



2008



Legislative Activities

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

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New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Roy Boudreau
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Cover Photograph: **Province Hall** *circa* 1860-1870.

Source: Library and Archives Canada

On November 29, 2000, a plaque designating the present Legislative Assembly Block as a provincial historic site was unveiled.

Over the past 200 years, the Members of the New Brunswick Legislature have met in a variety of locations.

It was in the City of Saint John's Mallard House Tavern on January 3, 1786, that the first Legislature met. Governor Thomas Carleton insisted that Fredericton should become the capital, primarily, because Fredericton was less vulnerable to attack from the United States.

In Fredericton, the Legislature met in the Mansion House, the official residence of the Governor, located on the site of Old Government House on the Woodstock Road, and later in the British American Coffee House on Queen Street (demolished in 1961 to make way for the Playhouse) while a commission designed a suitable building to house both the Legislature and the courts of justice.

By the early 1800s, the Assembly was meeting in a new building known as Province Hall which sat on the site of the present day Legislative Building. A wooden structure, it consisted of a main portion and two wings for the Assembly, Council and the Supreme Court, an east wing for judges and the Law Library and a west wing of committee rooms and the Clerk's Office. Described as a "commodious plain wooden structure," there were increased requests for a larger, more elegant parliament building and in the late 1870s the government held a competition for the design of a new Legislative Building. Coincidentally, two weeks after the design was chosen in 1880, Province Hall caught fire and was destroyed.

The stone buildings on either side of Province Hall were not destroyed and the one on the left, known as the Old Education Building, now houses a second story and has been home to the Official Opposition for several decades.

The office of the Surveyor General (later the Crown Lands Department) can be seen on the far right. The Departmental Building, built in 1888, now stands on the site formerly occupied by the Surveyor General and houses the Office of the Government Members, Hansard and the Legislative Press Gallery.

April 30, 2009.

The Honourable Roy Boudreau
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 twentieth annual report
of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Loredana Catalli Sonier
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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Year in Review

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Loredana Catalli Sonier

The year 2008 was a busy one for the Legislative Assembly and staff. During the course of the calendar year the Second Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly resumed and was adjourned following a 48-day spring sitting. The Third Session was opened on the afternoon of November 25 and continued sitting for 16 days prior to the Christmas recess. Parliamentary committees remained active during the periods of adjournment, holding numerous meetings within the Legislative Assembly Building in Fredericton and conducting a number of public hearings around the Province.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly is the administrative arm of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. During the 2008 calendar year, staff of the Legislative Assembly Office continued to provide professional non-partisan support services to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Staff in every branch met or exceeded the primary goal of the Office, which is to assist the elected Members in carrying out their roles as legislators. This includes ensuring that the necessary support services are available to Members during the sittings of the House and committees and that special projects and events are effectively carried out. The dedicated work of each individual staff member contributed significantly in maintaining a high level of service to Members during the year.

The Second Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly was recalled on February 13 to consider back-to-work legislation for striking CUPE workers. The strike had commenced on January 10, 2008, and included approximately five hundred community college custodians, corrections officers and human service councillors. Several of the community colleges in the province had been closed as a result of the strike. When the House met on February 13, Hon. Wally Stiles, Minister of Human Resources, announced that a tentative agreement had been reached with CUPE 1251 and that the leadership had agreed to recommend the ratification of the tentative agreement to its membership. The House was subsequently adjourned until March 11.

When the House resumed sitting on March 11, 2008, numerous pieces of government legislation were considered. In addition, Opposition Members' bills

and motions were considered as provided for in the revised Standing Rules which came into effect in the fall of 2007. Under the revised Rules, Opposition Members' Business is now considered on Thursdays until 6 p.m., following the conclusion of Routine Business.

On Tuesday March 18, Finance Minister Victor Boudreau brought down the 2008-2009 Budget. Finance Critic and Opposition Leader Jeannot Volpé gave the official response to the Budget on March 20. Both speeches can be accessed on the Legislature's web site. Consideration of the budgetary estimates in Committee of Supply was limited to 80 hours as stipulated in the revised Standing Rules.

The Second Session was adjourned on June 18 and formally prorogued on November 25, for a total of 64 sitting days. The government introduced 66 bills during the session and the Official Opposition introduced 16 bills for the consideration of the House. In addition there were four Private Bills introduced during the course of the session.

The Opening of the Third Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly took place at 3 p.m. on November 25. The Throne Speech was delivered by His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. The Throne Speech outlined the government's Legislative agenda for the session.

On December 2, Carmel Robichaud, the Member for Miramichi Bay-Neguac, was appointed Deputy Speaker of the House. Ms. Robichaud had previously served as Minister of Family and Community Services and Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She subsequently served as Minister of Local Government and Minister Responsible for Community Non-Profit Organizations. In her capacity as Deputy Speaker, Ms. Robichaud will chair the Committees of the Whole House.

On December 9, 2008, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Victor Boudreau, introduced the 2009-2010 Capital Budget, which totaled \$661.4 million. The agenda for the remainder of the Fall sitting was devoted to considering the capital budget estimates, various pieces of legislation and Private Members' resolutions. The government introduced 26 bills during the course

of the 16-day sitting. The Official Opposition introduced three bills for the consideration of the House. In addition, one Private Bill was introduced. The House adjourned on December 19, 2008.

The MLA Compensation Review Commission was mandated by the Legislative Administration Committee in March of 2007 to undertake a review of the indemnities, expenses and pensions payable to 55 Members of the Legislative Assembly.

On January 14, 2008, the *Report of the MLA Compensation Review Commission 2007*, Volumes I & II, prepared by the Honourable Patrick A.A. Ryan, Q.C., a retired Justice of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick and Conflict of Interest Commissioner, was filed with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Among the recommendations contained in the report were: converting the annual tax free allowance for Members into taxable salary; increasing the salary by 3.93%, for a total salary of \$85,000 to each Member; providing for the payment of a taxable and non-pensionable sum for each day a Member is engaged in the work of a committee; making the expense allowance for committee meeting attendance reimbursable only upon the production of receipts; capping the re-establishment allowance at six years, instead of eight sessions, and providing the allowance to former Members regardless of pension entitlement; reimbursing a maximum of \$5,000 for career counseling, which includes education and training, to former Members, upon the production of receipts; monetary sanctions for the failure to attend a sitting of the Legislature; increasing the Premier's additional salary to \$79,000; linking the additional salaries of Ministers, the Speaker, Leader of the Opposition and other House Officers to a percentage of the Premier's salary; vesting pensions after six years of service, instead of eight sessions; and a mandatory review of Members' compensation by an independent body at regular intervals. With the exception of the change to the vesting period for Members' pensions, the recommended changes were adopted on April 29, 2008, through amendments to the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the *Executive Council Act*.

