



Legislative Activities



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

2006

Legislative Activities

2006



New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Eugene McGinley, Q.C.

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

April 30, 2007.

The Honourable Eugene McGinley, Q.C.
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 eighteenth annual report
of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2006.

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

During the 2006 calendar year—a busy one for the staff—the Legislative Assembly Office proceeded with a number of planned initiatives and dealt with a general election, all of which substantially changed the normal schedule of activities in the office.

Early in the year, two Members announced their intention to sit as Independents. On January 13, Frank Branch (Liberal, Nepisiguit), New Brunswick's longest serving MLA, announced he would sit as an independent Member and resign as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. On February 21, Michael Malley, (Progressive Conservative, Miramichi – Bay du Vin) the former Government Whip, announced he would sit as an Independent, placing the government in a minority situation with 27 of the 55 seats in the Legislature.

On March 23, Deputy Speakers Cy (Richard) LeBlanc (PC, Dieppe-Memramcook) and John Betts (PC, Moncton Crescent) announced the launch of a New Brunswick parliamentary channel dedicated to broadcasting proceedings to keep the public informed of the important work of the House and the elected representatives.

When the Legislature resumed on March 28, the proceedings were carried live on channel 70. Early in the calendar year, the Assembly acquired a professional television broadcasting system and five state-of-the-art robotic cameras located throughout the Chamber and operated remotely from a control room in the basement. The new parliamentary channel provided gavel-to-gavel coverage of proceedings from Prayers to Daily Adjournment, a first in New Brunswick. Rogers Television/Télévision Rogers was commissioned to manage the channel for the Legislature. The new channel is offered in both official languages on television with the secondary audio programming (SAP) features. The proceedings of the House are also broadcast live on the Assembly's web site.

The Third Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature resumed on March 28, 2006, and sat until June 22, 2006, before adjourning to October 18, 2006, a total of 54 sitting days. For the third consecutive year, the Assembly followed a sessional calendar sitting for three-week periods followed by one-week breaks.

After long-serving Speaker Bev Harrison (1999-2006) was appointed to Cabinet February 14, the first order of business on March 28 was the election of a new Speaker. Michael Malley, who sat briefly as an Independent before rejoining the PC caucus, was elected Speaker. Mr. Malley was first elected in 1999 and he was re-elected in 2003.

Three long-serving Members announced they would not seek re-election:

Elvy Robichaud, PC MLA for Tracadie-Sheila (1994-2006), Leader of the Opposition (1997-1998); Minister of Education (1999-2001); Minister Responsible for Human Resources (2001-2002); Health and Wellness (2001-2006);

Peter Mesheau, PC MLA for Tantramar (1997-2006); Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture (1999-2001); Department of Investment and Exports and Service New Brunswick (2000-2001); Finance (2001-2003); Business New Brunswick (2003-2006); and

Eric Allaby, Liberal MLA for Fundy Isles, who was first elected to the Legislative Assembly on October 13, 1987, to represent the riding of Charlotte-Fundy. He was re-elected in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003 to represent the new riding of Fundy Isles. In addition to serving on several committees, he also served as Opposition House Leader.

On August 18, 2006, just over three years into the Bernard Lord government's mandate, a proclamation dissolved the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly and ordered the issue of writs of election for September 18, 2006. At dissolution the standings in the House were: 28 Progressive Conservatives; 26 Liberals, and one Independent.

The provincial election was held under new electoral boundaries prescribed in the *Final Amended Report of the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission*. While the number of districts remained at 55, two disappeared: Fundy Isles and Restigouche West; and two new ones were created: Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe and Fredericton-Lincoln.

The election gave the Liberals a majority government with 29 seats, while the Progressive Conservatives won 26. The New Democrats, led by new leader

Allison Brewer, were unsuccessful in electing a candidate. Eleven new members were elected and the number of women parliamentarians increased from six to seven.

On October 3, Shawn Graham, Liberal Member for Kent, and the province's 31st Premier, was sworn into Office along with seventeen Ministers and one Minister of State in a ceremony held in the Assembly Chamber. The Executive Councillor's Oath and the Oath of Allegiance were administered by Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson.

Premier Graham, first elected in a by-election held on October 19, 1998, to represent the riding of Kent, was re-elected in the 1999 and 2003 provincial elections. He was elected Leader of the Liberal Party May 12, 2002; one of the youngest Liberal Leaders and the youngest Leader of the Official Opposition in the country.

On the afternoon of October 3, members of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly took the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Members' Roll during a ceremony in the Chamber presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Stuart Jamieson (L, Saint John Fundy), the new Minister of Tourism and Parks, will serve as Government House Leader; former Speaker and Minister of Supply and Services Bev Harrison, (PC, Hampton-Kings) will serve as Opposition House Leader.

The Government House Leader announced that the First Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly would open on February 6, 2007, allowing the new government time to put in place the framework of the "Charter for Change."

On October 16, 2006, Premier Graham nominated Eugene McGinley, QC, (Liberal, Grand Lake-Gagetown) and Roy Boudreau (Liberal, Campbellton-Restigouche Centre) as Deputy Speakers. Their nominations must be formally ratified by the House.

A general orientation session for new Members was held September 28 and others are planned prior to the start of the new session. The election resulted in increased requests for procedural and legislative information from new Members, staff, civil servants, ministerial staff, and the public.

In the midst of activities following the election and the installation of the new government, Assembly staff planned and coordinated a visit of German parliamentarians as part of the Legislature's participation in the Partnership of Parliaments program. The conference, which took place from October 8 to October 18, included visits to Legislative Assemblies in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. A number of New Brunswick MLAs served as host to the visiting parliamentarians during their stay in the Maritime Provinces. Business sessions focussed on intergovernmental and international affairs, federalism, reform of the bureaucracy, health care, education, economic development and natural resources.

The Legislative Assembly put on display several Books of Remembrance, which contain the names of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country. The Legislative Library holds six of these historical documents, which are an integral part of our nation's history. During the 1980s, the Books of Remembrance were on display in the Rotunda on the second floor. About 20 years ago, the display was moved to the Legislative Library. For conservation reasons, the books were later placed in the library vault.

It was the wish of former Sergeant-at-Arms, the late Leo Francis McNulty, that the books be displayed more prominently in the Legislative Building. In honour of this wish, and in recognition of the importance of the Books of Remembrance, the books have been placed on permanent display on the second floor rotunda of the Legislative Assembly, flanked by the flags of Canada and New Brunswick. Each week, a different page of each book will be shown.

On display are the Books of Remembrance of the South African War (1899-1902); the First World War (1914-1918); the Second World War (1939-1945); the Korean War (1950-1953); the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance (1867-1949); and the Book of Remembrance of the Merchant Navy (WWI).

On December 14, 2006, Bernard Lord (PC, Moncton East) announced his intention to step down as Leader and resign his seat on January 31, 2007. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in a by-election held on October 19, 1998. He was re-elected in 1999 and 2003, and served as Premier for seven and one-half years.

As part of a continued commitment to ensuring the security of Members, staff and the visiting public, visitors to the Legislative Building will soon be required to undergo electronic screening as they enter the rotunda before they are given entry access to the public galleries and other public areas of the building. New Brunswick joins the majority of Canadian Legislatures in implementing this security initiative.

Repair and restoration of the Main Legislative Building continued. The Legislative Council Chamber which had been closed since the fall of 2004, reopened at the end of February. Used almost exclusively by committees in recent years, the newly restored room reveals the original elegance of the 1882 Second Empire sandstone building. The meticulous and diligent work of conservators uncovered rich colours and details including the discovery of paint chips from the original ceiling. The room is the former home of the Legislative Council, or New Brunswick's Upper House. Repair, restoration and electrical upgrade of the two medium-sized gasoline chandeliers suspended in the Council Chamber and an ornate hall fixture next to the rotunda were carried out at the same time.

Replacement of deteriorated metal roofing and flashings, and restoration of the building's masonry facade, were two main recommendations of the Building Assessment and Master Plan for the Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of the Legislative Assembly Building, commissioned in 2005.

Following a life-cycle cost analysis of various cladding materials, the Legislative Administration Committee selected copper as the preferred roofing material.

The refurbishment of the dome of the Legislative Building was completed on schedule in early December. The project included replacement of decayed wood framing and sheathing with new wood construction where required, and replacement of deteriorated galvanized steel cladding with copper.

The new copper cladding features the ornate forms of the original dome. Weatherproofing has been improved with the addition of waterproofing membranes and roof-shield fabric below the cladding. Ventilation designed into the project will improve performance of the new building envelope and increase the longevity of the original timber structure in the upper unheated portion.

The restoration was carried out by Heather & Little, specialists in ornamental metal restoration,

in association with New Brunswick companies and tradespeople. Among the domes and roof structures the company has completed: Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa; the Manitoba Legislative Building; the Thomas Jefferson Congressional Library in Washington, D.C.; San Francisco City Hall; and the Library of Parliament. According to a company representative, the detail of the hand-crafted copper fabrications required to copy the original metalwork was as varied and complex as any of the other significant and intricate projects on which they have worked.

Phase 2 of the project, to be finished in 2007, includes copper replacement of metal mansards on the front of the building, and restoration of sandstone and granite masonry.

There were significant personnel and management changes during 2006.

In the Office of the Speaker, Executive Assistants Bill Oliver and Nick Brown terminated their employment with the Legislative Assembly.

In the Office of Government Members, Bruno Roy became the new Chief of Staff, and Denise Cameron-Scott, Deputy Chief of Staff. Other staff who joined the office: Rita Savoie Awad, Senior Researcher; Julie Root, Researcher, and Aurena Murray, Secretary/ Receptionist.

In the Office of the Official Opposition, Rodney Weston became the new Chief of Staff; Mathieu Picard, Press Secretary; Mel Vincent, Special Assistant to the Members; Holly Smith, Policy Analyst/Research Officer; François Robichaud, Administrative Assistant; and Jason Cooling, Special Assistant to the Members.

In the Legislative Library, Kenda Clark-Gorey was appointed Legislative Librarian replacing Margie Pacey who retired in 2005; Library Assistant Jonathon Bowie replaced Timothy McIntyre who resigned to further his education.

In Debates Translation, parliamentary translator Lise L'Anglais resigned to enter the private sector and Lynn Lefebvre joined the staff.

