembly is working with Communications New Brunswick to determine the cost of launching a dedicated parliamentary channel and of operating its own broadcasting system. A report is expected early in 2005.

During the session, the House spent 35 days scrutinizing departmental estimates during Committee of Supply, considered a number of government and private members' public bills, and received two final select committee reports.

The Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature opened on Thursday, December 2, 2004, instead of on the traditional Tuesday and remained in session until December 17, 2004. During the 10-day sitting, the House approved a legislative schedule, considered capital estimates, recommended the appointment of a new Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and received a report of the Law Amendments Committee concerning a proposed Bill that would restrict certain breeds of dogs.

During the adjournment of the House, committees maintained hectic schedules; committees met on 89 days during the 2004 calendar year.

A number of important initiatives were commenced or completed during the 2004 calendar year.

From April 30, 2004, to May 2, 2004, the Legislative Assembly hosted the Fifteenth Annual Student Legislative Seminar. Fifty-five students representing 33 high schools throughout the province attended the three-day seminar which focused on the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. For the first time in the Seminar's history the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, formally opened the Model Parliament by reading a Speech from the Throne which outlined the initiatives of the young parliamentarians.

The Assembly hosts the yearly seminar with the funding assistance from the Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations and the federal ministry of Canadian Heritage under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages. Funding received under this Agreement also assists with the translation backlog of the proceedings of the House. During the seminar, a diverse group of young people from across the province work together in an atmosphere of learning and friendship, while acquiring a more meaningful knowledge of the provincial system of government.

After the adjournment of the House on June 30, 2004, staff focused efforts on three important initiatives.

Restoration Master Plan

An engineering firm was retained to prepare a comprehensive master plan to identify the necessary work to restore, preserve and maintain the Main Legislative Building for the next 20 years.

In recent years, preservation and restoration priorities were established in an ad hoc fashion to correct maintenance or safety concerns; but they were not part of any stated long-term strategy of planned restoration, maintenance or preservation. The Comprehensive Master Plan will assist the Legislative Assembly in assigning priority to elements of a planned implementation program of conservation, maintenance and restoration work.

The Main Legislative Building, the Departmental Building and the Old Education Building and grounds enclosed by Queen Street, St. John Street, King Street and Secretary Lane were designated a "protected historic site" in 2000.

Spiral Staircase

The structural upgrade of the Legislature's spiral staircase was completed February 27, 2004, when it reopened for use. The primary objective was to upgrade the strength of the staircase to meet loading requirements mandated by current building codes. Work commenced on June 10, 2003, the day after the provincial general election, and was completed five months behind schedule.

Chandelier Repair and Restoration

Work continued on the repair and restoration of the historic chandeliers. In October 2004, after requests for proposals (RFPs) were issued to companies qualified to undertake the specialized restoration work, the contract was awarded to Acu-Bright Inc., of East Kingston, New Hampshire. The proposal from Acu-Bright addressed the terms of reference of the RFP and demonstrated technical expertise, knowledge, and appreciation of the heritage aspects of the specialized restoration work. The time frame for completion of the repairs is March 31, 2005.

Through the summer months and early fall, the Legislative Assembly's Information Technology Coordinator collaborated with the province's Corporate Information Management Services (CIMS) to research the technology necessary to install a wireless network in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and the Legislative Council.

By the time the Second Session opened December 2, 2004, special software installed on Members' laptops provided access to the Government of New Brunswick's resources and to secure transmission of information through a wireless network in the Chamber and in the Legislative Council Chamber (committee room); however, testing and final configurations for the committee room were delayed while the repair and restoration of the ceilings on the second floor of the Legislative Building continued.

From August 28 to 31, 2004, the Legislative Assembly and the Office of the Auditor General hosted the Joint Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee and the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors. Delegates from provincial, territorial and federal jurisdictions, including Bermuda, attended the three-day conference.

In 2004, the Legislative Administration Committee accepted a proposal from Quebec National Assembly

Speaker Michel Bissonnet and Members of the National Assembly for the establishment of a Québec-New Brunswick Parliamentary Association. It was the unanimous decision of the Committee that such an association would strengthen the close ties and bonds of friendship that already exist between Québec and New Brunswick and would provide a regular forum for meetings between Members of the two Assemblies.

The agreement establishing the new Association was officially signed in Québec City on September 1 at the commencement of the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The first meeting of the new Association was held in Québec City from October 17 - 20, 2004. On the occasion of this inaugural meeting, the proceedings were suspended and a special ceremony was held in the Chamber of the National Assembly on October 19 to commemorate the Royal Proclamation designating July 28 of every year "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval."

To mark the occasion, the New Brunswick and Acadian flags were flown on top of the National Assembly Building. Among the MLAs present were Cy LeBlanc (Dieppe-Memramcook), Ronald Ouellette (Grand Falls Region), Claude Williams (Kent South), John Betts (Moncton Crescent) and Eugene McGinley (Grand Lake). Among the topics discussed during the two-day meeting were: tourism as a regional economic development engine; the e-government project (one-stop centres, online services, consolidation of phone inquiry services); automobile insurance, interprovincial trade and cross-border labour mobility; cross border highway safety issues (Route 185); and the education system (early intervention). Cy LeBlanc has been designated president of the new association and Ronald Ouellette vice-president. The meetings of the association will be held yearly and alternate between the two provinces.

In October, 2004, a section of ceiling plaster estimated to weigh 200 kilograms crashed to the floor in the foyer of the Departmental Building in an area frequently used for press conferences. A structural assessment by an engineering firm was undertaken to assess the condition of the ceilings in the Legislative Council Chamber and in the second floor offices in the Main Legislative Building which had developed significant cracks during the winter months. The report flagged serious structural issues within the

Building and possible safety implications for Members, staff and the public. All committee meetings were rescheduled to meet in the Assembly Chamber to allow for the necessary repairs to be made.

The Speaker, Hon. Bev Harrison, gave welcoming remarks to MLAs and guests in attendance at a ceremony held in the rotunda of the Legislative Building on September 30, 2004, to mark the presentation and unveiling of the official portrait of former Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell. The portrait by renowned Acadian artist Claude Picard features Senator Trenholme Counsell seated in the Library of Old Government House.

A by-election was held October 4, 2004, in the electoral district of Shediac–Cap-Pelé, a seat vacated by the resignation of Bernard Richard in November of 2003. The successful candidate, Victor E. Boudreau (Liberal) was sworn in October 27 and presented in the House on December 2, 2004, restoring the standings in the House to 28 Progressive Conservatives, 26 Liberals and 1 New Democrat.

In 2004, the Office of the Clerk was recommended by the Co-operative Education Program Faculty of Administration, University of New Brunswick, to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. The Certificate of Appreciation was presented at the 2004 Business Awards Dinner held November 4, 2004. In attendance to accept the award were Clerk Assistant Shayne Davies and Director of Finance and Human Resources Peter Wolters.

On December 17, the Assembly adopted its first sessional calendar setting out the sitting days of the House for the balance of the Second Session. The resolution was supported by both opposition parties. In accordance with the calendar the House will sit for three-week periods, then adjourn for one week. The House will sit for three weeks in January, resume on March 30, and sit until June 10, 2005.

Nine new employees joined the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office in 2004: Denis Caissie (Hansard Office); Tom Stillwell (Legislative Library); Jack Carr and Ryan Donaghy (Office of the Government Members); Louise Goguen-Kelly, Marie-Andrée Bolduc, Érik Denis and Jan Rowinski (Office of the Official Opposition); and Marie-Anne Bourque-Pollack (New Democratic Party Member's Office.)



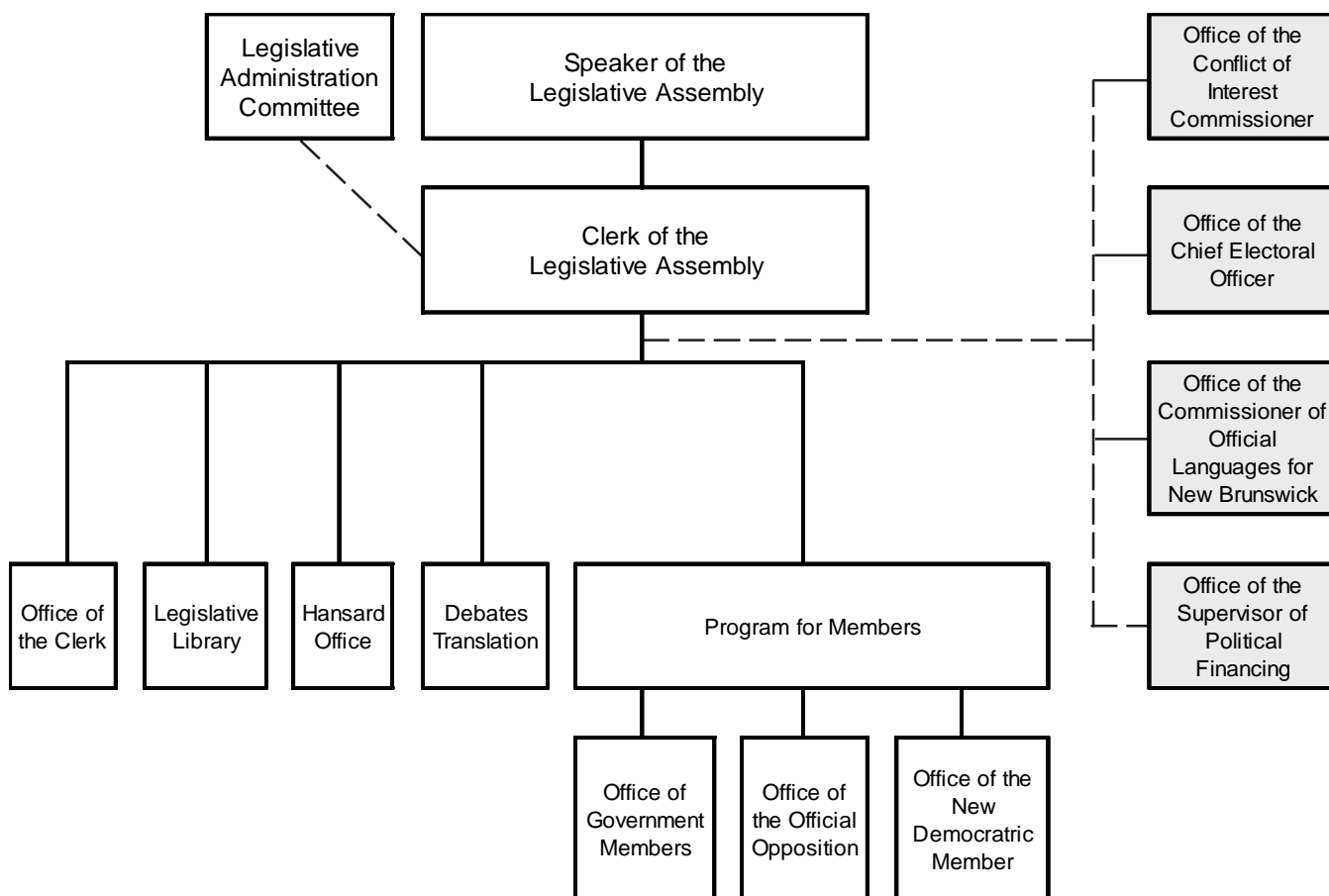
Left to right: Hon. Bev Harrison, Speaker; Hon. Marilyn Trenholm Counsell, Senator and former Lieutenant-Governor; her son Giles Counsell; His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor; and artist Claude Picard, at the unveiling of the official portrait of the former Lieutenant-Governor.
Photo courtesy of Harry Mullin

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.
6. To provide administrative, financial, and human resources to certain statutory offices reporting to 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.
- Provides administrative, financial and human resource support to the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick, and Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing.