On January 17, 2008, Hon. Roly MacIntyre, Minister of Supply and Services, announced his decision to step down from Cabinet. Mr. MacIntyre was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1995, and served as Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, and

later as Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture. Re-elected to the Legislature in 2003 and 2006, Mr. MacIntyre was sworn in as Minister of Supply and Services and Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation on October 3, 2006. He will continue to represent his constituents as the Member for Saint John East.

During the recall of the House on February 13, the Premier paid tribute to the eight New Brunswickers who lost their lives in a tragic motor vehicle accident which occurred in January involving the Bathurst High School basketball team. Opposition House Leader Paul Robichaud, on behalf of the Official Opposition, joined with the Premier in this regard. The House observed a moment of silence in honour of the Boys in Red: Javier Acevedo, 17; Codey Branch, 17; Nathan Cleland, 17; Justin Cormier, 17; Daniel Hains, 17; Nikki Kelly, 15; Nickolas Quinn, 16; and Elizabeth Lord, 51—a popular math and music teacher.

On April 29 and 30, as rising flood waters threatened to inundate the Legislative Complex, Members worked steadily through extended hours to complete the remaining legislative business. While moving vans removed everything from basement levels in the event of a possible extended relocation of the Legislature, 23 government Bills were considered in Committee of the Whole. Prior to adjourning on April 30, two days earlier than scheduled, Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson gave Royal Assent to 27 Bills.

In 1973, the St. John River flood caused extensive damage to the Main Legislative Assembly Building, the Old Education Building, and the Departmental Building. Other buildings in close proximity which are now part of the complex were also hard hit.

In an effort to avoid a repeat experience when all indications predicted a similar scenario, Legislative staff organized flood plans for all branches of the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Administration Committee implemented part of the Business Continuity Plan to safeguard assets in the basement of the Main Legislative Building. As a result, the cafeteria and television broadcast system ceased April 30. Power was shut off to the Departmental, Old Education and Legislative Buildings including the Legislative Library. All buildings including Government Documents, and the Jewett and Edgcombe Houses, were evacuated until further notice. The Office of the Clerk was temporarily

relocated to the University of New Brunswick Campus. Following decontamination and utility inspections, most staff were allowed to return on May 8. Although the buildings suffered little actual flood damage when pumps installed diverted the bulk of the rising water, the upheaval caused by the removal of tons of stored documents, books, technical equipment, furniture and appliances, led to the suspension of the Parliamentary Channel (TV 70), and to the closure of the cafeteria, and basement offices for several weeks.

When the House resumed sitting on May 13, 2008, the Premier thanked all New Brunswickers who led the remarkable flood response: the Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, Health, and the Emergency Measures Organization, local governments and local authorities—police and firefighters—the Red Cross and the hundreds of volunteers who worked so that people could be safe during the flood and who continue to work during the recovery period. The Premier stated: “The spirit, the selflessness and the determination shown by New Brunswickers has been truly inspiring.” The House continued to meet until June 18, 2008, at which time it adjourned for the summer recess.

On September 8, Keith Ashfield, Member for New Maryland-Sunbury West, resigned his seat to stand for election as the Conservative candidate for the federal riding of Fredericton. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly as the MLA for New Maryland in 1999, whereupon he was appointed a Deputy Speaker of the House. He was re-elected in 2003 and served as Minister of Natural Resources. He was re-elected again in 2006. Following his election to the House of Commons on October 14, 2008, Mr. Ashfield was appointed Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Jack Carr, a former communications consultant and government worker, was elected in a November 3 by-election to fill the vacancy in New Maryland-Sunbury West. The new Member of the Official Opposition was sworn in on November 19 in a ceremony held in the Assembly Chamber. Mr. Carr is the twin brother of Jody Carr, the Member for Oromocto.

On October 18, 2008, David Alward, Member for Woodstock, was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick and became

Leader of the Official Opposition, a post previously held by Madawaska-les-Lac MLA Jeannot Volpé. Mr. Alward, a former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, was first elected in 1999 and subsequently re-elected in the 2003 and 2006 provincial elections

In a November 12 Cabinet shuffle, three new Ministers were sworn in: Rick Brewer as Minister of Human Resources and Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; former Deputy Speaker Brian Kenny as Minister of State for Seniors, and Minister Responsible for the Non-profit Organizations Secretariat; and Bernard LeBlanc as Minister of Local Government. Three ministers assumed new portfolios: Wally Stiles, formerly Minister of Human Resources, as Minister of Natural Resources; Donald Arseneault, formerly Minister of Natural Resources, as Minister of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour; and Ed Doherty, formerly Minister of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour, as Minister of Supply and Services. Mary Schryer, Minister of Social Development, is also the Minister Responsible for Housing.

Work on the restoration of the exterior of the Legislative Assembly Building, which was divided into five phases, continued on schedule in 2008. The Phase 3 historical masonry restoration and new copper roofing encompassed the lower portions of the north (masonry), the east and part of the west building elevations and included restoration of the statue Britannia, which has graced the top of the building for over 125 years. Phases 2 and 3 were carried out by Jones Masonry Ltd. of Harvey, New Brunswick, while the new copper roofing was supplied by Heather & Little Ltd. of Ottawa, Ontario. A number of ceilings were consolidated and restored throughout the building including a room off the main Chamber used as a government anteroom. Details of the restoration work and photographs follow.

Government Anteroom



- During the mid 1980s restoration, a late 19th century decorative painted ceiling was discovered in a Committee Room off the Chamber. In 1987, a false wall and ceiling were added to protect the original plaster wall and ceiling until a proper restoration could be carried out. Today the room is used as the main government anteroom.
- This room appears to have been lavishly painted in 1895. It was originally used as the Speaker's Office and later served as a Committee Room. The original plaster ceilings had been covered over by a tongue-and-groove wooden ceiling in 1903 because the plaster had deteriorated.



- Paint chip analysis on the plaster ceilings and walls revealed an extensive colour palate. When paint samples were removed from the plaster walls, a frieze was uncovered, which is believed to have been applied around 1910. Samples of this stenciled plaster decoration in colours of pale yellow and crimson red have been placed in a frame for safe-keeping.



Images courtesy of Communications New Brunswick; photographer: Gérard Sirois

- A four-month restoration project began in the fall of 2008. The tones of dark red, grey-green, silver and gold are remarkably similar to the colour scheme chosen for the Legislative Chamber. The original wooden floors were stained, and window frames and the shutters were grained.
- The restorers left a signature on the restored ceiling which appears to have been placed in pencil by a “Johnson McKenzie, Fredericton, Dec 14, 1903”^{*} who is believed to be the person who secured the room’s original plaster ceiling in 1903. Consolidation of the plaster ceiling using the method employed in the Council Chamber (injection of acrylic polymer to consolidate the plaster ceilings) and other historic buildings in Canada was carried out by Historic Plaster Conservation Services of Port Hope, Ontario.