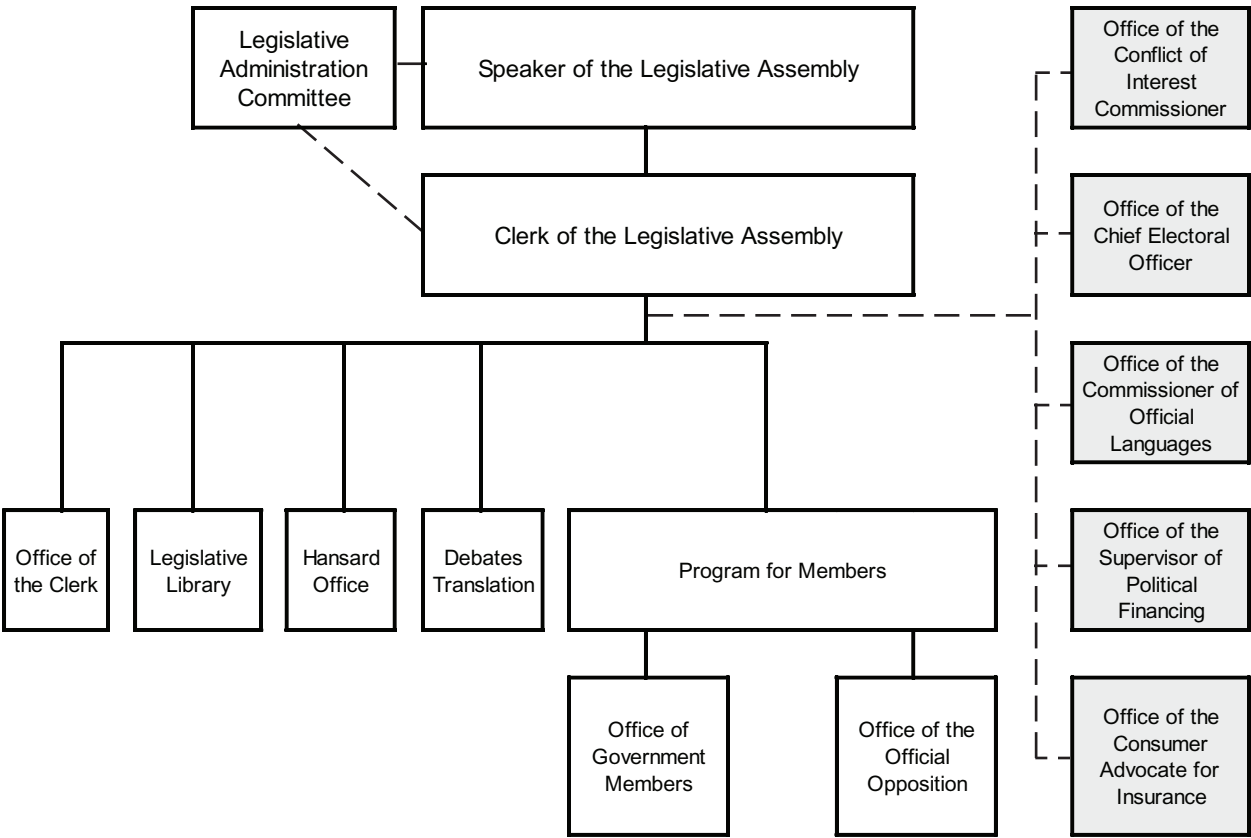
In the Office of the Clerk, Accounting Assistants Stephanie Hanlon and Melanie Cabot resigned to pursue other career opportunities and Accounting Assistants Lindsay Chapman and Tanya MacDonald joined the staff.

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, Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance.

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*

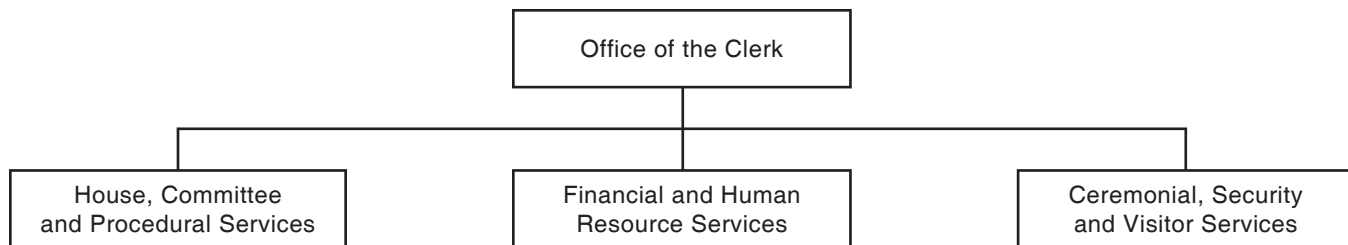
- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

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 Third Session of the 55th Legislature, which adjourned on December 23, 2005, resumed sitting on the morning of March 28, 2006. With the resignation of Mr. Speaker Bev Harrison on February 14, 2006, the first item of business was the election of a new Speaker. As only one Member stood for election, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly announced that Michael Malley, the Member for the electoral district of Miramichi-Bay du Vin, was elected Speaker. The House adjourned until 2 p.m. that afternoon at which time the Minister of Finance, Hon. Jeannot Volpé, presented the 2006-2007 Budget.

Progress in considering estimates and legislation proceeded at a slow pace during most of the session. The Standing Committee on Procedure held several meetings to consider ways in which the House might facilitate its work and better ensure the orderly flow of business. The Committee presented a detailed report to the House on May 30, 2006, recommending numerous changes to the Standing Rules and practices of the House. On May 31, however, the Government and Official Opposition entered into an agreement to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the remainder of the 55th Legislative Assembly. Among the matters agreed to were: consideration of all remaining budgetary estimates by June 16; a legislative calendar established for the balance of 2006 and 2007; passage of all appropriation and budget implementation bills on the date of introduction; and existing pairing arrangements in Committees of the Whole House to be respected.

Following the announcement, the consideration of the business of the House proceeded in a more orderly and efficient fashion. All of the budgetary estimates and numerous pieces of legislation were adopted prior to the summer adjournment. In total, 85 Bills were introduced during the session, consisting of 54

Government Bills, 29 Private Members' Public Bills and 2 Private Bills. Of these, 42 Government Bills, 2 Private Members' Public Bills and 2 Private Bills received Royal Assent. The House, which adjourned on June 22, 2006, sat for a total of 54 sitting days.

Pursuant to the sessional calendar agreed to in the House, the Third Session was scheduled to resume on October 18, 2006. However, the House was dissolved on August 18 and a general election called for Monday September 18, 2006. The election resulted in a new Liberal government led by Premier Shawn Graham. In total, 44 Members of the previous House were re-elected, together with 11 new Members.

Procedural Services

During the course of the session, the Clerks-at-the-Table met regularly with the new Speaker, providing an overview of the Standing Rules and advising on procedural matters which might arise during the sitting day. The Speaker was also briefed on the procedure to be followed in handling points of order or matters of privilege.

An orientation session was held for new Members of the Legislative Assembly on September 28 in the Legislative Council Chamber. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly provided an overview of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the various managers spoke on the role and services provided by their respective offices. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Hon. Patrick A.A. Ryan, Q.C., provided an overview of his role and of the responsibilities placed on Members under the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. Other topics covered by procedural staff of the Clerk's Office included: the swearing-in ceremony and oath of allegiance; the functioning of the House and its committees; petitions and private bills; televised

proceedings of the House; the Members' composite and Members' biographies; and membership in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.

The Clerk of the House continued to participate in the Machinery and Process of New Brunswick Government Seminars, briefing government officials on the role and functions of the Legislative Assembly and its committees.

Interparliamentary Relations

In addition to regular duties, staff of the Clerk's Office prepared itineraries and coordinated business session topics for MLAs attending various conferences and seminars including the Annual Presiding Officers Conference, the Canadian Regional Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference, the CPA Regional Conference, the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar, and conferences of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.

In 2006 the Clerks-at-the-Table responded to over 60 inquiries posted to the CATS electronic inquiry system. CATS refers to the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, an organization composed of the Table Officers from every provincial and territorial legislature in Canada, as well as the Senate and House of Commons. The Association maintains an electronic system whereby clerks from the various jurisdictions, as well as from the UK and Australia, may post a procedural question or other inquiry relating to the functioning or operations of the House or committees. The CATS system serves as an invaluable tool, allowing procedural staff to quickly canvass other jurisdictions on matters which may arise in the House or in the day-to-day administration of the Assembly. Procedural questions posted in 2006 include such diverse matters as: relevance in debate; comparative costs of parliaments; amendments to committee reports; establishment of electoral boundaries; provision of legal advice to Members; expert witnesses in committee; points of order during question period; and the use of blackberries in the Chamber.

From July 31 to August 4, the Clerks Assistant attended the 2006 Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The seminar was held in Whitehorse, Yukon. The seminar is attended by Clerks-at-the-Table from provincial and territorial legislatures as well as the

Parliament of Canada. Procedural staff from the UK House of Commons and the House of Lords attended, as did Clerks from various Australian parliaments and US State Legislatures. Topics discussed during the seminar included: parliamentary privilege - the Michaud affair and the decision of the Court of Appeal; Bill C-2, *Federal Accountability Act*; report on technology innovations and recent rulings; Potatogate - and Magic Valley - committee subpoena vs. cabinet confidentiality; and taking action to make the rules fit in an inclusive age - the experience of the Yukon women's caucus.

Televised Proceedings

The Legislative Assembly Television Service was established in 2006, with a launch on March 23 and a first full broadcast of Legislative proceedings on March 28. The proceedings are broadcast from gavel to gavel on cable television Channel 70. Every session day was televised with split English and French audio tracks, a Secondary Audio Program selection being offered for the second language in many localities. In-house feed, with floor audio, continues to be provided via closed-circuit television on Channel 5.

Renovations were undertaken in the southeast portion of the Assembly basement to allow for a new state-of-the-art control room and offices for parliamentary channel staff. The renovations were designed to allow for proper ventilation and space for the new equipment associated with operating a professional television broadcasting system: five robotic cameras, all microphone-actuated for shot selection of MLAs; a Vinten robot-control unit for manual adjusting of all camera shots if need arises; an Inscribe character generator for graphic identification of speaking MLAs in lower-third screen; state-of-the-art audio and video mixer; and three top-of-the-line Pioneer DVD-R player/recorders.

When the House is not in session, a bulletin board runs on Channel 70, with information on the upcoming session, party standings in the House, historical and current imagery, and extensive information sequences delineating the history, function, and aesthetic of the Legislature, with sizeable amount of background photography.

All current proceedings, starting March 28, 2006, are now archived on recordable DVD-R, with back-ups made of each disc. Work commenced on a comprehensive ordering and cataloguing of VHS and

Betacam-SP videotape of Legislative proceedings dating back to 1984. Once the videotapes (VHS prior to 1996 and Betacam-SP post-1996) were catalogued, transfer to DVD-R was started in one-to-one real-time. As of December 31, 2006, all videotaped proceedings to December, 1992, were successfully recorded onto DVD.

Student Legislative Seminar

Clerk's Office staff organized the 17th annual Student Legislative Seminar, held at the Legislative Assembly from April 21 to 23, 2006. Fifty-five students representing more than 30 high schools throughout the province attended. The seminar is a non-partisan program whose objectives are: to provide a comprehensive understanding of the functions and operations of government; to encourage the use of the model parliament forum in high schools; to promote positive relations between Anglophone and Francophonie students in New Brunswick; and to develop informed and responsible Canadian citizens. Selection of participants is based upon leadership qualities, scholastic record, responsibility, interest in community and current affairs, and willingness to share experiences with others. Students are recommended by school principals, guidance councillors and teachers.