3. *Legislative Library*

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

4. *Hansard Office*

- 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*

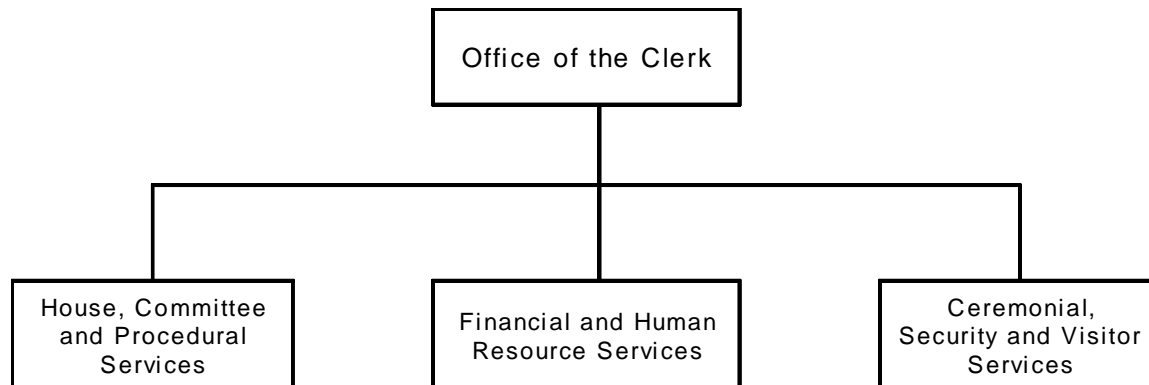
- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

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

The Legislative Assembly maintained a busy schedule in 2004. The House sat for a total of 56 days during the course of the calendar year. In addition, legislative committees met for a total of 89 days. This continues a trend over the past number of years which has seen an increased workload both within the House and in committees.

The First Session of the 55th Legislature, which adjourned on December 19, 2003, resumed sitting on March 30 for presentation of the 2004-2005 budget. The House adjourned on April 23 following a four-week sitting and resumed sitting on May 4, 2004. The House then continued sitting until adjournment on June 30.

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. The *Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly* were subsequently amended in accordance with the Committee's recommendations. The revised Standing Rules stipulate that a Member asking a question may speak for no more than sixty seconds and that a Minister's reply shall not exceed sixty seconds. The year 2004 marked the first full year that the House operated under the revised rules. The Speaker of the House was diligent in enforcing the new rules, resulting in a significant increase in the number of questions asked.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Procedure, the rules relating

to Private Members' Public Business were also amended. Debate on an item of Private Members' Public Business is now limited to two hours to ensure that Members are given the opportunity to introduce and debate issues of immediate concern. Nine motions were debated during the first session of the 55th Legislature, an increase of five over the previous session. In addition, 25 Private Members' Public Bills were introduced during the First Session, a significant increase over the 7 introduced during the previous session.

The most significant increase, however, was in the number of petitions presented in the House. During the First Session of the 55th Legislature, 48 petitions were presented on the floor of the House, tripling the number introduced during the previous session.

During the spring sitting and for the first time in recent history, Members made use of a Pairing Book, maintained at the Table in accordance with an earlier recommendation of the Standing Committee on Procedure. Pairing is an arrangement whereby two Members on opposite sides of the House agree not to vote for a specific period of time. This arrangement, which permits Members to be absent on other business, is worked out either by the respective whips or by the Members themselves.

The Second Session of the 55th Legislature opened on Thursday, December 2, 2004. Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson, who was appointed the Province's 29th Lieutenant-Governor in August of 2003, delivered his first Speech from the Throne. The

House adjourned on December 17 following a 10 day fall-sitting. Standings in the House at year-end were: 28 Progressive Conservatives, 26 Liberals and 1 New Democrat.

Legislative Committees

Legislative committees remained active during 2004, holding a total of 89 meetings throughout the year. In addition to the eight Standing Committees appointed pursuant to the Standing Rules, four Select Committees were appointed during the First Sitting of the 55th Legislature. Two of these Select Committees tabled their final reports during 2004. The Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance, chaired by Elizabeth Weir, MLA for Saint John Harbour, tabled its final report on April 2, 2004. The Select Committee on Wood Supply, chaired by Kirk MacDonald, MLA for Mactaquac, tabled its final report on September 15, 2004.

Due in part to scheduling conflicts and to repairs being made to the ceiling of the Legislative Council Chamber during the latter part of 2004, a number of committee meetings were held on the floor of the House itself. Of particular significance, the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations held four days of high-profile hearings in March to review issues surrounding the agreement with Venezuela to secure a supply of Orimulsion at the Coleson Cove Generating Station in Saint John. Numerous witnesses were called to appear before the Committee on the floor of the historic chamber. Committee members sat at the Members desks on either side of the floor, with the Committee Chair and Committee Clerk sitting at the Clerk's table. Witnesses appeared at a table set up specifically for this purpose opposite the Chairperson, with the media sitting at the bar of the House. The public and other attendees were seated in the gallery.

Over the past number of years there has been a dramatic increase in committee-related communications through web-based and other electronic formats. The public is now able to access online all relevant information relating to a particular committee's meeting dates, locations and agendas. Individuals and organizations can submit briefs online and advise the Clerk's Office of their intention to participate in the public hearings. The majority of communications and briefs submitted for committee hearings are now received electronically. Specialized Select Committees and related public hearings have

meant the creation of individualized Web sites customized to the needs of a particular committee.

Inter-Parliamentary Relations

The Legislative Assembly acted as host of the 25th Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees. The conference was held jointly with the 32nd Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors. The joint conference was held at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton from August 29 - 31. Over 130 delegates and guests attended, representing every province and territory as well as the island country of Bermuda. Clerk's Office staff worked in conjunction with staff from the Office of the Auditor General in planning and hosting the conference. The business sessions touched on various topics of interest to legislators, including health care accountability, the implementation of generally accepted accounting principles, and public performance reporting.

The 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference (CPA) was held in Ottawa, Quebec City and Toronto from August 29 to September 9, 2004. The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, opened the Conference on September 3 at the Château Frontenac in Quebec City. The Speakers of the House of Commons, the Senate and the provincial and territorial legislatures of Canada, acted as the hosts of the conference. The conference was attended by over 500 delegates and observers representing the more than 165 national, state, provincial and territorial parliaments which make up the Association. The membership of the CPA consists of over 15,000 parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

Two Clerk's Office staff served as Liaison Officers during the conference. Research Officer Diane Taylor Myles and the Administrative Assistant to the Speaker, Janet Trail, served with several others from the various legislatures across Canada. The Liaison Officers acted as the direct link with the Conference Secretariat staff. Their duties included providing information and details on ground transportation and excursions, facilitation of arrivals to and departures from Canada, accompanying delegations to all sites, providing accurate information on changes to the

program and other logistical details, assisting in the execution of various events, and numerous other tasks as required to ensure the success of the conference and the enjoyment of the delegates and guests attending.

The Office of the Clerk was involved in the organizing of the Quebec-New Brunswick Parliamentary Association, whose inaugural meeting was held in Quebec City in October. The association was formed with the aim of strengthening the close ties and bonds of friendship that already exist between Quebec and New Brunswick and for providing a regular forum for meetings between members of the two assemblies. Among the topics discussed during the initial two-day meeting were: tourism as a regional economic development engine; the e-government project (one-stop centres, online services, consolidation of phone inquiry services); automobile insurance; interprovincial trade and cross-border labour mobility; and cross-border highway safety issues.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians held a regional reunion in Fredericton from October 17 to October 19, 2004. The Association is made up of former Members of the House of Commons and the Senate and was established to put the knowledge and experience of its members at the service of parliamentary democracy in Canada and elsewhere. The Office of the Clerk hosted a reception for the former parliamentarians on October 18 in the Speaker's Lounge. The event was well attended by former Members and Senators from across the region.

During 2004 the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly met with the Speaker and Clerk of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly with respect to the reorganization of services being undertaken in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Clerk provided detailed briefings on the role and services offered by the Office of the Clerk in the New Brunswick Assembly and on the organization and administration of the various offices that make up the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk also provided written briefings to assist the Nova Scotia Assembly as they made the transition to a full-time Clerk of the Legislature and the resulting consolidation of services within the Office of the Clerk.

Educational

The Office of the Clerk organized the Fifteenth Annual Student Legislative Seminar, held from April 30 - May 2 in Fredericton. Fifty-two students representing the various provincial high schools attended. The Students were welcomed to the Assembly by Speaker Harrison who took an active part in the activities. Numerous workshops and lectures were held during the course of the weekend, focusing on the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. Guest speakers included Hon. David Walker, a Judge of the Provincial Court; Hon. Bernard Lord, Premier; Shawn Graham, Leader of the Opposition; and Kirk MacDonald, MLA for Mactaquac. The seminar concluded with the students participating in a spirited model parliament on the floor of the Legislative Assembly's historic chamber.

As in past years, the Office participated in "Machinery of Government" seminars for Legislative staff, civil servants and executive staff members. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly spoke on the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly in relation to the executive and judicial branches of government.

Clerk's Office staff prepared and submitted a detailed legislative report to each quarterly addition of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The *Canadian Parliamentary Review* is the Journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian Region. Each legislative report details the most current happenings in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick and its committees, and refers to procedural or other matters which may be of interest to legislators.

The Clerks Assistant attended the 2004 Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The Seminar, hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, was held in Iqaluit during the first week of August. The conference was attended by procedural clerks from every province and territory, as well as from the United Kingdom and Australia. Representatives from the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries were also in attendance.

Technology Initiatives

Live Webcast

In March, the Legislative Assembly, in consultation with Communications New Brunswick, began to live-webcast Legislative committees. This enabled internet users around the province and beyond to listen to live audio proceedings of legislative committees. The Assembly's Web site contains an online legislative calendar listing the dates of scheduled committee hearings and noting those which will be webcast live. The following are some statistics on internet connections to the committee webcasts in March:

Public Accounts

Tuesday, March 23 — 354 connections

Wednesday, March 24 — 261 connections

Crown Corporations

Thursday, March 25 — 1,699 connections

Friday, March 26 — 6,399 connections

Saturday, March 27 — 813 connections

Televised Proceedings

Effective March 30, Question Period became the only part of the Assembly's proceedings available to the public through the local community programming channel. However, the daily Question Period was not carried live but televised at 4 p.m. each day that the Legislature was in session. The Legislative Assembly continued to examine the feasibility of launching an independent provincial legislature television service, available to both cable and satellite television distributors. This service would provide coverage of legislative proceedings from prayers to daily adjournment, and would also include committee proceedings. In the interim, live webcast of House proceedings (video and audio) continues to be available on the Assembly's Web site.

Wireless Network

In the spring of 2004 a request was put forward that would allow Members of the Legislative Assembly to access network resources while in the Assembly Chamber or Committee Room (Legislative Council Chamber). After consultation from many sources it was determined that a wireless network should be installed. This would result in the least amount of physical change to both rooms as there would be no requirement for network cables. The network in the Chamber was put in place during the year and was ready for use by the opening of the Second Session. Final configurations were delayed in the Committee

room due to structural work being undertaken. It is expected that Members will be able to utilize the wireless network in the Council Chamber by early in the new year. The wireless networks have been set up as untrusted networks, and therefore reside outside the government's firewalls. Therefore, MLAs using the networks must have Remote Access Certificates (VPN/Entrust) software installed on their laptops to give them access to GNB resources and to secure transmission of information through the wireless network.

Procedural Services and Research

In early October, procedural staff met with Victor Boudreau, the Member for Shediac–Cap-Pelé, who was elected in a by-election held on October 4, 2004. The Member was briefed 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. Mr. Boudreau was the only new Member elected since the general election of 2003.

During the course of the year, Table Officers met with new staff of the various party offices and provided briefings on the various aspects of House business and procedure. Staff continued to work in consultation with Parliamentary House Leaders, Members and their staff throughout the year to provide impartial and confidential advice with respect to parliamentary rules and procedure.

Procedurally, the Clerks-at-the-Table were kept very busy during the course of the House sittings. Due in large part to the closeness of the numbers in the House, the Table Officers were called upon regularly to provide procedural advice to the Speaker, Members and Parliamentary House Leaders, as well as staff within the various party offices. Procedural staff met with the Speaker on a regular basis during the course of the session, providing guidance and advice with respect to the application of the Standing Rules and established parliamentary practice within the House. Procedural staff carried out detailed research as required, providing confidential and impartial advice to Members and staff.