** Preliminary research indicates that Johnson McKenzie was a laborer living at 18 Waterloo Row in 1890. He referred to himself as a carpenter in the 1901 census. By 1910, he was living at 117 St. John Street (across from the Centennial Building). By 1911, as the census taker, he noted he was both a carpenter and house builder; he was of Scottish descent; he had worked 45 weeks at his occupation during 1910; his work week was 54 hours long; his total earnings for 1910 were \$540; he had life insurance in the amount of \$1,000, and he was Anglican. By 1926, still a carpenter, his residence had become 659 Brunswick Street, across from the former York County Jail, now Science East.*

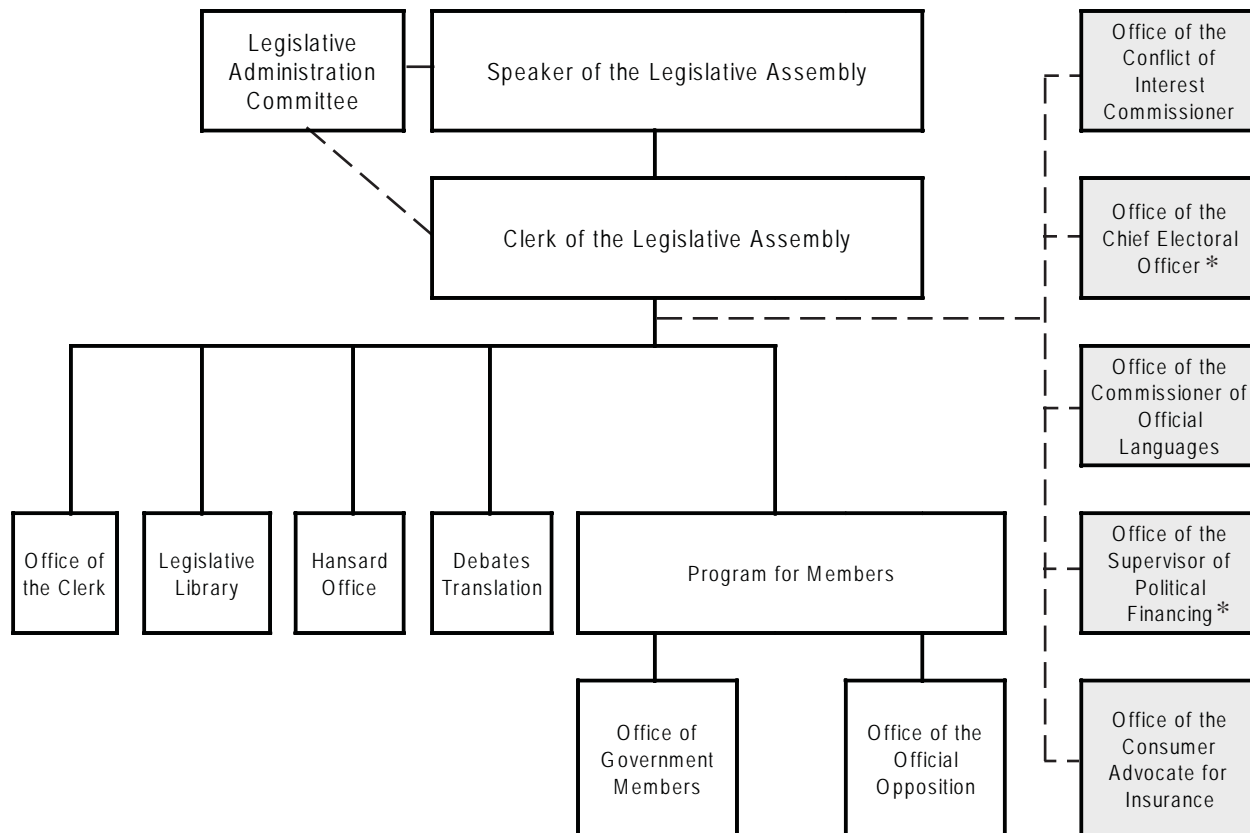
Johnson McKenzie died March 16, 1938. His obituary notes that he was born in Port-Daniel-Centre, Québec, the son of William and Margaret (Bearisto) McKenzie and came to Fredericton at the age of 22. He was a member of the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrews, Christ Church Cathedral and a member of the Fredericton Fire Department for over forty years. He was a carpenter and for some years he was supervisor of the Government Buildings in Fredericton.

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



* On April 1, 2008, the Offices of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Supervisor of Political Financing merged into one entity known as Elections New Brunswick.

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 Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick, Elections New Brunswick, 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*

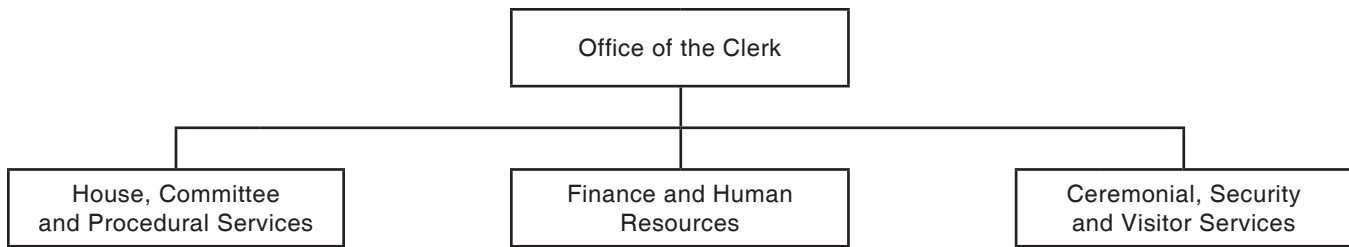
- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly.
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly.
- Provides visitor information services to the public.
- Provides building maintenance and custodial services.

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

House Sittings and Activity

During 2008 the Legislative Assembly and its committees placed a heavy demand for services on all branches of the Clerk's Office. The House sat for 64 days during the calendar year, with legislative committees holding a total of 76 meetings.

The Second Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly, which had adjourned on December 20, 2007, met for one day on February 13, 2008 to consider back-to-work legislation. The House resumed on March 11 and continued sitting until June 18. The Second Session was officially prorogued on the morning of November 25, for a total of 64 sitting days. The Second Session lasted fewer days than the previous session (79 days), due in part to the amendments made to the Standing Rules which limited the time spent considering budgetary estimates in Committee of Supply to 80 hours. In comparison, the House spent 156 hours in Committee of Supply during the First Session.

The Third Session opened with the Speech from the Throne on the afternoon of November 25, 2008. The session continued until December 19, at which time the House was adjourned until the spring.