Throughout the weekend, the students attended various lectures focusing on the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. Students gained first-hand knowledge from a number of guest speakers, including Hon. Bernard Lord, Premier; Shawn Graham, Leader of the Opposition; Hon. Brad Green, Minister of Health and Attorney General; Hon. David C. Walker, Judge of the Provincial Court; and Kelly Lamrock, MLA for Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak.

The students attended numerous workshops led by the Clerks-at-the-Table, in preparation for the highlight of the weekend, a model parliament held within the Legislative Assembly's historic chamber. Students sat in the seats normally occupied by their MLAs and had use of the Legislative Assembly's simultaneous interpretation system. The Speech from the Throne was read by Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Loredana Catalli Sonier, presided over the model Parliament as students used the information gained through the workshops to proceed through periods of oral questions and members' statements. The

participants also debated and voted on numerous motions and pieces of legislation, all of which they had written themselves around topics of concern.

Procedural and House Services

Clerk's Office staff are responsible for preparing all procedures and arranging all ceremonial and significant House events, including Opening Day and Royal Assent ceremonies, budget day procedure, and all items relating to the election of the Speaker and appointment of House officers.

Staff prepare the *Order and Notice Paper*, which is published each sitting day and combines two documents: the Order Paper and the Notice Paper. The Order Paper is the official agenda for the House and lists all items of business that may be brought forward during that sitting. The Notice Paper contains notice of all items that Members and the Government wish to introduce in the House. The *Order and Notice Paper* also provides cumulative information on the progress of all motions and documents presented or tabled in the Assembly.

The Unrevised Journals, often referred to as the Votes and Proceedings, are published daily and are the official record of matters considered and decisions taken by the House. At the conclusion of the session, the Unrevised Journals are revised, indexed and published to form the official permanent record of the votes and proceedings. During the year, Diane Taylor Myles, Researcher and Journals Clerk, continued compiling the daily sittings of the First, Second and Third Sessions of the 55th Legislature. The minutes of the First Session, 2003-2004 (62 Journals), were finalized, formatted, indexed, translated, bound and published. The minutes of the Second Session, 2004-2005 (58 Journals), were finalized, formatted, indexed, translated, and are in the process of being printed and bound. The Journals of the First and Second Sessions are available on the Internet. The Journals for the Third Session (unrevised), 2005-2006 (54 Journals), have been formatted and are being translated.

The *Status of Legislation* is published weekly when the House is in session and provides cumulative information of the progress of all Bills. The document is also posted on the Legislative Assembly's web page as are the Order and Notice paper, the Unrevised Journals, and all Bills introduced in the House.

Staff of the Clerk's Office prepare and publish the *Biographies of Members* booklet, which includes an up-to-date picture and biography of each Member of the Legislative Assembly. Photographic sessions were arranged in the Legislative Council Chamber in November to photograph Members for the composite of Members elected to the 56th Legislative Assembly. The composite, once ready, will hang in the rotunda on the main floor. The photographs of Members will also be used for the *Biographies* booklet and for Member's biographies on the Assembly's web page.

The year 2006 saw increased use of the Legislative Assembly website, with more than 17 million web pages viewed by the public. Improved delivery of the online Legislative Calendar and timely availability of First Reading Bills have prompted increased daily website visits. Live webcasts of daily legislative proceedings continue to be popular. More than 800 people simultaneously viewed the live webcasts of the swearing-in ceremony for new Cabinet Ministers and Members of the 56th Legislative Assembly in October 2006.



The Legislative Assembly Television Service was established in 2006, with a launch on March 23 and a first full broadcast of Legislative proceedings on March 28. The proceedings are broadcast from gavel to gavel on cable television Channel 70. Every session day was televised with split English and French audio tracks, a Secondary Audio Program selection being offered for the second language in many localities. In-house feed, with floor audio, continues to be provided via closed-circuit television on Channel 5.

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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 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 greater volume of work coming before the Legislature, the complexity of which necessitates 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.

The majority of committee activity occurred during the first half of 2006. As a result of the dissolution of the Fifty-fifth Legislature on August 18 and the ensuing provincial election which was held on September 18, all committee work ceased. When the House is dissolved, committees no longer exist.

In total, 51 committee meetings were held during the course of the year to complete the work mandated to the various committees. 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. In addition, the Standing Committee on Estimates met for several days in an effort to expedite the review of the main estimates for 2006-2007.

On June 21 the House established new memberships for each Standing Committee. However, most committees were unable to meet to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair before the dissolution of the House in August. Changes were made to the membership of the Legislative Administration Committee.

Standing Rule 104(1), which establishes the membership of the committee, was suspended during the Third Session of the 55th Legislature to allow changes to committee membership. The number of government members was reduced from seven to six while the number of opposition members increased from two to three.

On June 21 the House appointed a new Select Committee on Literacy. The mandate of the Committee was to develop recommendations for a long-term plan to improve literacy rates in all regions of the province. However, the Committee never met and ceased to exist upon the dissolution of the House.

The following chart presents a breakdown of the various committees and the number of days each committee met during 2006:

COMMITTEE	NO. OF MEETINGS
Crown Corporations	10
Education	0
Estimates	9
Health Care	0
Law Amendments	2
Legislative Administration	9
Legislative Officers	0
Literacy	0
Private Bills	2
Privileges	0
Procedure	4
Public Accounts	15
TOTAL	51

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 10 committee meetings held during 2006.

On January 10 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, 2005*. The Auditor General briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

Officials of the province's eight regional health authorities appeared before the Committee in January. The Chair 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 fiscal year ending March 31, 2005. The Committee met with the health authorities as follows:

January 17	Regional Health Authority 2;
January 18	Regional Health Authority 1 (South-East);
January 19	Regional Health Authority 3;
January 24	Regional Health Authority 1 (Beauséjour);
January 25	Regional Health Authority 6;
January 26	Regional Health Authority 4; Regional Health Authority 5;
January 31	Regional Health Authority 7.

The Committee also met on January 31, March 14 and 21 to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005:

Atlantic Lottery Corporation;
Kings Landing Corporation;
Lotteries Commission of New Brunswick;
Provincial Holdings Ltd.

Standing Committee on Education

The Standing Committee on Education is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of education in the province and to consider such matters and materials to be referred by the Minister of Education to the Select Committee on Education. The Committee did not meet in 2006.

Standing Committee on Estimates

In an effort to expedite the review of the Main Estimates for 2006-2007, the Legislature referred the estimates of several departments to the Committee for consideration. The Committee met in the evenings of June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15 and successfully accomplished the review normally undertaken by the Committee of Supply.

In a report to the House on June 16, the recommendation by the Committee that certain estimates be adopted was concurred in by the House.

Standing Committee on Health Care

The Standing Committee on Health Care is responsible for examining the issues related to the delivery of health care in the province and to consider such other matters and materials as may be referred by the Minister of Health. The Committee did not meet in 2006.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly may not always receive second reading. Occasionally, a Bill is referred by way of motion to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for review. The review may include allowing public consultation in order to receive input from interested stakeholders, groups and individuals.

The Committee met twice in 2006. On February 23 the Committee met with representatives from the Department of Training and Employment Development to discuss the merits of Bill 16, *Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund Act*, which was introduced by Opposition Leader Shawn Graham (Kent) on December 14, 2004 during the Second Session of the 55th Legislature, and referred to the Committee on December 17, 2004 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.

On May 18 the Committee met with representatives from the Department of Justice to discuss the merits of Bill 6, *Franchises Act*, which was introduced by Hon. Brad Green, Q.C. (Fredericton South) on December 7, 2005 during the Third Session of the

55th Legislature, and referred to the Committee on December 9, 2005 for review. The Bill is designed to ensure a fair relationship between small business people in New Brunswick and franchise owners. The Committee agreed to request written submissions from the public on the merits of Bill 6. However, before the Committee could review the submissions received from the public, the House was dissolved and the Committee ceased to exist.

During 2006 the following three Bills were referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments:

Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, was introduced by Mrs. Carmel Robichaud (Miramichi Bay) on April 11 and referred to the Committee on June 2 for review. The Bill requires the Minister of Education to consider certain factors prior to approving the closure of a school. In addition, the Bill requires the Minister to hold a public meeting to receive community input on the issue.

Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, was introduced by Opposition Leader Shawn Graham (Kent) on April 13 and referred to the Committee on April 26 for review. The Bill prohibits any member of the Executive Council from accepting any salary, financial assistance, or any other benefit from a registered political party or a registered district association. However, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner would retain the discretion to approve such benefits if certain conditions were met.

Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*, was introduced by Michael Murphy (Moncton North) on May 5 and referred to the Committee on May 9 for review. The Bill authorizes municipalities to regulate and ban the use of certain pesticides.

Legislative Administration Committee

The Legislative Administration Committee is chaired by the Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Rule 104(2), the Committee is responsible for the administration and operation of the Legislative Buildings, 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. During 2006, the Committee held 9 meetings on the following dates: January 24, February 24, March 21, 31, April 20, May 12, 24, June 6, and July 18.

Among the matters considered by the Committee were the following:

- security initiatives within the legislative precincts;
- broadcast of legislative proceedings and installation of a professional television broadcasting system;
- provision of drafting services to Members;
- name changes of electoral districts;
- restoration of roof on Legislative Assembly Building;
- professional liability insurance;
- MLA remuneration;
- rules for operation of Members' constituency offices;
- policy on the service of legal documents within legislative precincts;
- custodial and commissionaire services;
- budget estimates;
- committee budgets; and
- staffing and personnel issues.

Standing Committee on Legislative Officers

Pursuant to Standing Rule 91, all reports to the House of the Legislative Officers stand permanently referred to the Committee. The current list of Legislative Officers includes the Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Commissioner of Official Languages, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Consumer Advocate for Insurance, Ombudsman, and Supervisor of Political Financing. The Committee did not meet in 2006.

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 2006 the Committee considered the following two Private Bills:

Bill 66, *An Act Respecting the Paramedic Association of New Brunswick*;

Bill 69, *An Act to Amend the Université de Moncton Act*.

The Committee met on May 19 and in a report to the House on May 23 the Committee recommended Bill 66 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bill 66 received Royal Assent on June 22.

The Committee met on June 8 and in a report to the House on June 9 the Committee recommended Bill 69 to the favourable consideration of the House. Bill 69 received Royal Assent on June 22.

Standing Committee on Privileges

Pursuant to Standing Rule 9(2), the House may, by resolution, refer a matter or question directly concerning the House, a Committee or Member to the Standing Committee on Privileges. The Committee did not meet in 2006.

Standing Committee on Procedure

The Standing Committee on Procedure is chaired by Hon. Bev Harrison (Hampton-Belleisle). 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 met on April 20, 25, May 9 and 29 to review the Standing Rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly.