In the late 1990s, the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada (CATS) established an electronic system whereby Clerks from the various jurisdictions within Canada could post a procedural question or other inquiry relating to the functioning or operations

of their respective parliament. This enabled procedural staff from the House of Commons, the Senate, and every provincial and territorial legislature to either post or respond to questions relating to parliamentary procedure or other matters relating to the functioning of the House and its committees. The CATS system, as it is referred to, serves as an invaluable tool to procedural staff, allowing staff to quickly canvass other jurisdictions on matters which may arise in the House or in the day-to-day operations of the Assembly.

In 2002 the CATS system was expanded in scope to include parliaments in the United Kingdom and Australia. In 2004, the procedural clerks gave detailed responses to more than 60 inquires posted to the CATS system. In addition, the Clerks posted numerous inquiries and received responses relating to various matters which arose in the New Brunswick Assembly. The CATS Web site is administered by the Clerk's Office of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Staff compiled and maintained complete records of both House and committee proceedings. All House proceedings, decisions and transactions are compiled 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 the Throne Speech, Budget, Bills, motions, division votes, Speaker's Rulings and Royal Assent. All current sessional documents tabled in the House are noted in the Journal. The Journals are available online beginning with the First Session of the 53rd Legislative Assembly in October 1995.

Clerk's Office staff prepared the booklet *Biographies of the Members of the 55th Legislature* which contains the biographical and constituency information for each Member of the Legislative Assembly. In addition to being published in hard copy, the booklet is now available on the Legislature's Web site at

http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/2004e_bios.pdf.

The biographies of Members are updated on a day to day basis online and changes to Members physical and postal addresses are ongoing.

Appointments

On December 14, 2004, the Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the appointment of Ronald Godin as the first Consumer Advocate for Insurance under the *Consumer Advocate for Insurance Act*. The Act came into effect January 1, 2005, and established the Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance. The Consumer Advocate is an officer of the Legislative Assembly and has the following responsibilities under the Act:

(a) *to examine the underwriting practices and guidelines of insurers, brokers and agents, and report the use of any prohibited underwriting practices to the Superintendent;*

(b) *to conduct investigations in relation to insurers, brokers and agents concerning*

(i) *the premiums charged for contracts of insurance, and*

(ii) *the availability of contracts of insurance;*

(c) *to respond to requests for information with respect to insurance;*

(d) *to develop and conduct educational programmes with respect to insurance for the purpose of educating consumers; and*

(e) *to carry out tasks or investigations in relation to insurance matters or the insurance industry as directed by the Legislative Assembly.*

The new Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance will be established in the city of Bathurst which is in the northeastern region of the province; costs associated with the Office will be charged back to the insurance industry. The Consumer Advocate will report directly to the Legislature. Financial administration of the Office will be administered through the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

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 committees made up of their own Members. Since that time, the role and importance of committees has increased dramatically, especially over the past 35 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 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 cooperation. 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.

Following the provincial election in 2003, the Legislative Assembly appointed 8 Standing Committees, which exist for the life of a Legislature, and 4 Select Committees, which generally exist until the presentation of their final report to the Assembly. In 2004 the majority of the Standing and Select Committees were active, with a total of 89 meetings held during the year. In particular, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations were busy reviewing annual reports, public accounts, and other matters referred to their respective Committees. As for the Legislature's Select Committees, both the Select

Committee on Public Automobile Insurance and the Select Committee on Wood Supply were able to table their final reports in the Legislature before the year end.

The following chart presents a breakdown of the various committees and the number of days each committee met during 2004:

COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEETINGS
Crown Corporations	22
Education	0
Health Care	3
Law Amendments	10
Legislative Administration	8
Ombudsman	0
Private Bills	4
Privileges	0
Procedure	0
Public Accounts	19
Public Automobile Insurance	6
Wood Supply	17
TOTAL	89

II. Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, chaired by Wally Stiles (Petitcodiac), remained active with a total of 22 committee meetings held during 2004.

Officials of the province's eight regional health authorities appeared before the Committee during February and March. The Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and other senior officials from each health authority appeared before the Committee to account for their activities and spending during the two previous fiscal years (year ending March 31, 2002 and 2003).

The Committee met with the health authorities as follows:

February 3	Regional Health Authority 1 (South-East)
February 4	Regional Health Authority 3
February 5	Regional Health Authority 2
February 10	Regional Health Authority 4
February 12	Regional Health Authority 1 (Beauséjour)
March 16	Regional Health Authority 7

March 17 Regional Health Authority 5
March 17 Regional Health Authority 6

The Committee also met during this period to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003: Atlantic Lottery Corporation; Lotteries Commission of New Brunswick; New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation; and New Brunswick Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities.

The Committee held four days of public hearings in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on March 25, 26, 27, and 29, to review issues surrounding the agreement between NB Power and Venezuelan oil companies to secure a supply of Orimulsion for the Coleson Cove Generating Station near Saint John. The Committee was charged with examining whether there were any failures in the decision making process that led to the alleged breach of this agreement by the oil companies involved. The Committee heard from 13 individuals, including present and former officials of NB Power, the Department of Energy and other government departments. The Committee has reviewed the transcripts from over 40 hours of testimony and is expected to report back to the House with a summary of the testimony in 2005.

The Committee met again on October 13, 22, 27, 28, November 2, 3, 4, and 5, to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003, and in certain circumstances, the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004:

Algonquin Properties Limited
Atlantic Lottery Corporation
Forest Protection Limited
Kings Landing Corporation
New Brunswick Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation
New Brunswick Crop Insurance Commission
New Brunswick Farm Products Commission
New Brunswick Forest Products Commission
New Brunswick Highway Corporation
New Brunswick Liquor Corporation
New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation
New Brunswick Museum
New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council
Provincial Holdings Ltd.

Regional Development Corporation
Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation
Commission of New Brunswick

On November 5 the Committee was also briefed by the Auditor General on chapter 6 of the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 1, 2003* entitled "Crown Agency Governance". On December 14 the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 2, 2004*. 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

The Standing Committee on Law Amendments is chaired by Jody Carr (Oromocto-Gagetown). 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.

During 2004 three bills were referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments. Bill 55, *Restricted Dogs Act*, was introduced by Kelly Lamrock (Fredericton - Fort Nashwaak) on May 28, during the First Session of the 55th Legislature, and referred to the Committee on June 8 for review. The Bill would make several changes to the law regarding certain breeds of dogs, namely, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Rottweilers, and Akitas. The Bill requires owners to have a licence for these dogs, and to carry liability insurance to cover damages caused by them. As well, the Bill holds owners strictly responsible for any injuries caused by these dogs, and requires owners to maintain control of them both on and off their property. The Bill also allows for the seizure of these dogs in specific circumstances.

The Committee held public hearings on Bill 55 on November 16 and 17 in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and a total of 203 written submissions were received by the Committee. In a report to the Legislature on December 16 the Committee recommended that breed specific legislation such as

Bill 55 not be proceeded with, but rather, that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to consider the advisability of developing province-wide dangerous dog legislation that does not focus on specific breeds of dogs, but rather focuses on education, prevention, responsible dog ownership and commitment to enforcement.

Bill 77, *Pay Equity Act*, was introduced by Elizabeth Weir (Saint John Harbour) on June 25, during the First Session of the 55th Legislature, and referred to the Committee on June 29 for review. The Bill sets out a framework for resolving the differences in the payment of wages to men and women in predominantly female work occupations. The Bill applies to both private and public sector employees and would require that employers take proactive measures to achieve pay equity in the work place. As well, the Bill proposes the establishment of a Pay Equity Commission to help promote and achieve pay equity in the province.

The Committee held public hearings on Bill 77 on November 18, 19, and 26, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and a total of 49 written submissions were received by the Committee. The Committee is expected to report its findings on the Bill in 2005.

Bill 16, *Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund Act*, was introduced by Opposition Leader Shawn Graham (Kent) on December 14, during the Second Session of the 55th Legislature, and referred to the Committee on December 17 for review. The Bill attempts to protect the benefits provided by a provincially registered private pension plan. The Bill requires private sector companies to make payments to a Guarantee Fund. If shortfalls arise in a pension fund, the Guarantee Fund would ensure payment for a portion of an employee's pension benefits. The Committee is expected to begin deliberations on the Bill in 2005.

Legislative Administration Committee

The Legislative Administration Committee is chaired by the Speaker, Hon. Bev Harrison (Hampton-Belleisle) and, pursuant to the Standing Rules, is composed of the following additional Members: two Cabinet Ministers, two Deputy Speakers, two government private members, two opposition members, and one member from a registered political party not already represented on the Committee.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 104(2), the Committee is responsible for the administration and operation of the Legislative Buildings and grounds and such other lands, buildings and facilities connected with the Legislative Assembly and generally for all matters relating to the Legislative Assembly and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Committee reviews and approves the budget for the Legislative Assembly, including the budgets of the caucus offices; determines and regulates the pay and other terms and conditions of employment of officers and employees in the Office of the Legislative Assembly; establishes allowances in respect of expenses for Members' extra duties and committee meetings; establishes rules and directives in respect to allowances, disbursements and other payments to Members; issues directives in respect to caucus allowances; and establishes financial policy for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee also considers any matter necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly. In 2004, the Committee reviewed the 2004-2005 budget estimates for the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick. In accordance with the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the Speaker defended the estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the estimates of the reporting statutory officers (Auditor General, Ombudsman, etc.) before the Committee of Supply.

During 2004, the Committee held eight meetings on the following dates: February 11, 17, March 19, April 8, June 15, October 12, November 23, and December 10. Among the matters considered by the Committee were: security initiatives within the legislative precincts; broadcast of legislative proceedings; parking for Members; legislative drafting services, translation services and language training for Members; custodial and commissionaire services; amendments to the *Legislative Assembly Act*, the *Members' Pension Act* and the *Members' Superannuation Act*; repair and restoration of chandeliers; Hansard transcription and editing policies; establishment of a Quebec-New Brunswick Parliamentary Association; digitization of tapes of

legislative proceedings; installation of a wireless network in Assembly Chamber and committee room; public accounts presentation format; blues project for Hansard Transcription; rules for the operation of Members' constituency offices; budget estimates; committee budgets; and staffing and personnel issues.

Standing Committee on the Ombudsman

The Standing Committee on the Ombudsman is chaired by Michael (Tanker) Malley (Miramichi-Bay du Vin). Pursuant to Standing Rule 91, all reports to the House of the Ombudsman stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is a statutory officer of the House and reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Committee. 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. 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 Committee did not meet in 2004.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

The Standing Committee on Private Bills is chaired by Milton Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield). 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 2004 the Committee considered the following seven Private Bills:

Bill 40, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Association of Medical Radiation Technologists.*

Bill 41, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists.*

Bill 48, *An Act to Incorporate Firecrest Hambro Trust Corporation Canada Limited.*

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Moncton Act.*

Bill 54, *An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Society of Cardiology Technologists.*

Bill 57, *Optometry Act, 2004.*

Bill 62, *Embalmers, Funeral Directors and Funeral Providers Act.*

The Committee met on May 4 and in a report on May 7 the Committee recommended Bill 40 to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments, and Bill 41 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bills 40 and 41 received Royal Assent on May 28.

The Committee met again on May 18 and in a report on May 20 the Committee reported progress on Bill 48 and recommended Bill 49 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bill 49 received Royal Assent on May 28.

The Committee met again on June 8 and in a report on June 9 the Committee recommended Bill 48 to the favourable consideration of the House and Bill 54 to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments. Bills 48 and 54 received Royal Assent on June 30.

Finally, the Committee met on June 22 and in a report on June 23 the Committee recommended Bill 57 to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments, and Bill 62 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bills 57 and 62 received Royal Assent on June 30.

Standing Committee on Privileges

The Standing Committee on Privileges is chaired by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green (Fredericton-South). 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 did not meet in 2004.

Standing Committee on Procedure

The Standing Committee on Procedure is chaired by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Green (Fredericton-South). 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. The Committee did not meet in 2004.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by Frank Branch (Nepisiquit), remained active with a total of 19 committee meetings held during 2004.