Procedural Services

During the course of the year, the Clerks-at-the-Table met regularly with the Speaker and other presiding officers, providing an overview of the Standing Rules, precedents and procedures of the House. Procedural staff provided advice as required, drafted rulings and prepared procedural documentation. In addition, the Clerks met with newly appointed and existing committee Chairs to advise on committee procedure, arrange meetings and public hearings, prepare documentation and reports to the House. An

orientation session was held with the Member elected in the by-election of November 3, as well as with the newly appointed Deputy Speaker of the House.

The Clerks-at-the-Table continued to participate in the Machinery and Process of New Brunswick Government Seminars. Procedural staff have participated annually in the seminars, giving detailed presentations to government officials on the role of the Legislative Branch and on the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the role of Members.

In 2008 the Clerks-at-the-Table responded to more than 50 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 United Kingdom 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. Topics canvassed during 2008 included such diverse matters as: time allocation motions and time limits on debate; quorum provisions; Members' pension plans; use of Blackberries in the Chamber; limits on protests within the precincts; procedure for withdrawal of a Bill; greening the House; execution of search warrants; Internet access to social networks such as Facebook; and procedure on the tabling of returns and reports.

Committees

Legislative Committees maintained an active schedule during the adjournment of the House. On January 25, 2008, the Select Committee on Life Long Learning held its first meeting and elected Joan MacAlpine-Stiles as Chair. The Committee was charged with examining, inquiring into and reporting to the House with respect to all aspects of the education system in New Brunswick. As its first task, the Committee was mandated to inquire into and report on the status of literacy in New Brunswick and make recommendations regarding measures to improve literacy levels in the Province to ensure that all New Brunswickers have the skills required to participate fully in New Brunswick's economy and society.

The Select Committee on Wellness, chaired by Chris Collins, held public hearings throughout the province in January and February, 2008. The Committee consulted New Brunswickers on the importance of adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles and engaging stakeholders in discussions on wellness and its connection to other public policy areas. In addition, the Committee held a series of community engagement sessions in Bathurst and Boiestown. The Committee released its Final Report on July 11, 2008.

The Select Committee on Tax Review, chaired by Roly MacIntyre, conducted public hearings around the province on the issues raised by *A Discussion Paper on New Brunswick's Tax System*, which was tabled in the House by the Minister of Finance. The discussion paper presented several options to restructure the province's tax system. The Committee heard 97 presentations during eight days of public hearings held in June and July. The Committee also received 172 written briefs. The Committee tabled its Final Report in the Legislature on December 12.

The Standing Committee on Law Amendments, chaired by Hon. Thomas J. Burke, Q.C., held several meetings in 2008 to consider various pieces of legislation. Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*, introduced by Margaret-Ann Blaney, would introduce common employer provisions into the *Industrial Relations Act*. Bill 82, *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, introduced by Hon. Jack Keir, the Minister of Supply and Services, would improve and modernize the existing right to information and protection of personal information legislation in the province.

The Committee also considered a discussion paper entitled *Personal Health Information Access and Privacy Legislation*. The purpose of the discussion paper was to present the basis of new personal health information access and privacy legislation in the province.

The two main Standing Committees remained very active during the adjournment of the House. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by John Betts, met for several weeks to review the activities and spending of the various government departments. The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, chaired by Rick Miles, met to review the annual reports and financial statements of numerous Crown corporations, agencies and commissions.

Student Legislative Seminar

Clerk's Office staff organized the 19th annual Student Legislative Seminar, held at the Legislative Assembly from April 25 to 27, 2008. Fifty-five students representing both Anglophone and Francophone high schools throughout the province attended. The seminar is a non-partisan program. The 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 Francophone 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.

The students were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly by Speaker Roy Boudreau. Throughout the weekend, the students attended various lectures which focussed on the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Students gained first-hand knowledge from a number of guest speakers, including Premier Shawn Graham; Leader of the Opposition, Jeannot Volpé; Minister of Justice and Attorney General Thomas J. Burke, Q.C.; Hon. Michael McKee, Judge of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick; and Vicky Deschênes, communications officer with the Government of New Brunswick.

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 Speaker of the Legislative Assembly 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.

Private Members' Public Bills

During 2008, the Clerks-at-the-Table assisted in processing numerous Private Members' Public Bills for introduction in the House. Private Members' Public Bills relate to matters of public policy and are introduced by a Private Member (as opposed to Government Bills which are Public Bills introduced by a Minister of the Crown). A total of seven Private Members' Public Bills were introduced by the Official Opposition during the Second Session. Three Private Members' Public Bills were introduced by the Opposition during the Third Session prior to the Christmas recess.

Private Legislation

The Clerk's Office processed four applications for Private Bills for introduction during the 2008 calendar year. Private Bills are those relating to private or local matters or for the particular interest or benefit of any person, corporation or municipality. Applications for Private Bills are reviewed by the Clerks-at-the-Table to ensure compliance with advertising requirements and other stipulations as set out in the Standing Rules. Three Private Bills were introduced during the Second Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly and received Royal Assent on June 18, 2008. One Private Bill was introduced during the Third Session prior to the Christmas recess and stood referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Question Period On-Demand Webcasts

This was the first session that the Legislative Assembly has been able to make Question Period available on line, on a same-day or next-day basis, as audio and video-on-demand webcasts. Commencing with the opening of the legislative session in

November 2008, Question Period audio is now available simultaneously in the original language, English interpreted, and French interpreted feeds, similar to the live proceedings and other special events, such as the Throne and Budget speeches. In addition, the Question Period video is searchable in either official language, by session, name of speaker, key topics or original spoken word.

The new service is a cooperative effort between the Office of the Clerk and Communications New Brunswick. It is part of efforts to provide timely public access to legislative proceedings, and a step forward in improving public accessibility and transparency in the legislative processes.

Legislative proceedings continue to be available via the Legislative Assembly Web site, <www.gnb.ca/legis>. Multimedia content on the Web has expanded to include archived footage of significant House proceedings as well as such varied events as the swearing-in of new Members and the election of Speaker.

Television

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service, broadcasting since March of 2006, continues to provide gavel-to-gavel coverage of the daily proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Its production facilities are situated inside the Legislative Assembly Building. Its broadcast signal is transmitted on analogue Channel 70 on Rogers Cable and is also available on a duplicate digital channel. In addition to providing coverage of House proceedings, the channel exists to inform New Brunswickers about developments at their province's Legislature, to increase public awareness of the history and operation of the Legislature, and to further communication and understanding between citizens and their elected representatives. In addition to the broadcasting of live proceedings, the Parliamentary Channel has run rotating sequences on the Premiers of New Brunswick since Confederation; the Speakers of the Legislative Assembly; Budget Day procedure; Legislative Committees and Public Hearings; and information on the Saint John River flood and its effect on the Legislative Buildings.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Section, under Bruce Mather, continued to serve Members and staff with their computer and smartphone needs throughout

the year and proceeded with ongoing technology upgrades within the Legislative complex. The Official Languages Office and Insurance Advocate Office were moved onto the new GNB WAN. The Legislature will be moving to the new WAN within the next year and the ePO server will be upgraded to 4.5. Network Access Protection (NAP) is also being implemented. The IT Office began the process of moving servers from tower models to rack mounted with the purchase of a HP DL360 which will be used by security for their PPM software (incident reporting). Other servers are in the process of being replaced and there are plans for the purchase of a tape backup autoloader.