On May 31 the Committee presented a report to the Assembly that recommended several amendments be made to the Standing Rules, including:

- that Standing Rule 42 be amended to permit government bills to be called for second and third reading at the discretion of government;
- that Standing Rule 42.1 be added to expedite the passage of Appropriation Bills in one sitting day;
- that Standing Rule 44 be amended to allow for Opposition Members' Business to take precedence on Thursdays, when Opposition Members' Public Bills and Motions may be taken up at the discretion of the Opposition for the duration of the sitting day;
- that Standing Rules 108 and 109 be amended to deem all estimates, transmitted to the House, referred to the Standing Committee on Estimates, except those estimates, designated by the Opposition, referred to the Committee of Supply;
- that Standing Rule 109 be amended to place time limits on the consideration of all estimates in Committee of Supply and in the Standing Committee on Estimates;
- that Standing Rule 78.1 be amended to allow defeated Bills or estimates to be reinstated instead of referred back to Committee;
- that Standing Rule 66 be amended to permit a motion of concurrence in a Report of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to be moved without notice;
- that Standing Rule 85 be repealed in order to permit the movement of the previous question in the Committees of the Whole House; and
- that Standing Rule 97 be amended to allow the Standing Committee on Estimates and the Standing Committee on Law Amendments to sit concurrently with the House.

The Committee's recommendations were not taken into consideration by the Assembly prior to the dissolution of the House.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by Eric Allaby (Fundy Isles), remained active with a total of 15 committee meetings held during 2006.

On January 10 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, 2005*. The Auditor General briefed Members on the nature of the work undertaken during the year and the contents and findings of the Report.

The Committee met February 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 21, 22, 23, and March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24 to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005:

- Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat;
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- Department of Business New Brunswick;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Energy;
- Department of Environment and Local Government;
- Department of Family and Community Services;
- 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;
- Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission;
- New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors;
- New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women;
- New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth;
- Office of the Auditor General;
- Office of the Comptroller;
- Office of Human Resources.

On June 21 the Committee presented a report to the House outlining its activities in 2005 and 2006.

III. Select Committees

Select Committee on Literacy

The Select Committee on Literacy was appointed on June 21. The Committee was responsible for studying and conducting consultations to develop recommendations for a long-term plan to improve literacy rates in all regions of the province. The Committee did not meet in 2006.

House Statistics

55th Legislature

	<i>First Session 2003 - 2004</i>	<i>Second Session 2004 - 2005</i>	<i>Third Session 2005 - 2006</i>
<i>Daily Sitzings</i>			
Number of Sitting Days	62	58	54
Evening Sitzings	3	3	0
<i>Government Bills</i>			
Introduced	50	50	54
Received Royal Assent	48	40	42
<i>Private Bills</i>			
Introduced	7	3	2
Received Royal Assent	7	3	2
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>			
Introduced	25	28	29
Received Royal Assent	2	0	2
<i>Government Motions</i>			
Total	18	10	23
Number debated	8	4	9
Number agreed to	17	10	23
Number withdrawn	-	-	-
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>			
Total	107	108	86
Number debated	9	17	14
Number agreed to	5	7	3
Motions for returns	83	91	71
<i>Committee of Supply</i>			
In House (Days)	35	27	25
In Committee on Estimates	-	5	9
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>	62	58	59
<i>Petitions</i>	48	52	26
<i>Written Questions</i>	25	7	11

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, the Offices of the Legislative Assembly and a number of Statutory Offices is a priority and, to that end, staff attended professional development, information and training sessions such as the following:

- Training programs and seminars on upgrades and enhancements to the Province's Financial Information System based on the Oracle software. Significant changes were completed in processing payments to vendors both in the areas of data input and records management to ensure efficient and accurate payment of vendors and effective use of resources.
- Professional development seminars entitled "Employee and Family Assistance Program", "PNB Procurement Information Session", "Values, Ethics and Accountability", and "Integrating the Management Accountability Framework", that covered areas such as current issues in the area of human resources, purchasing, accounting and auditing in government, protection of personnel information and financial planning and budgeting.
- Training seminars entitled "Using Electronic Purchase Cards" and "Financial Management in the Future", to facilitate the usage of the Electronic Purchase Cards for purchasing by the Legislative Assembly. Implementation of electronic procurement will replace some purchasing processes including online input and processing of financial documents, and electronic spending and payment authorization.

Further to a decision of the Legislative Administration Committee, the Clerk's Office began a payroll service for Members' constituency office staff. Commencing on January 1, 2006, constituency office employees of Members were being paid bi-weekly using the Province of New Brunswick's Human Resources Information System. The Finance and Human Resources section undertook responsibility for commencements, bi-weekly payments, terminations and related documentation, along with the subsequent financial chargebacks to the Constituency Office

Allowances of the individual Members. During 2006 an average of 37 constituency office staff were paid using this Payroll Service Program for Members.

A significant amount of employee turnover occurred in the Finance and Human Resources section during 2006. In consideration of the duties and responsibilities of the Finance and Human Resources section and the additional resource requirements of the Payroll Service Program, the Legislative Administration Committee approved the addition of one staff as part of the 2006-2007 budget for the Legislative Assembly. A new employee was hired in May of 2006 to fill the new Accounting Assistant position, however resigned in September to pursue other career opportunities. With the departure of another employee in June of 2006, two new Accounting Assistants were hired to fill the vacancy and the new Accounting Assistant position. The reorganization of duties and responsibilities initiated in 2005, which was impacted by significant staff turnover during this year, was continued during 2006 to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the staff.

The workload in each of the Finance and Human Resource areas was significantly increased as a result of the Cabinet changes announced on February 14, 2006 and a general election held on September 18, 2006. The February 2006 Cabinet changes involved nine departments and fifteen Members. The general election resulted in the election of eleven new Members, the appointment of a new Cabinet and a new Leader of the Official Opposition, and the designation of two Deputy Speakers Designate. In addition there were twenty-seven changes in the staffing of the Members' offices due to the results of the election involving commencements, transfers and terminations. Significant changes in staffing also occurred throughout other offices of the Legislative Assembly (including statutory offices) during 2006, which included four secondments, four terminations and eleven employee commencements.

The Finance and Human Resources section continued to provide financial and human resources administration support to the following statutory offices: Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and

Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance in New Brunswick. Since 1999 the section has assumed responsibility for providing administrative, financial and human resources support to five of the seven statutory officers reporting to the Assembly.

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 of Finance and Human Resources was not able to attend the sixth annual CAPA conference but benefitted from valuable input and collaboration from colleagues in legislatures across Canada during 2006.

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

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 the Legislative Assembly met budgetary objectives and maintained a reasonable level of services to the Members and staff. The Legislative Assembly received \$1,080,000 in Supplementary Estimates to fund the costs associated with repairs and restoration to the Legislative Assembly Building (including chandeliers, ceilings and roof trusses in the Committee Room), chairs for the Legislative Chamber, and implementation of a parliamentary broadcast system. The accompanying financial statement shows actual expenditure savings amounting to \$57,500 on a total budget of \$12,008,200 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This includes \$2,200 in the Members Allowances and Committees program, \$21,400 in the Office of the Legislative Assembly and \$33,900 in the Leaders of Registered Political Parties.

The House sat a total of 42 sitting days during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, compared to 62 during the 2004-2005 and 26 in 2003-2004. The reduction in the number of sitting days during the 2003-2004 fiscal year reflects the fact that a general election occurred during 2003. The annual budget of the Legislative Assembly provides for expenses and allowances associated with approximately 40 sitting days during the fiscal year, and thus additional funding was not required for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The budgetary process for the Legislative Assembly's 2006-2007 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 is facing significantly increased demand and expenses related to issues of safety and security of Members, legislative staff, and the public, and the provision of support services to the statutory officers reporting to the Assembly. In addition, expenses and the level of activities increased in areas such as translation and interpretation, transcription of House proceedings, televising and recording of House proceedings, activities of Legislative Committees and services to Members. A total budget of \$12,259,000, including funding for security and screening

equipment enhancements and completion of the parliamentary broadcast system, was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Capital budget to continue the repair and renovation of the Legislative Assembly Building, was also approved and included in the Department of Supply and Services Capital Budget.

II. Human Resources Services

Overview

Human Resources Services include the following responsibilities:

- * Personnel Administration
 - Participate in recruitment process and ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits and maintenance of payroll and personnel records.
 - Update and communicate changes in the areas of policies and benefits to all employees.
- * Human Resources 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 Services Highlights

A total of forty-two students and other individuals were employed under the Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED) program and other programs administered by the Finance and Human Resources 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 ROE) of each of the related employees. The students employed included fourteen Pages for the 2005-2006 session, four Tour Guides for the 2006 tourism season, three Co-op students for the Finance and Human Resources section and an information technology student.

The September 18, 2006 general election had a significant impact on the Payroll Service Program for Members. All constituency staff hired by Members and paid through this program were required to be laid off when the election was called on August 18, 2006. Prior to the election the Finance and Human Resources section processed terminations and related documentation involving thirty-seven constituency staff. Following the general election, thirty-eight constituency staff were commenced under the Payroll Service Program.

In accordance with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly Act, the annual indexation of the indemnity of Members is based on the three-year average change in the "Average Weekly Earnings of New Brunswick Employees". Staff processed a 2.933% increase in the annual indemnity and expense allowance of Members effective January 1, 2006. Similar provisions are included in the Executive Council Act, requiring a similar adjustment in the salary paid to Members of the Executive Council. The increases for MLAs and ministers and all the necessary adjustments were processed by Finance and Human Resources staff.

The Finance and Human Resources section has utilized students from the University of New Brunswick's Business Administration Co-operative Education program since 1995, hiring three students each year for four-month work terms. Three employees were employed under this program in 2006 to cover employee vacations and to facilitate the recruitment of full time employees. The students have been valuable assets and have assisted in meeting the ever increasing demands and responsibilities of the section.

In 2006, Finance and Human Resources staff processed cost of living increases on April 1 and October 1, affecting a total of eighty-three positions. Staff also processed regular merit increases for employees and position reclassifications, and assisted in the interviewing and hiring process for the eight new full-time staff (including the Legislative Librarian), six Co-op students, four Tour Guides and fourteen Pages for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Staff continued to process applications to purchase pensionable service as a result of changes introduced in 2004 to the Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA), relating to eligible periods of government service that may qualify as pensionable under the PSSA.