The Committee met on January 6 and 7 to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002:

Department of Business New Brunswick
Department of Justice
Department of Tourism and Parks
Office of Human Resources

The Committee met again on January 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, March 23, 24, September 28, 29, 30, October 8, 26, and November 9, to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003:

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat
Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Culture and Sport Secretariat
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture
Department of Business New Brunswick
Department of Education
Department of the Environment and Local Government
Department of Family and Community Services
Department of Finance
Department of Health and Wellness
Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations
Department of Justice
Department of Natural Resources and Energy
Department of Public Safety
Department of Supply and Services
Department of Tourism and Parks
Department of Training and Employment Development
Department of Transportation
Executive Council Office
Labour and Employment Board
Legislative Assembly
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
New Brunswick Police Commission
Office of the Auditor General
Office of the Comptroller
Office of Human Resources
Office of the Premier
Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
Youth Council of New Brunswick

On October 26 the Committee was also briefed by the Auditor General on the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 1, 2004* entitled "New Brunswick Salmon Aquaculture". On December 14 the Committee met in a special joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, Volume 2, 2004*. 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 chaired by John Betts (Moncton Crescent). The Committee 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. The Committee did not meet in 2004.

Select Committee on Health Care

The Select Committee on Health Care is chaired by Claude Williams (Kent South). The Committee 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 on February 19, November 12, and December 1, to discuss various health issues. As a result, the Committee decided to hold public hearings to take place in early 2005 on the *Health Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act* (Bill 60 introduced during the 5th Session of the 54th Legislature). The Committee is expected to report its findings on the Bill in 2005.

Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance

On April 2 the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance, chaired by NDP Leader Elizabeth Weir (Saint John Harbour), tabled its final report. The report was based on the public hearings held around the province in 2003. The Committee was asked to look at the various public automobile insurance systems in Canada and identify the most suitable model of public automobile insurance to

ensure fair, accessible and affordable automobile insurance for all New Brunswickers, in the event a decision is made to move to a public system.

Among other things, the Report recommended a made-in-New Brunswick model of public automobile insurance that offers extensive coverage at an affordable rate for all drivers. The model contained the following characteristics:

1. no reference to age, gender, marital status, territory, payment history or lapses in insurance to determine insurance costs;
2. rates to be determined by driving record, vehicle usage, vehicle make and model, and optional coverage purchased;
3. oversight of the public utilities board for mandatory and optional insurance rates;
4. pure, no-fault injury benefits with no option to sue;
5. drivers licences to continue to be sold by Service New Brunswick;
6. vehicle registration and insurance sold through brokers and agents at a 7% commission;
7. mandatory vehicle coverage, additional injury and income replacement benefits, third-party liability coverage and collision, theft and comprehensive to be sold by the Crown corporation through private sector agents and brokers;
8. additional injury and income replacement benefits and third-party liability coverage to be sold by private insurers in competition with the Crown corporation.

The Committee ceased to exist upon the tabling of its final report in the Legislature.

Select Committee on Wood Supply

On September 15 the Select Committee on Wood Supply, chaired by Kirk MacDonald (Mactaquac), tabled its final report. The report contains 25 recommendations relating to wood supply in the province and other matters pertaining to the management of the forests of New Brunswick.

Following the input received through a series of public hearings in 2003, the Committee deliberated over

several months in 2004. The Committee examined the Crown forest management system and the many complex issues related to the current wood supply situation. This was a continuation of the process that began with the *Jaakko Pöyry* study examining the possibility of doubling the softwood supply of New Brunswick. The Committee did not endorse the *Jaakko Pöyry* strategy as a “go forward” one, but instead recommended a more holistic approach, meaning, managing for a forest of greater diversity, thereby creating greater benefits for the stakeholders over the long term.

The final report recommended continued participation of the public through the adoption of a formal consultation process. It recommended the establishment of a Provincial Advisory Committee, giving representatives from various stakeholder groups an opportunity to routinely provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources. The Committee also recommended the establishment of specific wood supply objectives, with a silviculture fund devoted to support the management needed to meet those objectives. These recommendations responded to issues of considerable significance to the forest industry, and signified the Committee’s recognition that such commitments are essential to generate more stability and greater assurance about the province’s commitment to a vibrant forestry future.

The Committee ceased to exist upon the tabling of its final report in the Legislature.

House Statistics

	54th Legislature			55th Legislature
	<i>Third Session</i> 2000 - 2001	<i>Fourth Session</i> 2001 - 2002	<i>Fifth Session</i> 2002 - 2003	<i>First Session</i> 2003 - 2004
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	63	71	68	62
Evening Sittings	15	17	23	3
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	62	63	50	50
Received Royal Assent	60	63	48	48
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	10	4	5	7
Received Royal Assent	7	4	5	7
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	-	1	7	25
Received Royal Assent	-	0	0	2
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	10	12	10	18
Number debated	8	6	6	8
Number agreed to	8	12	6	17
Number withdrawn	2	-	-	-
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	118	83	92	107
Number debated	5	6	4	9
Number agreed to	4	4	0	5
Motions for returns	102	53	71	83
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	32	41	35	35
In Committee on Estimates	-	-	-	-
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>				
	54	71	57	62
<i>Petitions</i>				
	16	13	16	48
<i>Written Questions</i>				
	4	3	1	25

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 streamlining the electronic reporting and reconciliation process and enhancing the privacy of personnel information.
- Seminars entitled "Internal Auditing in a Public Sector Environment", "Protecting our Financial Future", "Cyber Crime, Identity Theft and Privacy Related Issues" and "Restructuring in the Provincial Government: The Challenges", that covered areas such as current issues in the area of purchasing, accounting and auditing in governments, protection of personnel information and financial planning and budgeting.
- Training seminars on recent advancements in information technology affecting areas such as electronic procurement, online input and processing of financial documents, and electronic spending and payment authorization.

The Finance and Human Resource section continued to provide financial and human resource administration support to the following statutory officers reporting to the Legislative Assembly: Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. In late December, discussions were initiated with the Clerk's Office for the provision of administrative, financial and human resource support to the new Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance in New Brunswick, to be established January 1, 2005 with the proclamation of the *Consumer Advocate for Insurance Act*. Since 1999 the Finance and Human resource

section has assumed responsibility for providing administrative, financial and human resources support to five of the seven statutory officers reporting to the Assembly.

The Finance and Human Resource section continued to implement technology related changes and improvements to facilitate the purchase of goods and the payments to vendors for goods and services. During 2004, a new asset inventory management database was developed and implemented to facilitate the monitoring and management of furniture and office equipment in the various branches of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The office also implemented the necessary changes to receive payroll reports in electronic format only. The change from paper to electronic format will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the payroll process.

The Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administrators (CAPA) was created for parliamentary staff responsible for providing support services in the areas of finance, human resources, technology and administration. The Association's 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 fourth annual CAPA conference in September 2004 to share best practices with representatives from legislatures across Canada.

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 the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the 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 and liaise with the related central agencies of the province of New Brunswick.

Financial Services Highlights

The Legislative Administration Committee supported an in-year budgetary reduction, implemented in the rest of the government, which mandated a five percent reduction in budget for all non-statutory expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004. The accompanying financial statement shows actual expenditure savings amounting to \$54,100 on a total budget of \$10,734,300, after adjusting for the five percent reduction. This includes \$21,300 in the program, Members Allowances and Committees component, \$5,200 in the program, Office of the Legislative Assembly component and \$27,600 in the program, Leaders of Registered Political Parties.

The House was in session a total of 26 sitting days during the 2003-2004 fiscal year, in comparison to 100 sitting days in 2002-2003. The reduction in the number of sitting days, which reflects the fact that an election occurred during the 2003-2004 fiscal year, allowed the Legislative Assembly Office to achieve the in-year budgetary reduction.

An additional budget of \$882,983 was approved for the program, Members Allowances and Committees.

Cost increases relating to the operations of the Standing and Select Committees of the House, and in particular the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance and the Select Committee on Wood Supply, accounted for \$682,900 of the increased funding requirements. Changes in the composition of the House (increase in the number of opposition MLAs) required the relocation of a number of opposition members and staff within the Legislative Assembly complex. The resulting move and technology and security related improvements accounted for the remainder of the increased funding. Additional funding in the amount of \$424,950 was also approved to increase the operating budgets for the Office of Government Members, the Office of the Official Opposition and the Office of the New Democratic Member.

The budgetary process for the Legislative Assembly's 2004-2005 fiscal year provided yet another challenge to maintain a reasonable level of services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff. The Legislative Assembly faces increased demands and expectations and recurring costs relating to safety and security of the Legislative Assembly Complex and the provision of support services to certain statutory offices. In addition, costs have increased in such areas as translation and interpretation, Hansard transcription, recording and webcast of House proceedings, committee activities and generally, services to Members.

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

The Director received a certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Clerk's Office for its support of cooperative education programs at the University of New Brunswick. The Finance and Human Resources section has utilized students from the Business Administration program since 1995, hiring three students per year for four-month work terms each; this increased to four students during 2004 to include one student to assist while one regular employee was on leave. The students have been a valuable asset in meeting the ever increasing demands and responsibilities of the Finance and Human Resources section. More recently a student in the Bachelor of Computer Science program has been employed to assist the IT coordinator in meeting the increasing needs of the Legislative Assembly, its members and staff.

A total of forty-nine students and other individuals were employed under the Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED) program and other programs administered by the Finance and Human Resource section. Responsibilities included coordination of the employment programs 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 employees. The students employed included fourteen Pages for the 2003-2004 and the 2004-2005 sessions, four Tour Guides for the 2004 tourism season, and an information technology student.

In accordance with amendments to the *Legislative Assembly Act* passed 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",

staff processed a 2.5% increase in the annual indemnity and expense allowance of Members effective January 1, 2004. Similar amendments were passed to the *Executive Council Act*, requiring a similar adjustment in the salary paid to the Premier and Ministers. The increases for MLAs and ministers and all the necessary adjustments were processed by Finance and Human Resources staff.

Finance and Human Resource staff processed cost of living increases 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 a Legislative Library Assistant, four Tour Guides and fourteen Pages for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. With respect to the full-time employees of the Legislative Assembly, a total of ten employee commencements and five terminations, including one retirement and two transfers to government departments, were processed by staff during the year. A significant number of applications to purchase pensionable service have been processed on behalf of Assembly employees as a result of changes to the *Public Service Superannuation Act* relating to eligible periods of government service that may qualify as pensionable under the Act.

Financial Summary — Legislative Assembly

For the Year Ended March 31, 2004

(in \$ 000's)

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances and Committees</i>		
Allowances to Members	5,797.9	5,887.3
Legislative Committees	858.8	748.1
Subtotal	6,656.7	6,635.4
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	369.5	363.5
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1,014.6	1,034.2
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	124.5	103.2
Hansard Office	430.4	425.7
Debates Translation	571.9	579.1
Subtotal	2,510.9	2,505.7
<i>Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	534.7	520.7
Office of the Official Opposition	894.1	890.5
Office of the New Democratic Member	137.9	127.9
Subtotal	1,566.7	1,539.1
<i>Total - Legislative Assembly</i>	10,734.3	10,680.2

Human Resources Summary — Legislative Assembly

	Permanent	Elected	Sessional	Wages	Co-op Students
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	4	0	0	0	0
General Administration	2	0	0	3	0
Finance and Human Resources	3	0	0	0	1
Technology	1	0	0	0	1
Sergeant-at-Arms / Security	1	0	14	4	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</i>					
Commissioner	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Legislative Library and Research Services</i>					
Legislative Library	7	0	0	0	0
Hansard Office	10	0	0	0	0
Debates Translation	9	0	0	1	0
Office of Government Members	8	0	0	0	0
Office of the Official Opposition	14	0	0	0	0
New Democratic Member's Office	2	0	0	0	0
Pages and Tour Guides (students)	0	0	12	4	0
Members	0	55	0	0	0
TOTAL	64	55	26	14	2

Ceremonial, Security and Visitor Services

Sergeant-at-Arms — Daniel Bussières

The First Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature resumed March 30, 2004, and continued until prorogation December 2.