A competition was held in the spring to fill the new position of Help Desk Analyst. Jeff Quinn, who had served with the provincial Department of Natural Resources in the IT sector, was the successful applicant. Mr. Quinn commenced his duties with the Legislative Assembly in March. His primary responsibilities include day to day help desk duties which includes troubleshooting computer hardware and software problems, printer problems, Blackberry setup and maintenance and some networking. Mr. Quinn also deals with new computer and printer set ups throughout the Legislative complex. The IT Office now uses Norton Ghost to image all machines which saves time and cuts down on errors in setup. Mr. Quinn is also doing some operations work, which includes Active Directory and Exchange e-mail account creations, editing, and deletions, ePO configuration, WSUS configuration, and server monitoring. With the addition of a new staff member, the IT office has increased its involvement with the sound system and television broadcast system. Mr. Quinn has become familiar with the operation of these systems and has been hands on in dealing with malfunctioning switchers and camera heads.

Journals and Publications

During 2008, the Researcher and Journals Clerk compiled 65 unrevised Journals making up the spring and prorogation sittings of the Second Session of the 56th Legislature (February 13 to November 25, 2008 or 49 daily sittings) and the Opening and fall sitting of the Third Session of the 56th Legislature (November 25 to December 19, 2008 or 16 daily sittings). The Journals of the House are the official record of matters considered and decisions taken by the House. Unrevised Journals are posted online as soon as they are available in both official languages. At the

conclusion of a session, unrevised editions of the Journal are finalized, indexed, and sent to translation. Publication of the official permanent record of the votes and proceedings meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

The 2005-2006 bound version of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly, Third Session, Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, was indexed, finalized, submitted for tender, and published.

The *Status of Legislation* document is updated daily during the session and gives the current status of each Bill introduced in the House. Clerk's Office staff track First Reading Bills as they pass through the various stages in the House and indicate the dates of passage or whether a particular Bill was sent to a legislative committee, received Royal Assent or remained on the Order Paper. The text of First Reading Bills is available on the Internet in both PDF and HTML format. On March 30, 2004, the PDF version of a First Reading Bill became the official version. During the 2008 calendar year, more than 80 Bills were introduced.

During the calendar year, the Assembly increased its archived online proceedings. The 2008-2009 Budget Speech and Reply thereto, the Premier's Closure of the Budget Debate, the Swearing-in Ceremony for a new MLA, the November 25 Throne Speech and Reply thereto, and the Premier's Closure of the Throne Speech Debate were all archived to the Web site.

Biographical information and photographs of Members of the Legislature were updated throughout the year. Schools throughout the province were sent copies of the published booklet *Biographies of Members, Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, 56th Legislature, 2007*. Changes to the Executive Council or to the Shadow Cabinet were reflected in updates to online and published Seating Plans. The Legislature's Calendar was updated to reflect Daily Sittings or Special Events. Order Papers continued to be posted online. Committee membership was updated when necessary, reports were posted, and certain committees mandated to hold public hearings provided a Web site with relevant public information and a Web address which could receive electronic submissions.

A variety of graphics associated with Opening Day, invitations, seating plans, or conferences, were developed. In an effort to increase archival image access or availability, electronic photographs of a number of former MLAs (Fifty-third Legislature) were provided to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and to the Legislative Library.

Clerk's Office staff also prepared the daily *Order and Notice Paper* found at each Member's desk and on-line. The *Order and Notice Paper* lists all of the Bills and motions before the House and outlines the outstanding business of the House each sitting day.

Staff also assembled, typeset and published *Legislative Activities 2007*, the 19th annual report of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick for the year ended December 31, 2007. Staff of the Clerk's Office also prepare procedural motions for the conduct of business in the House; the official Seating Arrangements; the Member's Orientation Manual; and various other procedural forms and House documents.

Interparliamentary Relations

In addition to regular duties, staff of the Clerk's Office prepared itineraries and coordinated business session topics for Members attending the Annual Presiding Officers Conference, the Canadian Regional Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference, the CPA Canadian Regional Conference, the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar, the Council of State Governments/ Eastern Regional Conference, conferences of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference and the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee Conference.

Clerk's Office staff also continued their participation in the House of Commons Page Recruitment Program. Interviews for the Page Program take place in the federal, provincial and territorial capitals between mid-February and the end of March. Legislative Assembly staff will conduct interviews in Fredericton with New Brunswick students who have applied to work as a Page at the House of Commons during the upcoming academic year. Staff will then make recommendations to Commons officials.

The Clerks-at-the-Table, together with the Researcher and Journals Clerk, prepared quarterly submissions to the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The publication was founded in 1978 to inform Canadian legislators about activities of the federal, provincial and territorial branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to promote the study of and interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. The Office of the Clerk ensures that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick is included in each edition under the Legislative Reports section. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick is the current Chair of the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*.

The Table Officers attended the annual Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The Seminar was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from August 18-22. Participants from all Canadian Parliaments, United Kingdom Parliament, Scottish Parliament, the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies, and Australian parliaments were present. Sessions included: Legislatures and the Courts - the Extent of Parliamentary Privilege; Parliamentary Committees in a Minority Parliament; What is a Parliamentary Convention; and issues related to Members' allowances.

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. 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. 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. Committees are able to consult with the public on important matters in order to hear the views and suggestions of concerned citizens, and are able to travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from citizens in all areas of the province.

In 2008 the majority of the Standing and Select Committees were active, with a total of 76 meetings held during the year. In particular, the Select Committee on Wellness and the Select Committee on Tax Review were both able to conduct public consultations and table their final reports in the Legislature before the year end. As for the Standing Committees, 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.

The following chart presents a breakdown of the various committees and the number of days each committee met during 2008:

| COMMITTEE | NO. OF MEETINGS |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Crown Corporations | 7 |
| Estimates | 0 |
| Law Amendments | 6 |
| Legislative Administration | 14 |
| Legislative Officers | 0 |
| Life Long Learning | 1 |
| Private Bills | 2 |
| Privileges | 0 |
| Procedure | 0 |
| Public Accounts | 17 |
| Tax Review | 13 |
| Wellness | 16 |
| TOTAL | 76 |

II. Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, chaired by Rick Miles (Fredericton-Silverwood), remained active with a total of 7 committee meetings held during 2008. On February 7 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, 2007, Volume 1 and Volume 2*. 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 also met on February 5, 6, September 9, 10, 11 and 12 to review the activities and financial statements of the following Crown corporations and agencies for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007:

Algonquin Properties Limited;
 Atlantic Lottery Corporation;
 Efficiency NB;
 Forest Protection Limited;
 Kings Landing Corporation;
 New Brunswick Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation;
 New Brunswick Insurance Board;
 New Brunswick Museum;
 New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council;
 Provincial Holdings Ltd.;
 Regional Development Corporation;
 Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick.