Financial Summary — Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2006
(in \$ 000's)

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<i>Members' Allowances and Committees</i>		
Allowances to Members	7,106.6	7,152.2
Legislative Committees	284.0	236.2
Subtotal	7,390.6	7,388.4
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	406.2	404.5
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1,254.2	1,254.6
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	120.9	100.0
Hansard Office	474.1	474.0
Debates Translation	626.9	627.8
Subtotal	2,882.3	2,860.9
<i>Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	562.6	528.7
Office of the Official Opposition	1,033.2	1,033.2
Office of the New Democratic Member	133.8	133.8
MLA Miramichi-Bay du Vin	1.8	1.8
MLA Nepisiguit	3.9	3.9
Subtotal	1,735.3	1,701.4
<i>Total - Legislative Assembly</i>	12,008.2	11,950.7

Human Resources Summary — Legislative Assembly

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Sessional</i>	<i>Wages</i>	<i>Co-op Students</i>
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	5	0	0	0	0
General Administration	2	0	0	3	0
Finance and Human Resources	4	0	0	0	1
Technology	1	0	0	0	1
Sergeant-at-Arms / Security	1	0	11	9	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of the Conflict of Interest</i>					
Commissioner	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Legislative Library</i>					
<i>and Research Services</i>	7	0	0	2	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>	10	0	0	2	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	9	0	0	1	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	8	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	14	0	0	0	0
<i>New Democratic Member's Office</i>	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	12	4	0
<i>Members</i>	0	55	0	0	0
TOTAL	66	55	23	23	2

Ceremonial, Security and Visitor Services

Sergeant-at-Arms — Daniel Bussi res

Following a Cabinet shuffle, the swearing-in of the Executive Council took place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on February 14. A small ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Honourable Bev Harrison, who had been the Speaker, took a position within Cabinet, creating a vacancy in the Speaker's Office. On March 28, the resumption of the third session of the 55th Legislative Assembly began with the election of Speaker. Honourable Michael Malley was elected to the position.

A special channel dedicated to broadcasting gavel-to-gavel coverage of legislative proceedings gave New Brunswickers access to the political process and their elected officials. The channel, available to Rogers Cable customers on channel 70, began at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, 2006 when the legislature resumed. The new channel is offered in both official languages on televisions with secondary audio programming (SAP) features in major centres across the province. A community bulletin board airs when the house is not in session. The legislature recently acquired a professional broadcasting system with five state-of-the-art cameras located throughout the chamber. The cameras are operated remotely by Rogers Television, which has been commissioned to manage the new channel. Proceedings continue to be broadcast live on the web at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/index-e.asp>.

The 18th Annual Student Legislative Seminar was held from April 21 to 23, with 56 participants from all over the province. This was one of the largest participations ever for the seminar. Guest speakers for the weekend included His Honour Herm n gilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick; Honourable David Walker, Judge of the Provincial Court; Honourable Bernard Lord, Premier; Shawn Graham, Leader of the Official Opposition; John Betts, Deputy Speaker and MLA for Moncton Crescent; Kelly Lamrock, MLA for Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak; and Honourable Brad Green, Q.C., Minister of Health and Attorney General. The very successful weekend culminated with a mock parliament, which produced heated debates.

On June 2, the Fredericton Walk and Roll, part of Disability Awareness Week, took place on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly. The event is organized by the Premier's Council on the Status of the Disabled.

June 15 saw the long-awaited official re-opening of the Council Chamber after a two and a half-year restoration project, which included a structural reinforcement of the plaster ceiling, reproduction of the historical paint colours, and the cleaning and refurbishing of the wooden shutters and the chandeliers.



The Legislative Council Chamber was home to New Brunswick's "upper house." An Act Relating to the Legislative Council, dated April 16, 1891, provided for the abolition of the provincial upper house. Under the terms of the Act, the Legislative Council held its last meeting on April 7, 1892.

Located on the second floor of the 1882 Assembly Building, the room was re-opened in June following the completion of a two and one-half year restoration project. Included in the refurbishment: structural reinforcement of the plaster ceiling, reproduction of the historical paint colours, and cleaning and refurbishing the wooden shutters and the chandeliers.

The Legislative Council Chamber is currently the venue for the majority of New Brunswick's standing and select committee meetings.

On June 16, the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission held their presentation of 2006 New Brunswick Human Rights Award in the Legislative Chamber. They also organized a ceremony honouring Hampton native John Peters Humphrey, who helped draft the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

June 16 also saw the passing of Walter (Wally) Craigs, who was for many decades a Sound and Language Technician at the Legislative Assembly.

A provincial election was held on September 18. As they had in 2003, CBC had their election night coverage in the Rotunda.

The Canada Cord Ceremony was held in the Legislative Chamber on September 30. A total of 36 young recipients were honoured during the ceremony. His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, the Lieutenant-Governor, and Her Honour Marcia Babineau were in attendance to make the presentations.

The swearing-in of Members of the Executive Council took place in the Legislative Chamber on the morning of October 3, and the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the afternoon. The galleries and the floor of the Legislative Chamber were filled to capacity, with overflow seating in the Council Chamber and in the cafeteria.

The Partnership of Parliaments Conference was held from October 8 to 18. This conference invites Members of various State Parliaments in Germany to come and exchange ideas and experiences with Canadian MLAs. New Brunswick hosted six German Parliamentarians. The conference proved to be very helpful for the local MLAs, as well as to the Clerks-at-the-Table.

Take your kids to work on November 1 saw the visit of twelve students whose parents work at the Department of Justice. The students had a chance to understand what happens to their parent's work once it leaves the legislative drafting rooms of the Department. They were met by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Loredana Catalli Sonier, and the Visitor Services Coordinator, Diane Mercier-Allain.

On November 4, 40 recipients of the Chief Scout Award and five recipients of the Queen's Venturer

Award were recognized in a Ceremony in the Legislative Chamber.

On November 8, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick put on permanent display several Books of Remembrance, which contain the names of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It was the wish of a former Sergeant-at-Arms, the late Leo Francis McNulty, that the books be displayed more prominently in the Legislative Assembly Building. The Legislative Library holds six of these historical documents, which are an integral part of our nation's history. On display are the Books of Remembrance of the South African War (1899-1902); the First World War (1914-1918); the Second World War (1939-1945); the Korean War (1950-1953); the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance (1867-1949); and the Book of Remembrance of the Merchant Navy (WWI).

Despite inclement weather on the evening of December 1, the Annual Christmas Tree-lighting Ceremony went ahead. Approximately 180 to 200 people braved the ice pellet storm to participate. The Deputy Speaker Designate, Eugene McGinley officiated. Entertainment was provided by Bel Canto Singers of Fredericton, under the direction of Tim Cooper, and by the Fredericton High School Senior Concert Band, under the direction of Don Bossé. The Very Reverend Keith R. Joyce, Chaplain of the Legislative Assembly offered prayers. Other dignitaries included Keith Ashfield, MLA for New Maryland, and Rick Miles, MLA for Fredericton-Silverwood. His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, accompanied by two local children, Nathan Scott, Nashwaaksis Middle School, and Allen Sutherland, Devon Middle School, led the countdown and turned on the lights of the Christmas tree to the sounds of the cheering crowd. Santa then made an appearance, handing out treats to the children.

In the Council Chamber on December 5, A Service of Remembrance and Action was held by the Women's Inter-church Council of Fredericton and Area for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The names of local women murdered as a result of violence were read off as lights were dimmed, followed by song and prayers.

On December 15, the Queen's Counsel Appointments Ceremony took place in the Legislative Chamber. Recipients included Marie-Claude Deschênes-Barton, of Woodstock; Scott F. Fowler of Moncton; Frederick C. McElman, Ronald E. Morris, Donald J. Stevenson, and Allison Whitehead, all of Fredericton; Gary J. McLaughlin of Edmundston; Elizabeth T. McLeod and George S. Theriault of Saint John; Paul J. Veniot of Bathurst; and Kathleen Wingate Lordon of Miramichi.

Visits over the year included on May 31, the Ambassador of China, His Excellency LU Shumin; on June 14, The Hon. David H. Wilkins, United States Ambassador-Designate to Canada; and on July 24, Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert, President of the Senate of Australia, who visited the Legislative Assembly and met with Speaker Kinsella of the Canadian Senate and Speaker Malley.

Visitor and tourist numbers were down significantly this year, as they were in much of the tourism industry. Visitors to the Legislative Assembly were the lowest in four years, since the new system of tracking these numbers was started. Weather was recognized as a factor over the summer and the fact there was no fall sitting also played a role.

Building

Restoration of the 125-year old building continues with work on the roof. Replacement of deteriorated galvanized steel roofing and flashings, and restoration of the building's masonry facade, were two main recommendations of the *Building Assessment and Master Plan for the Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of the Legislative Assembly Building*, commissioned in 2005. The first phase of the three-year project of the roof restoration was carried out by Heather & Little, specialists in ornamental metal restoration, in association with New Brunswick companies and tradespeople. Waterproofing membranes and a roof-shield fabric were added below the cladding. Ventilation on the dome was also improved. The project started in September and was completed at the end of December, as scheduled.

Work also began on the restoration of the two first floor washrooms. Structural problems were encountered causing delays in the completion of the work, which was scheduled to be done in late December.



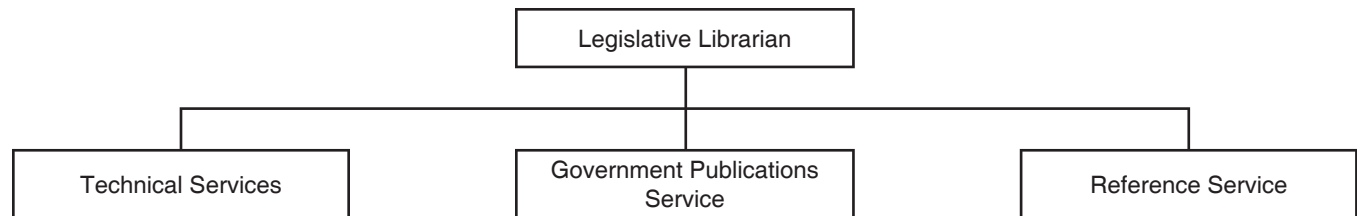
Refurbishment of the dome of the Legislative Building was completed on schedule in early December.

Security

On October 16, 2006, new security equipment arrived at the Legislative Assembly. The new security station was built, with a new X-ray machine for items such as parcels, handbags, briefcases; an explosives detector; and, a metal detecting arch, which arrived several weeks later. Training of staff took place during the rest of December. The security station is expected to be fully functional by the new year.

Legislative Library

Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey



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 is required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by that office. Further, all departments are required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government document publication printed by it or under its authority within thirty days after its printing.

The Legislative Library has broadened its mandate to automatically receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications. An e-repository for New Brunswick electronic government publications has been established whereby selective publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access. It should be noted that the Library still maintains a print collection of all government documents. A significant 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 stress the importance of producing print copies, as well as internet versions of government publications. The Library advocates that print copies should continue to be made available for future generations and for today's public that might not have access to a computer.

The Library strives to serve Members, staff, civil servants and the public in an efficient and accommodating manner. All requests for information are handled in a confidential and non-partisan fashion. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 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 Legislative Library left the federal Depository Services Program (DSP) in January 2006. Since then, a gradual, careful weeding of the Library's large collection of federal publications has been ongoing. Ephemera (brochures, booklets, etc), newsletters, and other such serial publications that are deemed no longer useful in the service to the library clientele, have been withdrawn. As well, certain monograph publications, particularly in the sciences, have been offered to libraries in the province that collect scientific publications. Notwithstanding, a large portion of the federal collection will be retained and selected additions will continue to be made.