Twenty-seven students and eight teachers from eight schools involved in the Falls Brook Centre program visited the Assembly on April 7. The students, who were familiar with the legislative process, were treated to a tour by the Speaker Bev Harrison who led a discussion on environmental challenges, children's rights and responsibilities, and the structure of government.

The New Brunswick Arts Board Excellence Awards were presented at a ceremony in the Chamber on April 20. The recipients for 2004 were Fredericton musician Richard Hornsby; Halifax dancer Diane Moore, originally of Moncton; Edmundston painter Claude Picard, and Caraquet arts administrator Martine Thériault.

Approximately 50 students from across the province participated in the Sixteenth Annual Student Legislative Seminar from April 30 to May 2. The weekend combined a busy business program with social activities and culminated with a Model Parliament.

Guest Speakers included Provincial Court Judge David Walker, Judicial District of Saint John; Premier Bernard Lord; Official Opposition Leader Shawn Graham, and Mactaquac MLA Kirk MacDonald.

On May 5, the Assembly welcomed the "The Wee Ones," a group of young entrepreneurs/ambassadors from the Miramichi area, who were promoting multicultural pride in New Brunswick. Included in the group were Ryley Allison (age 10), Sydney Allison (age 8), and Hailey Allison (age 6), in Irish, Scotch, and Acadian dress.

On May 21 the Assembly received 95 Chinese students from nine provincial high schools who were participating in the Beijing Concord College of Sino-Canada Program offered through UNB, a program that integrates Chinese exchange students in New Brunswick high schools and Canadian students in Chinese high schools.

On May 30, 2004, the Chamber was the location of the provincial Investiture Ceremony of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Priory of Canada, St. John Council for New Brunswick. The pageantry of the Investiture into the Order dates back to the Crusades. Her Majesty the



View of the Legislature's spiral staircase from above. Photo courtesy of Harry Mullin.

Queen, Sovereign Head of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, gives royal sanction for admission and promotion of individuals in the Order. She is represented in New Brunswick by His Honour, the Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson, KstJ, Lieutenant-Governor and Vice Prior, who presided over the Investiture Ceremony.

From June 24 to 27, the Legislature hosted a delegation of German parliamentarians on a study tour with the Partnership of Parliaments, a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization whose goals are to provide new contacts for its members, to promote transatlantic dialogue, and to improve relations in the fields of politics, economy, and culture. The delegates took in the festivities marking the 400th Anniversary of the Landing of Samuel de Champlain on St. Croix Island.

The New Brunswick Cancer Society's "Run for the Cure" was launched from the Legislature's steps on September 14 and drew a large crowd. A number of Ministers and MLAs participated in the event.

A ceremony was held on September 30 to unveil the official portrait of former Lieutenant-Governor and now Senator, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell. The portrait was completed by renowned New Brunswick artist Claude Picard who also painted the official portraits of Lieutenants-Governor Hédard Robichaud and Gilbert Finn.

The provincial chapter of the Girl Guides of Canada held its Canada Cord Ceremony in the Chamber on October 2. Parents and friends filled the public galleries as a total of 49 girls were honoured during the ceremony presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Legislative staff received a delegation of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians on October 18. After holding a founding meeting, delegates were guided through a tour of the Legislature and attended a reception hosted by the Clerks-at-the-Table.

Victor Boudreau (Liberal, Shédiac–Cap-Pelé), who was elected in an October 4, 2004, by-election to represent the constituency of Shédiac–Cap-Pelé, was sworn in at a ceremony held October 22, 2004. The Oath of Office was administered by the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson.

November 3 was *Take Your Kids to Work* day. Government departments including Justice, Supply

and Services, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, arranged for children of employees to participate in a special tour of the Assembly. The students from each of these departments had specific areas of interest; for example, those from the Department of Justice were interested in the legislative process and how a Bill becomes law, while those from the Department of Supply and Services focussed on the structural upgrade and restoration work carried out on the spiral staircase.

The Second Session opened Thursday, December 2 as Members of the Assembly, guests, and officials of the House witnessed the traditional symbolic ceremony in the Legislative Chamber.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held Friday, December 3, when a crowd of 600 came out to enjoy the evening. The Fredericton Schoolgirl Choir and the First Wesleyan Singers provided the entertainment. The Fredericton Schoolgirl Choir last performed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony in 1997. The choir gave a rendition of *A Holly Jolly Holiday* and *Le Sommet de l'enfant Jésus*. This was the first time that the First Wesleyan Singers performed at the ceremony. Singing from the front of the Legislative Assembly steps, the choir encouraged everyone to sing along to *The Sleigh Ride*, *Come on Ring those Bells*, *Winter Wonderland*, *White Christmas*, and *Christmas*, by Eddie Arnold. A total of 4,500 new energy efficient LED lights decorated the 33-foot tree, which was donated by Ralph Bull of Woodstock. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor led the countdown to the time of the official lighting and the lights were turned on by Sara Penney and Andrea Lutes of Fredericton.

Eleven New Brunswick lawyers were awarded the distinction of Queen's Counsel in a ceremony held in the Chamber on December 6. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Justice, Hon. J. Ernest Drapeau, participated in the ceremony which honoured Gerald McMackin, Lewis Ayles, William Corby, Ronald LeBlanc, Yassin Choukry, Denise LeBlanc, Maria Henheffer, Richard Bell, Lise Deschênes, Euclide LeBouthillier, and Jeffrey Mockler.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor presided on December 11 when 37 Chief Scout Awards and two Queen's Venturer Awards were given out at the Annual Chief Scout Ceremony .

Visiting dignitaries included His Excellency Youcef Yousfi, Algerian Ambassador to Canada; His Excellency Paul Cellucci, American Ambassador to Canada; the Consul General of the United States of America in Halifax, Mr. Leonard Hill; His Excellency Philippe Guelluy, French Ambassador to Canada; Monsieur Michel Freymüth, Consul General of France in Moncton; His Excellency Hartmut Scheer, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany; His Excellency Jacques Van Hellenberg Hubar, Consul General and His Excellency Albert E. Moses, the Consul General of The Netherlands, His Excellency Dr. Alvaro Moerzinger, Ambassador of Uruguay; His Excellency Choi Jong-Moo, Consul General of the Republic of Korea; and His Excellency Daniel Jouanneau, Ambassador of France in Canada.

Among the many delegations visiting in 2004, was a delegation from the *Mission du Conseil Général du Nord* which signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with New Brunswick to promote exchanges in various sectors of activity. Other delegations included that of the Consul Général de France, Thailand, Kenya, and the Partnership of Parliaments from Germany.

During 2004, there were 18,378 visitors to the Legislative Assembly. Of this number of visitors, 3,564 represented large group tours which took place in June and July.

Security

In July of 2004, the Sergeant-at-Arms attended the Commonwealth Serjeant at Arms Professional Development Conference held in London, England, and hosted by Sir Michael Cummins, Serjeant at Arms of the House of Commons, at the Palace of Westminster.

Forty delegates from Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures participated and contributed significantly in both plenary sessions and workshops which covered topics such as “How to review security arrangements,” “ceremonial event management and VIP visits,” “visitor management” and “information systems for the Serjeant-at-Arms”.

Two highly regarded speakers captured the delegates full attention on the subject of terrorism. Sir David Veness, Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations with the Metropolitan Police provided a United Kingdom threat perspective and how it influences security at sites such as Parliament.

Paul Wilkinson, Professor of International Relations and Chairman of the Centre for the study of terrorism and political violence at the University of St. Andrews shared his perspective on global terrorist threats and best practices to mitigate potential impact.

The conference was deemed a complete success and delegates acquired the knowledge and skills to appropriately balance providing safety and security while ensuring minimum inconvenience to public access to Parliaments and Legislatures.

Buildings

Work to upgrade the structural support of the Legislature’s spiral commenced June 8, 2003. Located in the rear of the main entrance to the Legislative Assembly Building, the wood-framed free-standing staircase was constructed in the 1880s. Over time, it developed a significant lean and was considered a structural risk.

The legislature’s circular staircase ascends to two stories. The treads and risers are made of pine, while the curved wooden handrail consists of ash with tongue-and-groove wainscotting on the inside of the stair and ash panelling with cherry mouldings on the exterior wall. The newel, or centre pillar, the most decorative component of the stair, repeats the ash and cherry theme in a grand Romanesque setting (Roman style) with engraved columns, egg-and-dart detailing and flower motifs. Stairwells of its time were built to give a majestic and stately appearance to important buildings. Master craftspeople would design and build a spiral staircase to display their artistic and constructive abilities.

The restoration project at the legislature was publicly tendered and construction was awarded to King Construction Limited of Fredericton. A work permit was granted under the *Historic Sites Protection Act* with the acknowledgement that particular attention would to be given to ensure the renovations preserved the original aesthetic of the staircase.

“This was an exciting and very interesting project,” said Keith Thompson, structural engineer for Eastern Designers and Company Ltd. in Fredericton. “The primary objective was to upgrade the strength of the staircase so that it could safely support the loading requirements mandated by current building codes. The challenge was to do so without altering the appearance of the staircase in any way.”

Thompson explained the work was accomplished by hiding eight rigid steel columns between the interior plastered surface of the stairwell and the exterior stone walls that form the octagonal shape of the tower. Steel beams were extended from these columns within the thickness of the stair stringers to support the staircase and the ornate curved wood handrail. Once the plaster was restored on the walls and the underside of the staircase by Quality Plastering Ltd., all the steel reinforcements were hidden from view and the staircase was restored to its original appearance.

In beginning their work, one of the first challenges the engineers faced was to determine how the staircase functioned for more than a century. There were many possible load carrying mechanisms that would explain how the staircase worked. However, none of these would provide the assurance and safety required by modern engineering practices. The engineers decided to take a closer look.

“The original construction drawings contained no details on the staircase,” Thompson said. “Therefore, it was necessary to cut away some of the architectural covering at the initial stages of the design in order to ensure the new steel members would work with the existing load carrying element of the staircase.”

The second challenge was to design a steel system small enough to fit inside the existing finishes, yet rigid enough to support today’s design loads. Once the system was designed, the next challenge was to actually get it in place.

Dynex Manufacturing Limited of Fredericton was the steel fabricator and sub-contractor in charge of the actual installation and fastening of the steel members to the wood staircase and surrounding walls.

“The Dynex designers, detailers and erection crew were very creative in developing methods to slip steel members, weighing hundreds of pounds, through small openings and then fasten these members to the wood with very limited room to work,” Thompson said.

Working with dry, century-old wood presented another challenge. For example, great care had to be taken in levelling the stairs so as not to disturb the overall structure or cause it damage.

“This was particularly true in trying to determine how much of the existing sag in the staircase could be corrected before the wood in the staircase would

crack,” Thompson said. “The combined knowledge and expertise of all the partners on the project helped to determine how high to jack up the staircase. The end result is that, while the staircase is not perfectly level, the slope on the treads is much less noticeable and the delicate woodwork was not damaged in the jacking process.”

The impressive staircase, made of ash, cherry, walnut and pine, was reopened for use on February 27, 2004. Originally built in 1882, the historical integrity, beauty, and artistry of the original design by architect J.C. Dumaresq remains.

At the same time, the work ensures that current structural standards are met.

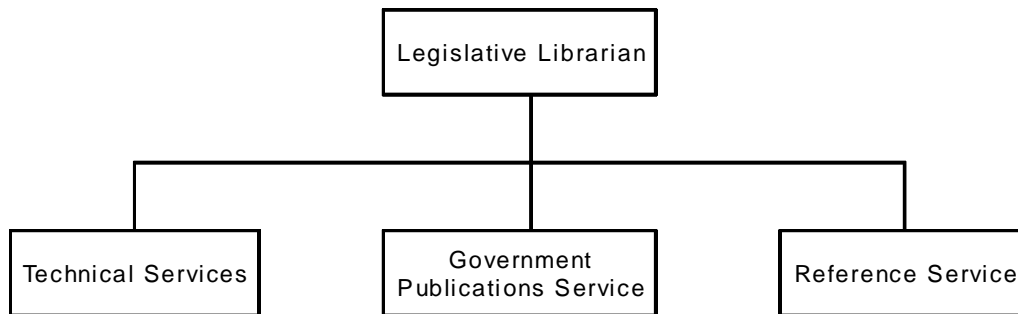
In October, as a result of the failure of a portion of plaster ceiling in the Departmental Building, all existing plaster ceiling suspension system of the Legislative Assembly were inspected. It was determined that the original 1882 wood lath and ceiling plaster of the 2nd floor offices and the Legislative Council Chamber could not be relied upon to safely support the ceiling plaster. The 2nd floor had to be immediately closed off. Restoration projects of plaster ceilings is ongoing and is expected to continue throughout 2005.