Standing Committee on Estimates

In an effort to expedite the review of the main estimates of certain departments, the Legislature may refer these estimates to the Standing Committee on Estimates for consideration. The Committee, chaired by Abel LeBlanc (Saint John Lancaster), did not meet in 2008.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

On occasion Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly do not receive second reading, but instead are referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for review. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation in order to receive input from interested stakeholders, groups and individuals. The Committee is chaired by Hon. Thomas J. Burke, Q.C. (Fredericton-Nashwaaksis).

The Committee held 6 meetings in 2008. On April 3 and May 13 the Committee met to discuss Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*. The Bill was introduced by Margaret-Ann Blaney (Rothesay) in 2007, and referred to the Committee for consideration. The intent of the Bill was to introduce common employer provisions into the *Industrial Relations Act*. The Committee held public hearings on the Bill in 2007 and presented its report to the Legislature on May 28, 2008.

On June 5 Bill 82, *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, was introduced in the Legislature by the Minister of Supply and Services, Hon. Jack Keir (Fundy-River Valley). The proposed legislation is intended to improve and modernize the existing right to information and protection of personal information legislation in the province. On June 11 consideration of Bill 82 was referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

On September 29 a discussion paper on *Personal Health Information Access and Privacy Legislation* was filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Pursuant to Motion 86, adopted June 3, the discussion paper was deemed referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments. The purpose of the discussion paper is to present the basis of new personal health information access and privacy legislation in the province. The paper highlights specific components of new legislation and proposes questions for consideration.

On September 30 the Committee met and determined that the public should be invited to provide input and advice to the Committee with respect to the issues raised by Bill 82 and the discussion paper. A public hearing was held on October 28 at the Legislative Assembly. The Committee also held deliberations on the Bill and discussion paper on October 22 and November 19. The Committee is expected to present a

report to the Legislature on Bill 82 and the discussion paper in 2009.

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 of the Legislative Assembly; establishes allowances in respect of expenses for Members' extra duties and committee meetings; establishes rules and directives with respect to allowances, disbursements and other payments to Members; issues directives in respect to caucus allowances; and establishes financial policy for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee also considers any matter necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly. In 2008 the Committee held 14 meetings on the following dates: January 8, 17, February 5, 27, April 15, May 13, 14, 28, June 11, October 1, 23, November 20, December 10, and 17. Among the matters considered by the Committee were: MLA Compensation Review Commission Report; Constituency Office Benefits; Legislative Assembly Prayers; Restoration of Masonry and Copper Roofing; Restoration of Ceilings in Main Legislative Building; Restoration of Statue Britannia; Closure of CNIB Caterplan; Access to Question Period On-line; Business Continuity Plan; Relocation of Parliamentary Broadcast Centre; Relocation of Roof Mounted Flags; Security within Legislative Precincts; Illumination of Legislative Building; Wiring of MLA Desks for LAN and Electrical Outlets; Guests on Floor of House; MLA Declaration of Non-Attendance; MLA Access to Facebook; Sessional Accommodations and Meal Allowances; Overtime Policy; Budgets for the Legislative Assembly Office and the Statutory Offices and Personnel Matters.

Standing Committee on Legislative Officers

Pursuant to Standing Rule 91, all reports to the House of Legislative Officers stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Legislative Officers. The current list of Legislative Officers includes the Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Child and Youth Advocate, Commissioner of Official Languages, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Consumer Advocate for Insurance, Ombudsman, and Supervisor of Political Financing. The Committee, chaired by Rick Brewer (Southwest Miramichi), did not meet in 2008.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

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

In 2008 the Committee, chaired by Larry Kennedy (Victoria-Tobique), considered the following Private Bills:

- Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the City of Saint John Pension Act*;
- Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*;
- Bill 64, *Atlantic Baptist University Act, 2008*;
- Bill 73, *An Act to Incorporate Concilium Trustees Canada Inc.*

The Committee met on May 29 and in a report to the House on that day recommended Bills 22, 60, and 64 to the favourable consideration of the House. The Committee met again on June 4 and in a report to the House on June 5 recommended Bill 73 to the favourable consideration of the House. The four Bills received Royal Assent on June 18.

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, chaired by Hon. Stuart Jamieson (Saint John-Fundy), did not meet in 2008.

Standing Committee on Procedure

Pursuant to Standing Rule 92, all Standing Rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure. The Committee, chaired by the Speaker, did not meet in 2008.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by John Betts (Moncton Crescent), remained active with a total of 17 committee meetings held during 2008. On February 7 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, 2007, Volume 1 and Volume 2*. 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 also met on February 8, 15, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, September 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, October 1, 2, 3, and 8 to review the annual reports and financial statements of the following government departments and offices for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007:

- Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat;
- Communications New Brunswick;
- Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture;
- Department of Business New Brunswick;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Energy;
- Department of Environment;
- Department of Family and Community Services;
- Department of Finance;
- Department of Fisheries;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Intergovernmental and International Relations;
- Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs;
- Department of Natural Resources;
- Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour;
- Department of Public Safety;
- Department of Supply and Services;
- Department of Tourism and Parks;
- Department of Transportation;
- Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport;
- Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission;
- New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women;
- New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth;
- Office of the Attorney General;
- Office of the Comptroller;
- Office of Human Resources;
- Office of the Premier;
- Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

III. Select Committees

Select Committee on Life Long Learning

The Select Committee on Life Long Learning was appointed on July 5, 2007, in recognition of the continuing need to maintain a highly skilled and educated workforce in New Brunswick and to ensure that all citizens have the skills required to participate fully in society. The Committee has jurisdiction to examine and report on all aspects of the education system in the province. As its first task, the Committee will inquire into and report on the status of literacy in New Brunswick and make recommendations to the House on measures to improve literacy levels in the province. The Committee met on January 25 and elected Joan MacAlpine-Stiles (Moncton West) Chair and Bernard LeBlanc (Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe) Vice-Chair.

Select Committee on Tax Review

The Select Committee on Tax Review was appointed on June 5 and charged with the responsibility of conducting public consultation on the issues raised by *A Discussion Paper on New Brunswick's Tax System*, which was tabled in the House the previous sitting day by the Minister of Finance. The discussion paper presents several options to restructure the province's tax system.