The Legislative Library played host to a number of events in 2006:

On February 16, the Fredericton Heritage Trust Awards ceremony was held in the Legislative Library. The awards were presented by the Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, as part of the Heritage Week celebrations. A reception was held in honour of the recipients and guests took in the many heritage displays that had been set up by the Library staff. Over sixty people were in attendance.

On March 29, the Library hosted a reception for MLAs and legislative staff. The object of the event was to acquaint Members and staff with the Legislative Library and to provide information on the many services and functions provided by Library personnel.

On December 7, the Library hosted the unveiling of the John Peters Humphrey memorial plaque. Born in Hampton in 1905, John Peters Humphrey was an instrumental figure in the field of human rights in Canada and worldwide. He was the first director of the United Nations' Human Rights Division - a position he held for 20 years - and a principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The unveiling was attended by various MLAs, members and staff of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, residents of Hampton and members of the media. This was a follow up presentation to events held in June in the Chamber, honouring the life and work of Mr. Humphrey. The bronze plaque will remain on display in the Legislative Library so that future generations will know of Humphrey's legacy and accomplishments.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library is very receptive to suggestions regarding books and other materials that might be acquired to enhance its collections. During the past year, numerous acquisitions were made as a result of insightful suggestions from Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and is an incredible resource for the province. In 2006, New Brunswick publishers were once again approached to donate their books, as were numerous authors of privately published material. In many instances, the Library is able to issue tax receipts for such donations. Many authors and publishers were receptive to the idea. Donations of books are also received from patrons of the Library and from various associations.

The Legislative Library is grateful to the following individuals, publishers and associations who donated books during the past year:

Individuals

Louis Allain

Sally Baxter

Roy Boudreau (MLA)

Bob Butler

Shawn DeLong

Gilles C. Dignard

James Philip Dumaresq

J. T. Edgett

Carolyn Gammon

Dr. Roger Guzman

Bev Harrison (MLA)

A. J. Munn

Sarah Richard

Rudy Stoczek

Wally Stiles (MLA)

Publishers/Associations

DreamCatcher Publishing Inc.

Goose Lane Editions

La Grande Marée

Office of the Premier

Saint John Board of Trade

Trinity Enterprises

The Legislative Library gratefully acknowledges monies received through the Viscount Bennett Trust Fund. With this grant, the Library was able to purchase a number of New Brunswick publications reflecting the intellectual heritage of the province. Among the titles acquired were: Medley. A charge to the clergy (1853); An address delivered before the Historical Society of New Brunswick, in the city of St. John, Dominion of Canada, 4th July, 1883; Cinquantième Anniversaire de la Fondation de la Succursale La Tour #14 de la Société L'Assomption (1955). Without this generous grant, purchase of these and other valuable New Brunswick books would not have been possible.

Reference

The Library reference team remained busy throughout the year, having researched and provided answers to over 1500 requests. There were numerous requests for provincial Acts to be traced, together with corresponding amendments. Several requests were received for detailed Hansard searches.

In the fall of 2006, a new procedure was established for clients requiring Hansard material. Through an initiative with the Hansard Office, it was agreed that all requests for Hansard documents would now be forwarded to the Legislative Library reference desk.

As a result, Hansard editors and staff are no longer required to spend valuable time conducting detailed searches. Library staff now conduct such searches on the “legisdoc” server and provide material to clients as requested. If the requested materials are not readily available, Library staff will contact the Hansard Office on the client’s behalf. This process appears to be working well for both branches.

The Library subscribes to several electronic databases which are used on a daily basis. *Infomart* has proven to be invaluable for finding specific newspaper articles for patrons. It is also useful in finding everything written on a particular topic in certain newspapers. The *Ebsco* database which are searchable full text periodical sources are also very useful when doing topical searches for patrons on a specific subject or searching in a particular periodical title.

The databases that have been created in-house are used on a daily basis by both Library staff and patrons. The effort to keep such databases up to date is well worth the time spent.

Marketing / Outreach

The Library has continued to work towards raising its profile and fostering closer relations with its most important clients, New Brunswick’s 55 MLAs. During the session, many Members regularly stop by prior to the start of the daily sitting where the provincial daily newspapers are readily available. Others stop by briefly to borrow periodicals or other material. Numerous Members and staff have made use of the Library’s reference service to assist them in their research on current issues before the House.

In October, an orientation session was offered through the Clerk’s Office to all newly elected Members. The Legislative Librarian gave a brief overview of the Library’s collections and services available.

In terms of publishing, the *Government Documents Checklist* has been revived and will be available at the beginning of the new year on the Legislative Library’s web site: <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/leglibbib/publications/publications-e.asp>. The newly formatted list will be available in a PDF format.

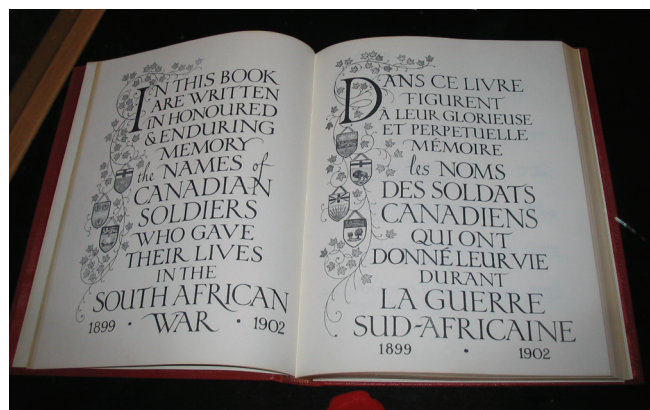
Members and legislative staff continue to receive paper copies of the *Selected Accession List* four times a year. Copies of this list of new books are also provided by e-mail to all New Brunswick civil servants. These contain added notes or “updates” highlighting a

particular service provided by the Legislative Library (e.g. government publications), or some aspect of its collection (e.g. biographies), along with a short selection of entries from the accessions list thought to appeal to employees of a particular department. This has proven to be very successful with the civil servants to the extent that the mailings have had to be staggered to the various departments to allow reference staff a chance to handle all the requests received.

The Library’s popular *Periodical Contents* includes a cover sheet specifying particular articles on the contents pages of its periodical collection, alerting the reader to the themes in the periodical literature. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with many requests being made for the articles mentioned.

The Legislative Library’s website now includes an updated version of the virtual bookshelf. Every month, staff members choose a number of books new to the Library and the covers of these books are scanned onto the website. By running the curser over a book a patron can see details about the book and link directly to the catalogue for more details or to request it, if desired.

Over the past year the Legislative Library has mounted several displays within the legislative complex. Topics included: celebrating our natural landscape; celebrating women in politics; Holocaust Memorial Day; public speaking; and maritime cookbooks. There was also a detailed display on John Peters Humphrey. Library staff were pleased to receive feedback on the displays from both MLAs and the public. As a result, there were usually several requests to borrow the books once a display was over.



The Books of Remembrance are on permanent display on the second floor rotunda. Pictured above is the Book of Remembrance of the South African War (1899-1902).

The Library's cherished Audubon display found a new home in the fall. It has been moved upstairs to the newly renovated Legislative Council Chamber. Due to the size of the room, there is plenty of space for the large display case, as well as a podium displaying information about the collection.

Several tours were given throughout the year to various groups. Several academic institutions requested visits to the Library in order for their classes to learn more about the Library and its collections.

Initiatives

Staff designed and printed a new Legislative Library brochure which was distributed to the new Members following their orientation session in October. The Library has received favourable comments about the brochure and will now include one with all new library cards.

The Library's automation technology has continued to grow and develop through various ongoing projects. The largest information technology project of the year has been the development of the third version (V3) of the custom Data Browser application. V3 is intended to make searching and managing the numerous in-house databases much more efficient. Once complete, staff will have access to a wide variety of databases including: Text News Clippings; Scanned News Clippings; MLA Biographies; Annual Reports; Municipal Plans; Private Acts; the N.B. History Checklist and the Virtual Pamphlet File. A large amount of custom database work has also been completed to prepare the existing databases to be migrated on the Library's Horizon system.

Designed as a stand-alone desktop application, V3 will incorporate a number of changes that staff have requested and eliminate a number of common problems when trying to manage a large amount of database items. Faster searching, better input validation and the ability to work with multiple databases at once are some of the features that will help staff be more productive. The core framework of Data Browser V3 is based on a modular approach that allows new features and databases to be added quickly. This design will permit any future databases to have staff tools for activities such as searching, inputting and editing added quickly with little new development work required. Since the new underlying base framework is not tied exclusively to the Data Browser

application, it is also being used in a side project to develop a request management tool for Hansard. The first release of V3 will be deployed shortly in the New Year.

Another new project was the E-Document Repository for the Government Documents division. A system was developed to begin archiving electronic copies of provincial government documents. As more departments move to publish in digital formats only, it was recognized that it was becoming a challenge to ensure that electronic copies would be available at later dates as URLs have a tendency to change or become invalid. Working with Government Documents staff, a process was created to select, download, tag, and archive copies of select electronic documents into a digital repository. The project included leveraging the Library's server resources to store local copies of each document and link them with existing catalogue data. In the future should an e-document be removed from the originating department's web site, a PDF copy will still exist for Library patrons. Currently, visitors to the Library's web site can search for electronic documents within the Library's online catalogue or visit a new section of the web site that allows them to easily view recently added documents. To date, over 200 government documents have been processed.

Throughout the year, a number of changes and updates were made to the Library's web site, including a new layout and a new database access platform. The overdue checker and the request checker both received interface redesigns to better follow common User Interface guidelines. The online Private Acts became easier to search. Until recently, the Private Acts have always been a fairly static section of the web site; difficult to search and update. This new section leverages AJAX and SQL database technologies to permit patrons to easily search for Acts by keyword or title.

The Library's existing in-house databases continued to grow throughout the year. Besides the creation of the Private Acts and E-Document databases, the Text Clippings database received additional entries. MLA biographies in the MLA database have also been updated to reflect changes since the fall election. Looking towards the coming year, initial planning has already been discussed for another digital database for the Library's pamphlet file.

Space / Storage

Accommodation of the collections continues to provide challenges, especially in the main Library. In the Government Documents section, space is not as critical an issue as the Library no longer receives federal material through the depository program. However, the Legislative Library continues to accept material from various departmental and government agency libraries that are in the process of closing. Staff has sorted through these collections and will be attempting to find the necessary space.

Staffing

In July, Kenda Clark-Gorey was appointed the new Legislative Librarian. Ms. Clark-Gorey worked for thirteen years in the New Brunswick Community College library system and for the past two years as the librarian at the Provincial Translation Bureau. She replaces Margaret (Margie) Pacey, who served as Legislative Librarian since 2002.

Jonathon Bowie commenced employment in August as the Government Documents / Reference Services Library Assistant. He has trained to catalogue government documents and is responsible for overseeing the conservation of library materials. Mr. Bowie replaces Tim McIntyre who resigned to further his education.