Following the lengthy process of identifying qualified North American companies who specialize in chandelier restoration, three qualified companies submitted proposals to restore the Legislative Chamber’s north and south chandelier; the latter had crashed on the Chamber floor at 8:45 a.m. November 8, 2002 during annual maintenance.

On October 12, 2004, the contract for the repair and restoration of the chandelier was awarded to Acu-Bright Inc. Judicious dismantling and packaging of both chandeliers began November 21, 2004. Restoration is ongoing in the company’s home town of Exeter, New Hampshire. Both brass chandeliers, original gasoliers from Mitchell Vance & Co. of New York weigh over 350 lbs each and respectively carry 574 pieces of crystals and 18 globes. They are expected to be hoisted back into position in the Legislative Chamber in time for the 2005 tourist season.

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, 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 Library will be broadening its mandate to automatically receive all “online” or “born digital” New Brunswick government publications. An e-repository will be established whereby selected New Brunswick electronic government publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access. The *Legislative Library Act* will be amended whereby all New Brunswick **publishers** will be mandated to deposit their publications with the Library. The Library’s New Brunswick Collection is the largest collection of “New Brunswickana,” and mandatory deposit would ensure its completeness, and thereby preserve New Brunswick’s written heritage.

All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a nonpartisan fashion. Twenty-four-hour access is available through phone, e-mail and fax, and the Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., five days a week. When

the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

Highlights

The first big news for the Legislative Library this spring was the re-opening of the Legislature’s **spiral staircase** after almost a year spent in refurbishment. During this time, the main entrance to the Library was blocked off, and the only access was through a labyrinthine corridor leading to a side door. At times the Library was almost completely inaccessible to the public.

The Legislative Library hosted several very successful **book launches** this year. In April the Library teamed up with New Brunswick’s Commission on Legislative Democracy to launch the first titles in the Canadian Democratic Audit Book Series. William Cross read from his book *Political Parties*, and John C. Courtney – who traveled all the way from Saskatchewan for the event – read from *Elections*, his volume in the series. In July the Library launched a publication of Fredericton Heritage Trust entitled *Building capital: a guide to Fredericton’s historic landmarks*, edited by John Leroux and Peter Pacey. It is a beautiful well-illustrated book comprising three self-guided walking tours in Fredericton’s beautiful downtown. The book launch attracted a large crowd including the Lieutenant-Governor. On October 5, the Library launched Jacques Poitras’ political book entitled: *The right fight: Bernard Lord and the Conservative dilemma*. The publisher was Goose Lane Editions of Fredericton, which celebrated 50 years of publishing in 2004. Among the dignitaries attending the launch of this historic landmark publication was Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson. The Library’s book launches are an excellent way to raise its profile to draw more politicians, public servants, students and members of the general public who may not otherwise visit the Library.

The Library welcomed the Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff back in December with its third

annual wine and cheese reception. In attendance were the Lieutenant-Governor, thirty-six of the fifty-five members, and approximately fifty others.

In several “**Acknowledgements,**” Library staff have received praise for their assistance in new publications by authors George Macbeath, Peggy Scott and Jacques Poitras and the Commission on Legislative Democracy.

With correspondence from thankful public servants in abundant evidence, the Library staff’s efforts to answer reference questions receive top marks from politicians and public servants alike. The number of reference questions has increased by 68%, since the reorganization of the staff three years ago. Some of the more time-consuming reference questions included: please provide immigration figures for New Brunswick for a ten-year period (for areas not covered in the Statistics Canada publications); indicate the major labour issues and accomplishments during Hatfield’s tenure; name the defining contemporary Acadian architects; trace the evolution of the Orimulsion/Coleson Cove situation.

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 in return for a tax receipt. Specific authors of privately published books were also approached. A great many accepted the idea and, as a result, the New Brunswick Collection is expanding without depleting the budget. In 2004 the Library acquired a greater number of New Brunswick books than in 2003. Of the total number of books acquired last year, 19% were donated. The Legislative Library is extremely grateful to the following individuals and publishers who have donated books:

Individuals

Harry Bagley	Phyllis Kerr
John Bethell	George MacBeath
Roy Boudreau	Bauke Miedema
Bob Butler	Graeme Somerville
Dr. Kathleen Forsythe	Cyril and Liliane Welch
Edith Gillcash	John L. Williamson
R. Wallace Hale	Norah Wilson
Girvan Harrison	Semra Yuksel
Kirsten Jones	

Publishers/Associations:

Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses	DreamCatcher Publishing
Beaverbrook Art Gallery	Environment & Local Government, Library
Code Pink Books	Galerie Sans Nom Coop
	Goose Lane Editions

Les Éditions de la Grande Marée	The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
Heritage Discovery Tours	University of New Brunswick, Early Childhood Centre
Miramichi Books	University of New Brunswick, Dept. of Economics
Muddle Puddle Books	University of New Brunswick, Office of the President & Vice-Chancellor
Neptune Publishing Company Ltd.	Village of Dorchester
Paul Anderson Rare Books & Maps	
La Petite Imprimerie Ltée	

The Legislative Library gratefully acknowledges monies received through the **Viscount Bennett Trust Fund**. With this grant the Library purchased a few rare New Brunswick publications “reflecting the intellectual heritage of the province.” For example, the Library acquired: *The subject and mode of baptism, impartially and scripturally considered* by George Burns (Saint John, N.B.: Donald A. Cameron, 1830); *Effective franchise; or Why reformed Presbyterians do not vote at parliamentary or municipal elections: a discourse* (Saint John, N.B.: R.A.H. Morrow, 1878); *The Celestial Magazine* (Fredericton, N.B.: vol.1, no.2 1897). Without this generous grant, purchase of the titles mentioned, and other valuable New Brunswick books, would not have been possible.

The Library has added a few new **periodicals** to the collection this year including: *Resurgence* and *E/The Environmental Magazine*. The most utilized part of the collection in 2004 remains the periodical collection. Efforts will be made in 2005 to enhance and expand this popular and valuable collection.

Marketing/Outreach

The Library has continued striving to raise its profile and foster closer relations with its most important and prized clients, New Brunswick’s MLAs. In 2004 there was an 18% increase in Library use by MLAs compared to the previous year. The Library has noticeably become a place where Members feel quite at home. Many regularly stop by in the morning to catch up with the newest issue of their local newspaper before the daily sitting. Others stop by briefly to borrow periodicals or other “pleasure reading.” Still others regularly take all their breaks from legislative duties to relax in the comfortable atmosphere of the library – at times some MLAs even decide which CD to have as background music. Early evening use of the Library by Members has increased.

In terms of publishing, the **Government Documents Checklist** is available on the Legislative Library’s web site: (<<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/leglibbib/publications/publications-e.asp>>).

Members are still sent paper copies of the *Selected Accessions List* four times a year. The Library e-mails copies of this list of new books to all New Brunswick civil servants (approximately 10,000). These e-mailed copies of the *Selected Accessions List* contain added notes or “updates” emphasizing a service that the Library provides (e.g. government publications), or some aspect of the collection (e.g. talking books), along with a short selection of entries from the accessions list thought to appeal to employees of that particular department.

The Library’s popular *Periodical Contents* now includes a cover sheet specifying particular articles on the contents pages. This requires more work but it alerts Members quickly to the themes in the periodical literature. It is a successful marketing tool.

Working with the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Library recently began holding brief tutorials with newly hired Legislative Pages before the House sits. Pages were informed of resources available to them and what they will commonly be asked to retrieve for MLAs. As a result, the Library has noticed a marked increase in the number of Pages who use the Library.

Several **displays** have been mounted. One complemented the Jacques Poitras book launch, emphasizing items dealing with the Progressive Conservative Party and its Leaders. “Hot topics” such as electoral reform, medical errors, rural governance and development and St. Croix Island Celebrations were represented in display cases.

As a footnote, the Library’s profile-raising efforts seem to be paying dividends. At the end of June, the Hon. Percy Mockler and University of New Brunswick President John D. McLaughlin were planning a press conference and needed a backdrop for the launch of NextNB’s online discussion forum (www.nextnb.ca). They chose the Legislative Library as the perfect locale.

Initiatives

A new Integrated Library System is at the top of the Library’s agenda. The Library’s current cataloguing system, *MultiLIS*, is being phased out. Sirsi’s new system, *Unicorn*, appears to be cost-prohibitive and no longer an option. The Library has been examining different replacement options and has called for literature and demonstrations. Library staff were very impressed with a demo by Dynix’s product called *Horizon*. Dynix’s vision is very good; they are adapting industry standards, not just library standards. *Horizon* has a French interface and their level of French is of the highest quality; even SDM Inc. (premier source of

cataloguing data for French Canada) has signed with Dynix. Four of the other Canadian Legislative Libraries use Dynix and recommend this vendor. *Horizon* has greatly improved functionality and enhancements; for example, the circulation module is included free of charge. A budget submission for it will go forward in the near future.

The biggest challenge over the past few years has been adapting to the increasing complexity of library work due to the rapid expansion of **electronic information resources**. As the official library for the deposit of New Brunswick government publications, the Legislative Library continues to impress upon government the importance of producing print copies as well as Internet versions of government publications. Print copies must continue to be made available for future generations and for today’s public that might not own a computer. Although recognizing the importance of the Internet in today’s information-sharing age, the Web itself is not a stable publishing medium, as URLs tend not to be persistent and permanent. The Legislative Library has stressed the importance of ensuring that documents such as the *Royal Gazette* and Bills introduced in the House are made available in paper copy as well as online. In particular, the *New Brunswick Statutes* are of such importance – both as a historical record of the laws of the province and as a compendium of the present day legislation—that the Legislative Library has taken an active role in advocating for the continued publishing and distribution of paper copies.

Last summer, in association with the Clerk’s Office, the Library began the long process of **amending the Legislative Library Act** to include mandated deposit of government e-publications, which are published on and removed from the web all the time without an archival copy kept for future reference. Discussions have taken place on how best to begin collecting and storing all born-digital government publications in their original format and appearance, in a way which is accessible to the public. Of the options discussed, the Library prefers a cost-sharing network of government partners dedicated to the common goal of preservation. The government’s Corporate Information Management Services would be the technology partner, the Library—as the depository partner—would use its experience to select and organize the data to be saved, and Communications New Brunswick as the third partner would make it available to the public. Discussions are ongoing as an agreement between the three is negotiated. The Library will be required to buy its own server, a cost it is currently examining.

The Legislative Librarian attended several sessions regarding the NB government's **Electronic Information Management System Project**. Two vendors demonstrated their proposed solution for the management of the Government of New Brunswick's electronic information. The focus of these sessions was really electronic office records as opposed to public e-documents.

The **MLA database**, 1784 to the present, is finally up-to-date and complete. There are over 1,000 biographies; many include a photograph of the Member. The entries for deceased MLAs are quite comprehensive, especially if they were a figure of notable political importance. For more recent Members and especially current MLAs the entry is less of a true biography, but simply "fast facts." The MLA database is proving to be even more useful than expected. Instead of having to scour parliamentary guides or legislative records for information, it is instantly available to the press, MLAs and party staff, as well as genealogists and history buffs. It is currently an in-house database, and entries are e-mailed, mailed or faxed to interested parties, but it will in due course be posted to the Web site.

Reference staff has been very happy with the subscription to **EBSCO** databases. The full-text nature of the databases is particularly appealing, but also, EBSCO is easier to use and more convenient than some of the other systems tested.