On June 10 the Committee met and elected Roly MacIntyre (Saint John East) Chair and Bernard LeBlanc (Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe) Vice-Chair. The Committee met again on June 17 in preparation for the public consultation process. Public hearings were held around the province on June 24, 25, 26, July 7, 8, 9, 10, and 15. The Committee heard 97 presentations during eight days of public hearings held in Edmundston, Campbellton, Bathurst, Caraquet, Miramichi, Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton and Woodstock. The Committee also received 172 written briefs.

The Committee held further deliberations on November 20, December 5 and 9. The Committee tabled its Final Report in the Legislature on December 12. In the report the Committee recommended that government consider implementing a flat provincial tax rate of 10%; increasing the non-refundable basic personal amount to \$12,000 for taxable income below \$35,000; implementing a non-refundable child tax credit of up to \$400 per child; implementing a universal child care benefit of \$600 annually per child

under the age of six; lowering the general corporate income tax rate to 5%; increasing the Harmonized Sales Tax rate and introducing an HST rebate program for low income earners; and implementing a three-year average assessment value on property. The Committee also recommended against implementing a carbon tax until further study is undertaken.

Select Committee on Wellness

The Select Committee on Wellness, chaired by Chris Collins (Moncton East), was appointed on July 5, 2007, and charged with stimulating discussion on the importance of wellness in the province and to hear from citizens and stakeholders on the importance of adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles. In early 2008 the Committee travelled across the province to engage New Brunswickers in a dialogue on wellness. Over the course of the public consultation process, the Committee heard 62 presentations and received 47 written briefs. In addition to the public hearings in Moncton, Miramichi, Saint John, Fredericton and Tracadie-Sheila, the Committee participated in six community engagement meetings, three meetings in each of the communities of Bathurst and Boiestown. The consultation process occurred on the following dates: January 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, February 19, 20, 21, May 6 and 7. The Committee held further deliberations on April 4, May 8, 15, and 20.

On July 11 the Committee met and released its Final Report to the public. The Committee found that there is a common understanding across the province about what wellness means, why it matters, and how it is different from good health. New Brunswickers agreed that wellness is a shared responsibility between individuals, communities, stakeholders and government and that all parties need to work together to deliver a consistent message, share information and outcomes, support wellness environments where people live, learn, work and play, build on existing strengths, address barriers to wellness and provide New Brunswickers with the resources and tools necessary to make healthier choices. The Report includes 49 recommendations that reflect the findings of the Committee as a result of its consultation.

House Statistics

| | 55th Legislature | 56th Legislature | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <i>Third Session 2005 - 2006</i> | <i>First Session 2007</i> | <i>Second Session 2007-2008</i> |
| <i>Daily Sittings</i> | | | |
| Number of Sitting Days | 54 | 79 | 64 |
| Evening Sittings | 0 | 28 | 18 |
| <i>Government Bills</i> | | | |
| Introduced | 54 | 72 | 66 |
| Received Royal Assent | 42 | 71 | 64 |
| <i>Private Bills</i> | | | |
| Introduced | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Received Royal Assent | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Private Members' Public Bills</i> | | | |
| Introduced | 29 | 10 | 16 |
| Received Royal Assent | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Government Motions</i> | | | |
| Total | 23 | 10 | 15 |
| Number debated | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| Number agreed to | 23 | 10 | 13 |
| Number withdrawn | - | - | 1 |
| <i>Private Members' Motions</i> | | | |
| Total | 86 | 74 | 74 |
| Number debated | 14 | 15 | 12 |
| Number agreed to | 3 | 14 | 10 |
| Motions for returns | 71 | 50 | 62 |
| <i>Committee of Supply</i> | | | |
| In House (Days) | 25 | 39 | 26 |
| In Committee on Estimates | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Annual Reports Tabled</i> | 59 | 51 | 61 |
| <i>Petitions</i> | 26 | 52 | 39 |
| <i>Written Questions</i> | 11 | 0 | 0 |

Finance and Human Resources

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:

- Human Resources Information System’s training programs and seminars on payroll and benefits programs and administration and records retention.
- Professional development seminars entitled “Core Competencies for Records Retention”, “EFAP: Annual Update and Briefing”, “Balancing Purchasing Empowerment with Control and Accountability”, “10 Tips to Retire Without Worry” and “Financial Management from a Provincial Perspective”, that covered areas such as current issues in human resources, purchasing, accounting and auditing in government, protection of personnel information and financial planning and budgeting.

The recommendations contained in the *Report of the MLA Compensation Review Commission 2007* were approved for implementation effective April 1, 2008. The recommendations impacted the indemnities of the Members, as well as those Members with additional responsibilities under both the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the *Executive Council Act*. Staff in the Finance and Human Resources section processed the adjustments to the indemnities, including retroactive payments, and advised the appropriate provincial offices and departments of the changes.

With limited staff turnover during 2007 and most of 2008, increased efficiency and effectiveness was realized as the employees gained familiarity with their duties and responsibilities. This allowed the section to continue implementing and utilizing new technology and processes, including facilitating and administering the delivery of the iLearn Knowledge Center to Legislative Assembly staff and eliminating the production of physical pay notices for staff. The departure of a staff in September 2008 will provide

another challenge for the Finance and Human Resources section as well as an opportunity to refine the duties and responsibilities of each position.

This 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 Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance for New Brunswick, Office of the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Auditor General and effective April 1, 2008, the Elections New Brunswick office, following the merger of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Office of the Supervisor of Political Financing. Both of these offices were previously supported by the Finance and Human Resources section and staff participated in planning and implementing the merger of these offices.

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, 2008 the Legislative Assembly met budgetary objectives and maintained a reasonable level of services to the Members and staff. The accompanying financial statement shows actual expenditure savings amounting to \$21,500 on a total budget of \$12,986,800 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. This includes \$600 in the Members Allowances and Committees program, \$3,100 in the Office of the Legislative Assembly and \$17,800 in the Leaders of Registered Political Parties.

The House sat a total of 79 days during the 2007-2008 fiscal year, compared to 66 during 2006-2007 and 42 in 2005-2006. 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 required for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Supplementary Estimates in the amount of \$689,000 were approved to fund the additional sitting days for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and expenses associated with repairs to ceilings in the anterooms of the Legislative Assembly building. In addition Supplementary Estimates for the Capital Account of the Department of Supply and Services were approved in the amount of \$500,000 for the 2007-2008 to cover additional costs associated with the repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Building.

The budgetary process for the Legislative Assembly's 2008-2009 fiscal year provided yet another challenge to budget for the recommendations contained in the *Report of the MLA Compensation Review Commission*, and to obtain funding for the repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Building. The Legislative Assembly faced challenges to maintain a reasonable

level of services to the Members, legislative staff, and the public, as well as providing 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, televising and recording of House proceedings, and Legislative Committees. A total operating budget of \$12,146,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. A capital budget of \$1,975,000 to continue the repair and renovation of the Legislative Assembly Building was also approved and included in the 2008-2009 Capital Account of the Department of Supply and Services.