The Legislative Library also benefited this past summer from the work of several talented summer students: Paul Donovan, Rachel Johnstone, Kristi Peterson, Tanner Phillips, Sarah Richard and Ashley Theriault. One of the major accomplishments was finishing the list of maiden speeches. The speeches have been indexed so that they may be located by party, Member or constituency. Other projects that moved ahead with the students work include linking barcodes on the New Brunswick Collection to the automated catalogue; verifying the list of Private Acts; constituency packages; shelf reading and weeding.

Continuing Education

Kenda Clark-Gorey attended the annual conference of APLNB in Saint John in October.

Kathleen Jeffries and Tim McIntyre attended the APLA conference held in Fredericton in May.

There were also a number of structured staff tutorials given throughout the year. Peggy Goss gave a short tutorial on conservation and the protection of New Brunswick Collection books and vault material. Anthony Lovesay continued to update staff on changes to the database and its interface.

Memberships

Kenda Clark-Gorey is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada.

Janet McNeil and Kenda Clark-Gorey are members of the Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick.

Hansard Office

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey



2005-2006

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

Staff

During the 2005-06 fiscal year, the Hansard Office was staffed with eight full-time, permanent employees: Official Reporter Linda Fahey; English Parliamentary Editors Sandra Colborne, Cheryl Fulton Wade, Doreen Whelan (senior), and Patricia Wright; French Parliamentary Editors Carolle Gagnon (senior) and Marc Poitras; and English and French Parliamentary Editor Denis Caissie. As well, one full-time casual editor, three part-time contractual editors, and one part-time contractual clerical assistant were hired to assist with transcription, editing, console operation, reception, and the management of the backup recording system.

Highlights During the 2005-06 Fiscal Year

- The Office recorded 484 hours of proceedings—268 hours of House sittings and 216 hours of committee sittings—13.5% fewer hours than recorded during the previous fiscal year. A total

of 3 369 368 words were transcribed during the 2005-06 fiscal year, 2 460 641 words for House transcripts and 908 727 words for committee transcripts.

- The Office responded to 901 requests for transcripts—706 requests for House proceedings and 195 requests for committee proceedings—118% more than received during the last fiscal year.
- In November 2005, two laptop computers were purchased by the Hansard Office and installed at the console desks in the House and Legislative Council Chamber.

The laptops provided e-mail addresses at both console desks—Hansard Console (LEG) and Hansard Console Committee (LEG)—and also at off-site committee meetings. For the first time, direct communication could take place between the staff working at the consoles and staff working in the Hansard Office. The laptops also enabled the console operators to create and save searchable, detailed electronic logs of proceedings that could be accessed from the Hansard office. The typewritten logs proved to be superior to the previously handwritten ones since they were uniformly legible, searchable, and also available in both electronic and hard-copy format.

- Transcripts were made more readily accessible by the ongoing provision of “blues” versions of oral questions, daily sittings, and committee transcripts. The blues were posted temporarily on the Legislative Assembly Intranet (Legisdoc directory), prior to being replaced with the fully edited transcripts, allowing direct accessibility throughout the Legislative Assembly complex. Regular clients within the complex soon became

familiar with the Legisdoc directory and could easily find needed transcripts without assistance.

- The Office continued the electronic dispatchment of transcripts in pdf format, resulting in faster distribution, increased savings, and greater client satisfaction.
- In November, as part of Bring Your Kids to Work Day, two students were given a tour of the office and an overview of the work and responsibilities of Hansard staff.
- In April, a class of students from Atlantic Business College were given a tour of the Office and a presentation regarding the responsibilities that fall under the Hansard Office mandate, the documents that are produced by staff, and the skills required for potential employees.
- The Office continued its participation in the Hansard Association of Canada by contributing to its newsletter and sending a delegate to the annual conference, which was held, in Edmonton, in combination with the eighth triennial Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association (CHEA) conference. There were presentations and discussions regarding Hansard production and translation services at the Canadian House of Commons, the use of voice recognition technology in Australia, and new technology and programs being developed at the Computer Research Institute Montreal (CRIM). A guided tour of the Hansard Office in Edmonton was also included in the conference program.
- Hansard staff assisted the Clerk's Office with telephone-answering and messaging services throughout the year and, in the fall, with various aspects of the Legislative Assembly United Way campaign.

House

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

During the 2005-06 fiscal year, there were 54 sitting days, which entailed the recording of 3 314 five-minute takes. Hansard staff operated the consoles and prepared detailed logs of proceedings. Throughout the session, a summary document of House proceedings was created daily and distributed on a next-day basis to other legislative offices.

Hansard staff distributed oral questions transcripts on a same-day basis to 379 individuals and 5 groups, usually within three hours of the conclusion of oral questions. The large e-mail distribution list of oral questions clients was established and maintained, with additions and deletions occurring frequently during session. The transcript was posted daily on the Legislative Assembly Intranet site (Legisdoc directory).

Fifty-two daily sitting transcripts in blues format were completed and posted on the Legislative Assembly Intranet during the 2005-06 fiscal year:

- 55th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2004-05, Daily Sitings 18, 19, 21-58, completing the session. The transcripts of five meetings of the Standing Committee on Estimates were affixed to Daily Sitting 58.
- 55th Legislature, 3rd Session, 2005-06, Daily Sitings 1-12.

Additionally, 41 oral questions transcripts in blues format were completed, distributed, and posted on the Legislative Assembly Intranet.

On December 6, 2005, the Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that the transcripts of five meetings of the Standing Committee on Estimates be included in the Journal of Debates for the Second Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature. The transcripts were completed and posted on the Legislative Assembly Intranet, first in blues format and then in fully edited format, and they were subsequently distributed as part of Daily Sitting 58.

Fully edited daily sittings were provided to 30 clients. At the end of the fiscal year under review, the fully edited daily sittings completed and distributed were as follows:

- 55th Legislature, 2nd session, 2004-05, Daily Sitings 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 20. (By mid-September 2006, all fully edited daily sittings for this session had been completed and distributed.)
- 55th Legislature, 3rd Session, 2005-06, Daily Sitting 3. (By mid-December 2006, all fully edited daily sittings for this session had been completed and distributed.)

Daily sitting, oral questions, and request transcripts were distributed mainly by e-mail in pdf format, and the daily sittings and oral questions mailing lists for hard copies were significantly reduced.

Table 1 provides comparative statistics on the number of days, hours, and takes for the past five sessions.

Table 1
Comparative Statistics for Sessions

Year (Legislature & Session)	Days	Hours	Takes
2001-2002 (54-4)	71	396	4 826
2002-2003 (54-5)	68	410	5 119
2003-2004 (55-1)	62	334	4 208
2004-2005 (55-2)	58	319*	3 795*
2005-2006 (55-3)	54	310**	3 788**

*Includes 34 hours and 392 five-minute takes of the Standing Committee on Estimates, June 2005.

**Includes 22.75 hours and 283 five-minute takes of the Standing Committee on Estimates, June 2006.

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 2005-06 fiscal year, Hansard staff attended 48 standing committee meetings: Crown Corporations, 20; Crown Corporations/Public Accounts, 3; Private Bills, 2; Public Accounts, 17; and Estimates, 6. These committee meetings entailed 216 hours of recording, or 2 592 five-minute takes.

Committee transcripts, other than those of the Standing Committee on Estimates, were provided in unrevised format, as requested. Table 2 shows the percentage of committee work compared to House work.

Table 2
Hours Recorded
2005-06 Fiscal Year

Proceedings	Hours	% of Workload
House	268	55
Committees	216	45
TOTALS	484	100

Recording

The Hansard Office is responsible for overseeing the recording of all meetings that take place in the Chamber and committee room. Hansard staff test the sound and recording equipment prior to all recorded events to verify that the systems in the House and Legislative Council Chamber are functioning.

Hansard staff attend to the consoles and laptops located in the House and Legislative Council Chamber, and they are present at every sitting of the House and at all committee meetings to open the microphones, keep detailed logs of the proceedings, and collect documentation and information required for transcript production.

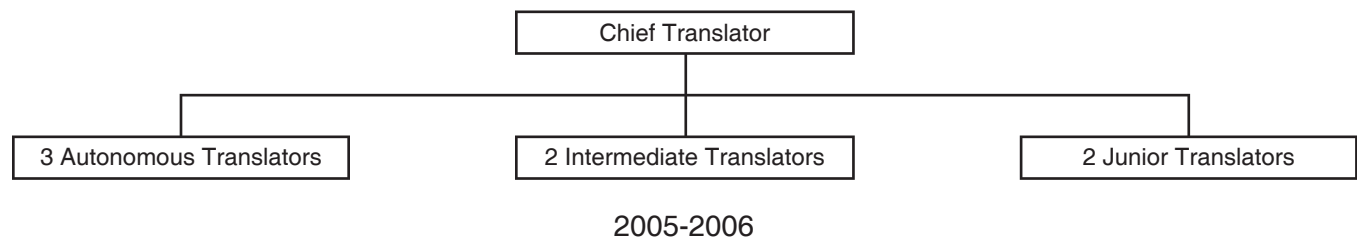
All meeting details—name, date, time, location, meeting number, and start and stop times—are entered by staff into the Multiple Unit Recording Facility (MURF) located in the Hansard Office. The MURF records the meetings digitally, and the recordings are accessible for transcription from all Hansard computers. Daily, during session and committee meetings, the MURF queue of meeting details is created and updated, and the facility is closely monitored throughout the event by Hansard staff to ensure proper recording. As well, a backup recording system, located in the office, is managed by Hansard staff for each event.

Special Events

Hansard Office staff operated the sound equipment for the Queen's Counsel ceremony, the three-day Student Legislative Seminar, the annual Girl Guides of Canada cord ceremony, the annual Chief Scout Awards ceremony, the meetings of the 25th Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference, and various other events that took place in the Chamber.

Debates Translation

Chief Translator — Aurella Losier-Vienneau



Mandate

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

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

Highlights

- The number of daily sittings, 63, remained unchanged from 2004-05 to 2005-06.
- During the 2005-06 fiscal year, production rose to more than 1.9 million words, compared to 1.75 million words the previous year. This represents an increase of 9%.
- During the year, more than 1 206 translation requests were processed, not including requests for prompt translation made by telephone or e-mail.
- Staffing changes during the year had a significant impact on production in the office. In August, a TR I, or junior translator, resigned following a period of leave. A competition was held in late August to fill the vacant position. Josée Bourque was hired in late October, as a junior translator
- On September 30, Marion Macfarlane, a TR III, or autonomous translator, took part in a round table on “Working Together” at the Side by Side Festival of literary translation.
- In November, a platform was built in one of the offices to solve the problem of tilted floors. Similar work should be done in the other offices, as resources become available.

- As in previous years, the office faced significant challenges in retaining casual secretarial staff for a prolonged period. Such personnel have provided valuable administrative assistance to the office with a resulting positive impact on production and staff morale. This staffing issue has been addressed and will be resolved in the coming fiscal year.
- The Chief Translator represented Debates Translation and the Legislative Assembly on the New Brunswick Translation Industry Council, or NB Translation, which has as its mission the promotion of the translation industry by providing a forum where the interests of clients, translation practitioners, educational institutions, and government bodies are represented and the need for succession planning is taken into account in order to ensure the orderly growth of the industry. NB Translation holds two meetings a year, in the spring and fall.