With the Library's subscription to CEDROM, specifically *NewsScan*, the Library hopes to create personal interest profiles for each Member. *NewsScan* offers full-text access to many New Brunswick newspapers, and articles of interest would be sent electronically on a daily basis. The Library is working with the Government Member's Office and the Opposition offices to extend its *NewsScan* subscription so that all Members and researchers will have it on their desktop. In the meantime the Library continues to create a subject-specific database of current news stories that will be of interest to the MLAs and their staff.

The online *Index of the Private Acts of New Brunswick, 1929-2003* – a vital compendium unavailable anywhere else – has been updated and revamped to allow for searching and greater ease of use.

Also the Library has worked with two special **Committees/Commissions** this year to gather news articles, search the periodical literature, select books and reports and track down overview information: the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance, and the Commission on Legislative Democracy. In early April,

the Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance tabled its report, but in changing automobile insurance regulations, the government opted to create a no-frills insurance option rather than a public insurance system. The Commission on Legislative Democracy's final report is expected in early January 2005.

The Legislative Building was completed in 1882, and this year, Dr. Marie Elwood, History Curator Emeritus with the Nova Scotia Museum, visited to complete a **catalogue of its artefacts**. Library staff assisted Dr. Elwood, providing her with all documentation available. Dr. Elwood commented that the fireplace in the Legislative Librarian's office is one of the finest she has ever seen.

The Library continues to host a series of rotating **exhibits of New Brunswick artists**. The art is borrowed from a nearby private gallery. A special thank you is extended to Gallery 78 for their cooperation and generosity.

Space/Storage

Accommodation of the collections continues to provide challenges. Shifting older or less-used materials to our storage facilities has been an ongoing viable solution until recently. The Department of Supply and Services will be turning the Library's current off-site storage facility into office space. After an inventory of the material in storage by a rare-book dealer, this collection was divided. The Lieutenant-Governor has graciously accepted the rare books involved to fill the bookshelves in his residence. Mostly bound in leather, these books wonderfully suit the Lieutenant-Governor's residence that dates back to 1828. The books necessary for us to keep will be restored. The New Brunswick and federal government documents housed in storage have been reorganized. The large collections of Journals from the House of Lords and the British Parliament will be donated to the U.N.B. library. In anticipation that the Library's storage material may need to be moved at any moment to a replacement storage facility, all has been boxed and labelled.

The libraries in the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Wellness, and the Human Rights Commission have all closed, and the Legislative Library has been inundated with their collections. Staff have sorted through these collections and will be attempting to find space for them. The staff from these departments are using the Legislative Library at an increasing rate. To offset this additional usage, the Librarian has asked for a storage facility that previously housed one of these defunct libraries.

Staffing

The Legislative Library has a permanent staff of seven as of November 29th, 2004. Tom Stillwell was the successful applicant in the Library Assistant competition. He works primarily in Reference and will also be doing some preservation work. Tom's other responsibilities include circulation and the New Brunswick pamphlet collection.

Anthony Lovesey, a 5th year computer science student has been employed on a full time basis for two summers and has stayed on for the fall and spring terms on a part-time basis. Anthony works on the Library's Web page, has designed all six databases (MLAs, municipal plans, reference questions, news clippings, N.B. History Checklist, and Company/Hospital annual reports) as well as various other tasks. The Librarian intends to propose that this position be upgraded to a full-time position. With the implementation of a new Integrated Library System, the Library will need an expert on staff.

Thank you for the dedicated work of Kevin Plummer, a graduate student in History. Kevin commenced employment as a summer student and decided to stay on to complete the MLA database. Kevin was with the Library full time from April 2003 until August 2004.

Peggy Goss continues to excel in management of the reference functions. The Reference team at the Library consists of Peggy, Janet McNeil, Tom Stillwell, Kathleen Jeffries and Margie Pacey. The Library has received much praise on the quality and timeliness of work done by staff. All have a high degree of computer and web literacy and strong interpersonal and communication skills. The Library is indebted to Documents Librarian Janet McNeil's persistence and tenacity in tracking down and organizing the New Brunswick government publications. Voluntary compliance with the deposit requirements is unusual. Kathleen Jeffries, Library Assistant, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Documents Section, including cataloguing and classification, as well as ongoing training of Members. Jean-Claude Arcand remains as Technical Services Librarian. He completed a painstaking inventory of the approximately 1000 books loaned to Government House. Jean Weissenhorn Delong works in technical services, accounting and interlibrary loans. Due to the closure of several departmental libraries, Jean has seen a 33% increase in the number of titles borrowed via interlibrary loans in 2004 compared to the previous year.

The Legislative Library has benefited this past summer with a legion of **summer students**. Thank you to, Sarah Richard, Paul Donovan, Michelle Wheaton, Teann Hennick, Erin Forbes, Leah Corby, Kevin Plummer and Anthony Lovesey for all their help during the summer of 2003. Through their work the Library has been able to reorganize parts of its collection and complete other

special projects. The Library's indexed listing of riding-by-riding election results, 1784-1984, has been revised to include all elections and by-elections from 1984 to the present. The Emergency Preparedness Plan has been rewritten. The departmental annual report collection in the vault has been reorganized. Several threadbare journals, statutes and synoptic reports have been sent for binding or boxing. The municipal plan collection has been inputted into a searchable database. A special thanks to the Members who provided the hours needed to hire these students.

A continuing program of staff tutorials on a variety of topics is offered as needed. This year's tutorials included the proper citation of an Act and the 5S theory. With these tutorials the Library is gradually building a training manual for new staff.

New Equipment

New computers were purchased for Kathleen Jeffries and Peggy Goss. Both positions require extensive computer searching, and fast machines are mandatory.

Continuing Education

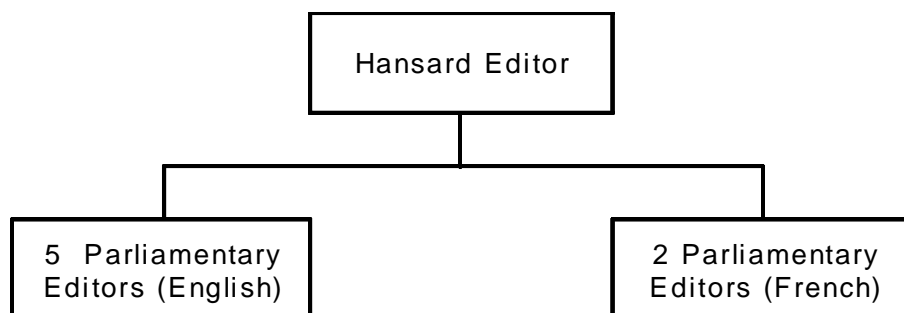
The Library consistently seeks to find ways to do its work more effectively and efficiently. All reference staff participated in a Rita Vine PowerPoint seminar to get a firmer grasp on the tools and tricks of online searching for information. An ergonomics specialist was hired to give a presentation to Library staff on improved working positions. Tom Stillwell spent a week at the Provincial Archives in the Conservation section benefiting from Dean Lund's expert training. Tom and Kathleen Jeffries attended a two-day seminar at U.N.B. entitled "The serials ecosystem: perspectives on the transition from print to electronic journals". Jean-Claude Arcand attended the Atlantic Province's Library Association's annual conference in Moncton, including its pre-conference workshop on cooperative cataloguing of serials. In June he participated in an Amicus workshop provided by the National Library and Archives of Canada. Margie Pacey travelled to Edmonton to attend the Association of Parliamentarian Librarians in Canada's biennial conference. Margie gave a presentation on the Library's MLA database.

Memberships

Margie Pacey is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Association of Parliamentarian Librarians in Canada. All four librarians are members of the Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick/Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick. Jean-Claude Arcand is Treasurer of this association.

Hansard Office

Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc



2003-2004

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

- The number of recorded hours of proceedings decreased from 616 last year to 141 during the 2003-04 fiscal year for the House and increased from 56 last year to 345 during 2003-04 for committees.
- The number of requests for transcripts of proceedings decreased from 383 last year to 185 during the 2003-04 fiscal year for the House and increased from 53 to 92 during 2003-04 for committees.
- Two casuals were 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.

Daily oral question transcripts are provided to 270 clients. Tables 1 and 2 provide a breakdown of oral questions by party, as well as statements by ministers and members.

During the 2003-04 fiscal year, there were 26 sitting days, including four night sittings. This entailed the recording of 1 568 five-minute takes and 63 ten-minute tapes.

Hansard dailies are provided to 49 subscribers. At the end of the fiscal year under review, the daily sittings completed and distributed were as follows:

- 54th legislature, 3rd session, 2000-01, eight final dailies (up to June 1, 2001);
- 54th legislature, 4th session, 2001-02, Dailies 1 (November 20, 2001) to 3 (November 22, 2001), 5 (November 27, 2001) to 20 (December 21, 2001), and 30 (March 28, 2002);
- 54th legislature, 5th session, 2002-03, Dailies 1 (November 19, 2002), 3 (November 21, 2002), and 15 (December 12, 2002); and
- 55th legislature, 1st session, 2003-04, Dailies 1 (July 29, 2003) and 3 (July 31, 2003).

During the 2003-04 fiscal year, there were 185 requests for specific excerpts of House proceedings.

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

Bound volumes of Hansard are published in both official languages. Hansard volumes are provided to 56 subscribers: Members of the Legislative Assembly; government departments; political party offices; legislative, university, and public libraries throughout Canada; the media; and interested citizens.

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 2003-04 fiscal year, a total of 41 meetings of standing committees were recorded: Crown Corporations, 20; Crown Corporations/Public Accounts, 1; Private Bills, 1; Public Accounts, 15; Law Amendments, 1; Ombudsman, 1; Privileges, 1; and Procedure, 1. A total of 31 meetings of select

committees were recorded: Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance, 15; Select Committee on Education, 1; Select Committee on Health Care, 1; and Select Committee on Wood Supply, 14. These committee meetings entailed the recording of 2 526 five-minute takes, 87 ninety-minute tapes, and 24 ten-minute tapes.

During the 2003-04 fiscal year, there were 92 requests for specific excerpts of committee proceedings.

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

Special Events

Hansard Office staff operated the sound equipment throughout the three-day Student Legislative Seminar in April 2003, for the installation of the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson, in August, for the annual Girl Guides of Canada cord ceremony in September, and for the annual Chief Scout Awards ceremony in November.

Table 1: Oral Questions by Caucus, 2003-04 Fiscal Year

Caucus	Questions	Minutes
Progressive Conservative Party	-	-
Liberal Party	121	750
New Democratic Party	16	78
TOTAL	137	828

Table 3: Comparative Statistics for Sessions

	1999 + 1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Days	1 + 65	63	71	68	62
Hours	1 + 376	340	396	410	334
Tapes	7				79
Takes	4 766	4 199	4 826	5 119	4 050

Table 2: Statements by Ministers and Members, 2003-04 Fiscal Year

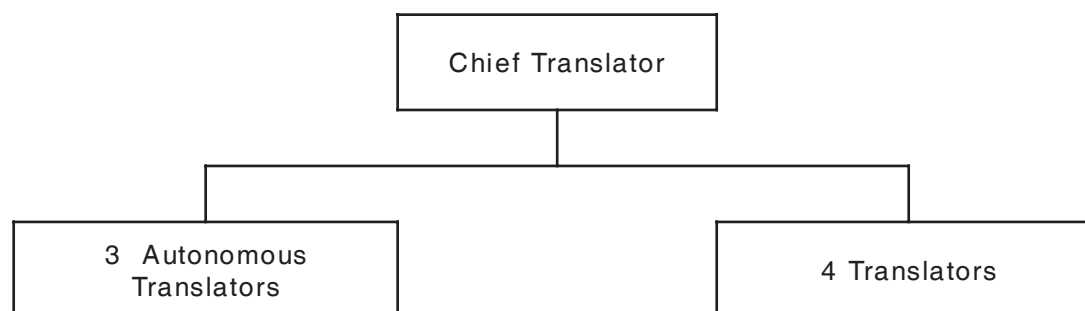
Caucus	Ministers	Members
Progressive Conservative Party	62	112
Liberal Party	-	99
New Democratic Party	-	23
TOTAL	62	234

Table 4: Hours Recorded, 2003-04 Fiscal Year

	Hours	% of Workload
House	141	29
Committees	345	71
TOTAL	486	100

Debates Translation

Chief Translator — Aurella Losier-Vienneau



2003-2004

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

- The number of daily sittings decreased by 74%, from 101 during the 2002-2003 fiscal year to 26 in 2003-2004.
- During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, nearly 1.8 million words were translated, a marked decrease of 31% over the previous year.
- During the year, over 1 148 translation requests were processed, 34% fewer than the previous year.
- In July 2003, a TR1 was hired to fill the TR3 position that had remained vacant since the fall of 2002.
- On July 22, 2003, Debates Translation moved from Jewett House to Edgecombe House, on King Street. It took at least one week to set up the offices, move everyone in, and unpack the boxes.

Meanwhile, the staff was also preparing for the July 30 opening of the session.

- After a few months in the new premises, two rooms on the second floor used for staff offices had to be vacated due to excessive sagging of the floors. The function of the rooms was subsequently changed: one became a meeting room; the other, a room for storing documents.

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 approximately 58% of the workload and decreased by 12% over last year. Approximately 24% 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 6% of the workload; translation is usually completed shortly after the session. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for a little over 9% of the workload, a 77% decrease over last year, due to the reduced number of daily sittings. 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 11% of the total

workload. Although the demand for statements and speeches decreased by 66% over last year, demand related to correspondence and press releases increased by 83%.

During the 26 sitting days in the fiscal year under review, 433 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed, representing 1 338 pages. These included the throne speech, the budget speech, as well as 358 statements and 73 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. An average speech is 11 pages in length. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 86% of the workload. Approximately 98% of translation was into French.

During intercession, 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 93% of workload. The Office of Government Members and the New Democratic Member's Office accounted for 1% and 6% 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 5% of the total workload and increased by 11% during the 2003-2004 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 nearly 11% of the total workload and increased by 57% in 2003-2004.

**Table 1:
Debates Translation Output,
2003-2004 Fiscal Year**

(in thousands of words)

HOUSE

Notices of Motions and Order Paper	168
Journal	110
Hansard ¹	1 033

MEMBERS

Speeches and Statements	127
Correspondence, releases	66

COMMITTEES	95
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OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	195
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TOTAL²	1 794
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¹ Includes a carryover of a little over 994 000 words (40% of 1999-2000 Hansard, as well as Sitting 3 of 2003-2004 Hansard) from the previous fiscal year.

² Excludes a carryover of approximately 10.83 million words (53% of 1999-2000 Hansard, 100% of 2000-2001 Hansard, 100% of 2001-2002 Hansard, 100% of 2002-2003 Hansard, and Sittings 1 to 18 of 2003-2004 Hansard) into the next fiscal year.

**Table 2 :
Comparative Statistics for Sessions**

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Days	65	63	71	68	62
Words*	2 497	2 378	2 534**	2 427**	2 177**

* 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 2003-04, for the ninth 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 and International Relations and Canadian Heritage in support of efforts to meet the objective of making documents available simultaneously in both official languages.

The second component was internal funding for outsourcing. In 2003-04, 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 2003-04, Hansard translation demand was an estimated 997 000 words, compared to 3 976 000 words in the previous fiscal year.
- In 2003-04, Hansard translation output totaled 1 033 000 words, a decrease of 12% over the previous fiscal year.

- During the year in review, output exceeded demand by 56 000 words. However, 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 2003-04, on-line translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 88 months earlier than the published volumes.
- As of March 31, 2004, translation of dailies up to Day 36 (April 26, 2000) of the 1999-2000 session was posted on the network in both PDF and WordPerfect format.
- 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 2003-04, the Hansard translation backlog decreased by a net 56 000 words, compared to a net increase of 2.8 million words in the previous fiscal year.
- During the fiscal year, 26 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 28 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog decrease of 2 sitting days, compared to an increase of 69 sitting days in the previous fiscal year.
- As of March 31, 2004, Hansard translation was trailing by 47 months (or 242 dailies), compared to 39 months (or 244 dailies) at the end of the previous fiscal year.

Quality Control and Promotion

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>>.

A conference entitled *Parliamentary Translation in New Brunswick: An Inside Look* was given at the Corporation of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters of New Brunswick (CTINB) annual general meeting on November 1, 2003. It was aimed at providing insight into this aspect of the profession and encouraging young people to consider a career as parliamentary translators.

Publications

Debates Translation

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

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

Hansard Office

Journal of Debates (Hansard). 54th Legislature, 3rd Session, 2000-01, Dailies 55 (May 18, 2001), 56 (May 22, 2001), and 58 (May 24, 2001) to 63 (June 1, 2001).

Journal of Debates (Hansard). 54th Legislature, 4th Session, 2001-02, Dailies 5 (November 27, 2001), 6 (November 28, 2001), 8 (November 30, 2001) to 18 (December 19, 2001) and 20 (December 21, 2001).

Journal of Debates (Hansard). 55th Legislature, 1st Session, 2003-04, Dailies 1 (July 29, 2003) and 3 (July 31, 2003).

Office of the Clerk

Legislative Activities 2003

Biographies of Members 55th Legislature 2004

Employee Handbook Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick 1998

Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, First Session, Fifty-fifth Legislature, 2003-2004 (Unrevised, 62 issues); Second Session, Fifty-Fifth Legislature (Unrevised, 10 issues)

Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Third Session, 54th Legislature, 2000-2001.

Order and Notice Paper, July 29, 2003-December 2, 2004, 62 issues; December 2 to December 17, 2004, 10 issues*

Orientation Manual 2003

Seating Arrangement, Second Session, 55th Legislature
Status of Legislation Introduced during the First Session of

Conclusion

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the 8 other parliamentary translators at Debates Translation as well as 11 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.

*the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly**
*Status of Legislation Introduced during the Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly**
Quarterly Jurisdictional Reports, *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2004

“A Legislature rooted in Canada’s history, Fredericton’s Legislative Building”**

“New Brunswick’s experiment with a “House of No Nays,” The Unusual 51st Legislative Assembly”**

New Brunswick, Jurisdictional Information**

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)*

Special Project

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

———. *Parliamentary Stylebook* [online in PDF, updated regularly]. 2001-, <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications_e.asp>.

———. *Parliamentary Translation in New Brunswick: An Inside Look*. Conference given on November 1, 2003, <<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/>>

* Available on the Internet only.

**A Supplement to *The Parliamentarian*, published to mark the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, hosted by the Parliament of Canada and provincial and territorial Legislative

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

The staff for this Office is comprised of a chief of staff, a communications/research officer, a communications officer, an office manager, a researcher and a secretary.

Office of the Official Opposition

The staff for this Office is comprised of a chief of staff, a senior advisor/policy development, two policy analysts, a director of research and planning, an office manager, a special assistant to the Leader, a communications assistant, two secretaries to the Members and an executive assistant.

Office of the New Democratic Member

The staff for this Office is comprised of a research and planning officer and an executive secretary to the Leader of the NDP.

Tributes

Wilfred Bishop

On March 31, 2004, Premier Bernard Lord (Moncton-East) recognized in the House the contribution of the late Wilfred Bishop (1917-2004) who died March 1, 2004:

It was with deep regret that we noted, earlier this month, the passing of Wilfred Bishop, who served as a Cabinet minister in the government of former Premier Richard Hatfield. He was and still is the longest sitting member of the New Brunswick Legislature.

Hailing from Chipman, Mr. Bishop served 35 years as a provincial MLA, from 1952 to 1987. He was first elected with the Hugh John Flemming government in the early fifties.

Within the Hatfield government and until his retirement, Mr. Bishop served the people of New Brunswick and his region in various portfolios. He was Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Highways, in the department later known as the Department of Transportation, and President of the Executive Council.

Wilfred Bishop represented his community and the people of New Brunswick with dedication and with dignity. He set an example of public service that few will ever match. On behalf of all members of

this House, I want to extend sincere condolences to the Bishop family on their loss. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

A Progressive Conservative, Wilfred Bishop was first elected to represent Queens County in the provincial election of 1952, and he was re-elected in 1956, 1960, 1963, 1967, and 1970. He was first elected to represent the single-member riding of Queens North in 1974, and he was re-elected in 1978, and 1982.

Adjutor Ferguson

Adjutor Ferguson (1927-2004) passed away July 28, 2004, in Tracadie-Sheila. He was elected in the provincial elections of 1967 and 1970 as one of the representatives for Gloucester. From 1974 to 1978, he represented the new single-member riding of Tracadie.

On December 3, 2004, Official Opposition Leader Shawn Graham (Kent) paid tribute to the memory of the former Liberal MLA in a statement in the House:

Adjutor Ferguson passed away on July 28, 2004, in Tracadie-Sheila, at the age of 77. Mr. Ferguson was a member of the Assembly for the Tracadie riding from 1967 to 1978. He was a respected member of his community, as a businessman, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Rodman Logan, Q.C.

On December 3, 2004, Mr. Sherwood (Grand Bay-Westfield) paid tribute to the memory of Rodman Logan (1922-2004), a former provincial Cabinet Minister and a Court of Queen's Bench Justice, who died September 15, 2004.

Mr. Logan served his country, his city, and his province as a soldier, in the Legislature, and on the Bench. Born in Saint John West, he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces after graduating from Rothesay Collegiate School. Mr. Logan served as an officer with the Carleton-York Regiment and the West Nova Scotia Regiment. He was twice wounded in combat. After the war, he continued to serve in the reserves and retired with the rank of colonel in 1962.

Rod Logan was elected as a Progressive Conservative member for the Saint John area. As minister, one of his greatest accomplishments was the reorganization of the provincial court system. As the Premier stated earlier this year, Rod Logan truly loved the Legislature and had a great sense of and appreciation for the House and all its traditions. As an MLA and minister, he was renowned for his intellectual capacity. He epitomized what it means to serve one's community, one's province, and one's country with enthusiasm, determination, and dignity. He will be sorely missed.

Rodman Logan was Minister of Labour, Provincial Secretary, Minister Responsible for Housing, Attorney General and Minister of Justice. He was appointed to the bench in 1982.

Gerald Merrithew

On December 3, 2004, the Speaker, Hon. Bev Harrison (Hampton-Belleisle) extended condolences on the passing of former MLA Gerald Merrithew (1931-2004), who died September 5, 2004:

I wish to acknowledge the passing of a great New Brunswicker, a former colleague in this House and a former resident of Springfield, in the constituency of Hampton-Belleisle. Hon. Gerald Merrithew passed away suddenly last summer. He enhanced the life of this province in many ways throughout a very long and distinguished career.

He was an educator and a principal in the school system for a very long time in his life. He served

on the council in Saint John. He spent 12 years in this Assembly—as a member, as a minister holding many portfolios, as Government House Leader, and as Deputy Premier. He went on to serve eight years as a Member of Parliament for the constituency of Saint John. He spent that time in the ministry of the government of the day, serving in two portfolios: in Forestry and in Veterans Affairs.

He had a long and distinguished career in the military. In the militia, he reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Royal New Brunswick Regiment.

Gerald Merrithew spent a lifetime in the service of this province, and he left a very big gap. He will certainly go on in the memory of all of us as a great Canadian.

A Progressive Conservative, he was first elected to represent the single-member riding of East Saint John in a 1972 by-election and he was re-elected in the 1974, 1978, and 1982 provincial elections. He served as Minister of Education, Commerce and Development, and Natural Resources.

Adélarde Savoie

On December 3, 2004, Cy Richard LeBlanc (Dieppe-Memramcook) noted the death on August 27, 2004, of the late Adélarde Savoie at the age of 81 years.

It was with great sadness that we recently learned of the sudden death of a great Acadian, Mr. Adélarde M. Savoie, of Dieppe, formerly of Neguac. Mr. Savoie was an MLA. He was also the first Mayor of the beautiful municipality of Dieppe. He will be remembered, too, as a great administrator at the Université de Moncton. Adélarde Savoie touched the lives of many people. Acadia has lost a great man. Recently, the city of Dieppe honoured him for his enormous contribution by naming a street Adélarde-Savoie Boulevard. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to Mrs. Savoie and her family.

Adélarde Savoie was elected as a Liberal representative for the constituency of Northumberland in the 1948 provincial election.