House

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

Translation of Hansard accounted for almost 59% of the workload and increased by 60% over last year. Approximately 30% of Hansard translation was into English. Table 2 provides comparative statistics on the number of words for the past five sessions.

The translation of the daily Journal represented more than 6% of the workload; translation is usually completed shortly after the session ends. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for more than 10% of the workload; they are translated the same day.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: 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 almost 17% of the total workload. The number of words translated for speeches and statements increased by 14% over the previous year, and the number of words for correspondence and press releases decreased by 50%.

During the 63 sitting days in the fiscal year under review, 390 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed, representing 1 509 pages. These included the throne speech and the budget speech, as well as 323 statements and 65 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. Compared to last year, the number of speeches decreased slightly, but average speech length increased from 12.5 to 14.5 pages. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 95% of the workload. Approximately 97% of translation was into French.

During intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members included correspondence and press releases. The Office of the Official Opposition was the largest client, comprising 89% of the workload. The Office of Government Members and the New Democratic Member's Office accounted for 6% and 5% 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: Translate reports, agendas, and notices of meetings for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Translation for committees represented more than 1% of the total workload and decreased by 70% in comparison to the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Objective: 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 almost 10% of the total workload and decreased by 5% compared to the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Table 1: Debates Translation Output

2005-06 Fiscal Year

(rounded figures)

HOUSE	
Notices of Motions and Order Paper	194 000
Journal	119 000
Hansard ¹	1 125 000
MEMBERS	
Speeches and Statements	276 000
Correspondence, releases	46 000
COMMITTEES	20 000
OFFICE OF THE	
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	140 000
TOTAL²	1 920 000

¹ Includes a carryover of a little more than 1.125 million words (25% of 1999-2000 Hansard, 21% of 2000-01 Hansard, as well as Sitting 03 of 2005-06 Hansard) from the previous fiscal year.

² Excludes a carryover of approximately 13.71 million words (79% of 2000-01 Hansard, 100% of 2001-02 Hansard, 100% of 2002-03 Hansard, 100% of 2003-04 Hansard, 100% of 2004-05 Hansard, and Sittings 1 to 16 of 2005-06 Hansard) into the next fiscal year.

Table 2 : Comparative Statistics for Sessions

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Days	71	68	62	58	54
Words	3 084 000	3 271 000*	2 571 000*	2 377 000*	2 240 000*

* 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 2005-06, efforts to secure federal/provincial funding for translation outsourcing were unsuccessful.

The second component was internal funding for outsourcing. In 2005-06, 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 reducing 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 2005-06, Hansard translation demand was an estimated 2.13 million words, a decrease of 10% compared to the revised estimate of 2.35 million words for the previous fiscal year.
- In 2005-06, Hansard translation output totaled 1.13 million words, compared to 707 000 words in the previous fiscal year, an increase of 59%.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 1.00 million words. Over the past five fiscal years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.38 million words per year.

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

Results

- In 2005-06, on-line translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 113 months, or close to 9.5 years, earlier than the published volumes.
- As of March 31, 2006, translation of dailies up to Day 16 (December 8, 2000) of the 2000-01 session was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Results

- In 2005-06, the Hansard translation backlog increased by 1.01 million words, compared to 1.64 million words during the previous fiscal year, a decrease of 38%.
- During the fiscal year, 55 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 33 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 22 sitting days, compared to an increase of 47 sitting days in the previous fiscal year.
- As of March 31, 2006, Hansard translation was trailing by 64 months (or 310 dailies), compared to 58 months (or 288 dailies) at the end of the previous fiscal year.

Quality Control

The *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* was updated on a more or less monthly basis during the year. It serves as a repository of over 30 000 research findings that pertain mostly to national and provincial organizations and programs. All entries are fully referenced, and some provide hyperlinks.

Both the directory and the *Parliamentary Stylebook* are available for consultation and download at:

<<http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>>.

Layout

Dual-column formatting and conversion into PDF are now performed earlier in the production process. As a result, some 350 dailies, or 75% of electronic files, are now available in this format, including up to nine years earlier than before. These Hansard dailies can be viewed, printed and are fully searchable electronically.

Conclusion

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the 8 other parliamentary translators at Debates Translation as well as 9 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

Publications

Debates Translation

Listing of Definitions in Legislation, 1993- / *Recueil de définitions législatives*, 1993

Sauvageau, Alain. *Parliamentary Translation Forms*, 1995- / *Formules pour la traduction parlementaire*, 1995-

Hansard Office

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Second Session, 55th Legislature, 2004-05. Finalized daily sittings: 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 20. Unrevised daily sittings (blues): 18, 19, and 21 to 58, including five meetings of the Standing Committee on Estimates.

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Third Session, 55th Legislature, 2005-06. Finalized Daily Sitting 3. Unrevised daily sittings (blues): 1 to 12.

Summary of Proceedings. Second Session, 55th Legislature, April 1 to December 6, 2005, 39 summaries; Third Session, 55th Legislature, December 6, 2005, to March 31, 2006, 16 summaries.

Console Logs. Third Session, 55th Legislature, December 6, 2005, to March 31, 2006, 15 logs.

Office of the Clerk

Legislative Activities 2005

Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, Third Session, Fifty-Fifth Legislature (Unrevised, 54 issues)

Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, First Session, 55th Legislature, 2003-2004.

Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Second Session, 55th Legislature, 2004-2005.

Order and Notice Paper, December 6, 2005, to June 22, 2006, 54 issues*

Seating Arrangement, Third Session, 55th Legislature
*Status of Legislation Introduced during the Third Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly**

Quarterly Jurisdictional Reports, *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2006

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**

Locating Maiden Speeches by Party, Member or Constituency, 1834/35-1837, 1850-1861, 1882-2006

NB Government Periodical Titles

*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/publications_e.asp>.

* Available on the Internet only.

Program for Members

Program for Members

The other components or branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Government Members' Office, the Office of the Official Opposition and the Third Party or Independent Member's Office.

Each party grouping or caucus of elected Members is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office.

Although, theoretically, the Speaker has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons, these branches operate with considerable autonomy.

Two branches received financial, administrative and personnel services, as well as other support services from other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office under the direction of the Clerk:

1. Office of the Government Members; and
2. Office of the Official Opposition.

In addition, two Members, Frank Branch (Nepisiguit) and Michael Malley (Miramichi-Bay du Vin), who announced their intention to sit as Independent Members, received administrative support services during 2006.

With the resignation of Elizabeth Weir on October 13, 2005, the Office of the New Democratic Member ceased to operate.

Funding

Under the Program for Members, the Private Members of the Legislative Assembly are provided with furnished offices in the Legislative Complex in Fredericton.

Under the authority of subsection 29(5) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, each year the Legislative Administration Committee approves funding for Private Members for secretarial, research and other assistance incidental to the performance of their duties.

Members of each political party combine this funding to obtain and share research, secretarial and receptionist personnel.

Under subsections 29(1) and (3) of the Act, funding is also approved annually for the leaders of registered political parties represented in the House (Leader of the Opposition and third party leaders) to be used for salaries of staff, salary and expenses of the leaders, and other expenses related to the operation of the respective Offices.

Research and Administrative Support

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, three researchers and a secretary.

Members and staff of this Office occupy the second and third floor offices of the Departmental Building (the West Block).

Office of the Official Opposition

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

Members and staff of the Official Opposition occupy the first and second floor of the Old Education Building (the East Block), and Jewett House.

Significant staffing and organizational changes occurred in both Offices following the September 18th provincial election. These changes are ongoing.

Tributes

Walter (Wally) Craigs

A long-time employee of the Legislative Assembly and World War II veteran, Walter Craigs, died Friday, June 16, 2006.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he was known to everyone as “Wally”. He was a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, and he served with the Navy as a radar mechanic.

Wally is known for helping to set up one the first televisions in Fredericton, when, in the 1950s, he placed a small black and white television in the front window of Richard’s Electric Store on King Street. He installed speakers outside the store so passers-by could hear the sound. People came from far and wide to watch and hear this new phenomenon called television, even though the most watched event was the test pattern, since full television programming was not available in New Brunswick.

For several decades he kept the sound systems working in the Legislature. Wally knew by heart the wiring diagrams of the electrical and recording systems. His knowledge was indispensable, and he was always readily on call to remedy any minor glitch that would occur.

He was always willing to help his colleagues and friends, too. He often volunteered his technical skills to copy a tape, fix an old record player or even a child’s video game, as needed. No technical challenge ever seemed too big for Wally. Whether it was a piece of antique equipment, or the new digital audio recording units and videotape machines, Wally knew how the Legislature was wired and made it work.

Opposition Leader Shawn Graham paid tribute to his memory on June 20, 2006:

My own memories of Wally go back many, many years, to my childhood trips to this Legislature to visit my dad. From his vantage point, Wally probably witnessed more debates than anyone in this Chamber; and he watched governments come and go. Like most of our Legislature staff, he never made it to the front pages of the province’s newspapers, but without him, the things that work in this Chamber would have been impossible.

Ernest Richard

In his remarks during the Swearing-In of new Members of the Executive Council on October 3, 2006, recently elected Premier Shawn Graham stated:

Last week, we mourned the passing of former MLA Ernest Richard who was first elected in 1948 when in his mid-20s. He had a distinguished career as an elected official and after he left office, he continued to be a mentor to young politicians.

Mr. Richard was born May 1, 1922 in Shippagan. He was a Liberal MLA and represented the County of Gloucester from his first election by acclamation in 1948 until his retirement in 1970.

He was Speaker of the Legislature from 1960 until 1963 when he became the province’s first Minister of Fisheries, a position he held until 1970.

Mr. Richard died September 25, 2006.

Bruce Atherton Smith

Following the death of former Liberal MLA Bruce Smith on November 24, 2006, Premier Shawn Graham issued the following statement:

It is with great sadness that we note the recent passing of former New Brunswick MLA Bruce Smith of Woodstock.

Mr. Smith will be respectfully remembered not only for his many years of public service, but also his dedication to his constituents, his community and to all New Brunswickers.

After many years as a well-known radio broadcaster in the Woodstock area, Bruce Smith entered provincial politics in 1987 as the member for Carleton South, becoming Minister of Supply and Services. He was re-elected in September 1991, and served as Solicitor General until April 1994.

In September 1995 Mr. Smith was re-elected as the member for the newly established constituency of Woodstock, and served as Minister of Supply and Services until he stepped down in July 1997. He continued to serve the people of Woodstock until his retirement from politics in 1999.

The death of Bruce Smith will be most deeply felt in the Woodstock area, where he was very active in the community. He was a founding member of both the local Oldtimers Hockey Club and the New Brunswick Amateur Hockey Association. He also was an active volunteer in the Order of St. John and a member of the B.P.O. Elks. Mr. Smith will be greatly missed by many others who knew and worked with him as a devoted public servant.

Notes