II. Human Resource Services

Overview

Human Resource Services include the following responsibilities:

- * Personnel Administration
 - Participate in recruitment process and ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits through maintenance of payroll and personnel records.
 - Update and communicate changes in the areas of policies and benefits to all employees.
- * Human Resource Development
 - Facilitate staff training to enable employees to develop professionally and use their capabilities to further both organizational and individual goals.
- * Personnel Policies
 - Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province, Legislative Administration Committee decisions and the unique environment of the Legislative Assembly. Ensure proper communication of personnel policies to all employees.

Human Resource Service Highlights

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 3.50% increase in the annual indemnity and expense allowance of Members effective January 1, 2008. 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 recommendations contained in the *Report of the MLA Compensation Review Commission 2007* were approved for implementation effective April 1, 2008. The recommendations impacted the indemnities of the 55 Members, as well as those Members with additional responsibilities under both the *Legislative Assembly Act* (Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Leader of the Official Opposition, Caucus Chairs and Whips, etc.) and the *Executive Council Act* (Premier and 19 Ministers). The changes and increases and all the necessary adjustments were processed by Finance and Human Resources staff.

The staff's workload was significantly increased due to the resignation of two Members during the year, one ensuing by-election, a change in the Leader of the Official Opposition on October 18, 2008, and a Cabinet shuffle effective November 12, 2008 that resulted in ten changes involving three new Ministers and a new Deputy Speaker. Among other things, these events resulted in administration of constituency office closures and openings, staffing changes and implementation of payroll changes.

In addition, responsibilities added in 2007 associated with Infosource, the online government directory, were documented and rationalized where possible. The responsibilities include maintaining and updating the listings and database of Members and employees of the Legislative Assembly and employees in the Offices of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Consumer Advocate for Insurance for New Brunswick, the Commissioner of Official Languages and the Supervisor of Political Financing (until being merged into Elections New Brunswick). Much of the data is similar to that utilized for human resources and payroll

purposes and must be disseminated in accordance with the *Protection of Personal Information Act*.

The Clerk's Office provides a payroll service for Members' constituency office staff whereby constituency office employees of Members are being paid bi-weekly using the Province of New Brunswick's Human Resources Information System. The Finance and Human Resources section of the Clerk's Office is responsible 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 2008 an average of 38 constituency office staff were paid using this Payroll Service Program for Members.

A total of 37 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 12 Pages for the 2007-2008 session, and 4 Tour Guides for the 2008 tourism season.

In 2008, cost of living increases on April 1 and October 1, affecting a total of 89 positions, were processed by the Finance and Human Resources section. Staff also processed the increases associated with the Senior Group Compensation Adjustment effective April 1, 2008, annual merit increases for employees and position reclassifications, and assisted in the interviewing and hiring process for the 13 new full-time staff, 4 Tour Guides and 12 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*, relating to eligible periods of government service that may qualify as pensionable under the Act.

Financial Summary — Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2008
(in \$ 000s)

| | <i>Budget</i> | <i>Actual</i> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Members' Allowances and Committees</i> | | |
| Allowances to Members | 7,773.2 | 7,792.2 |
| Legislative Committees | 284.0 | 264.4 |
| Subtotal | 8,057.2 | 8,056.6 |
| <i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i> | | |
| Legislative Library | 435.0 | 434.3 |
| Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office) | 1,510.0 | 1,509.7 |
| Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner | 125.0 | 123.6 |
| Hansard Office | 510.0 | 509.7 |
| Debates Translation | 668.0 | 667.6 |
| Subtotal | 3,248.0 | 3,244.9 |
| <i>Offices of Members of Registered Political Parties</i> | | |
| Office of Government Members | 645.9 | 645.4 |
| Office of the Official Opposition | 1,035.7 | 1,018.4 |
| Subtotal | 1,681.6 | 1,663.8 |
| <i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i> | 12,986.8 | 12,965.3 |

Human Resources Summary — Legislative Assembly

| | Permanent | Elected | Sessional | Wages | Payroll Services Program |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <i>Office of the Clerk</i> | | | | | |
| House and Committee Support | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Administration | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Finance and Human Resources | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Technology | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms and Security | 3 | 0 | 7 | 19 | 0 |
| Speaker's Office | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</i> | | | | | |
| Legislative Library and Research Services | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| <i>Hansard Office</i> | | | | | |
| Debates Translation | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Office of Government Members</i> | | | | | |
| Office of the Official Opposition | 14 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| <i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i> | | | | | |
| Members | 0 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| | 0 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| TOTAL | 74 | 55 | 20 | 48 | 40 |

Ceremonial, Security and Visitor Services

Sergeant-at-Arms — Daniel Bussières

Capital projects continued to be a priority during 2008. In April, work began on the third phase of restoration and copper-cladding of the historic Legislative Assembly Building. This stage of the restoration project, which began in 2006, includes copper replacement of metal mansards on the sides of the building, and restoration of sandstone and granite masonry.

Restoration and repairs of plaster ceilings on the interior of the building continued over the fall months and were completed in November. The ceilings of several rooms of the Legislative Assembly, including the Sergeant-at-Arms office (Room 19), the Government Anteroom (Room 15), the meeting rooms 47-48, and the Clerk Assistant's office (Room 46) were finished in time for the Opening of the Session, on November 25, 2008.

Special Visitors

The Legislative Assembly received numerous dignitaries during the year, including:

- H.E. Smail Benamara,
Ambassador of Algeria to Canada
- Mr. M. Abdelghani Amara,
Consul General of Algeria in Montréal
- Mrs. Godelieve Van den Bergh,
Consul General of Belgium in Montréal
- H.E. Dorian Prince, Ambassador and
Head of the European Commission to Canada
- H.E. Djoko Hardono,
Ambassador of the Republic of
Indonesia to Canada
- H.E. Dr. Musaed Rashed A. AL-Haroun,
Ambassador of Kuwait to Canada
- H.E. Tomaž Kunstelj,
Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia

Flood Contingency Plan

The spring of 2008 saw the Saint John River approach near-record flood levels. In Fredericton, the floodwaters reached 8.33 metres, approaching the 8.63 metres record set in 1973. Meetings on flood preparation had taken place for several weeks prior to the river's crest. The Security Detail's contingency

plan, created in anticipation of possible flooding, was put in place. The Legislative Assembly adjourned on April 30, two days earlier than planned, and a decision was made to evacuate the premises. Sandbags surrounded the Legislature as the rising water levels threatened to flood the basement of the Legislative Assembly and associated buildings. The television broadcasting equipment was dismantled and removed as were appliances and equipment from the Legislative Assembly cafeteria. The Legislative Library moved vulnerable books and documents from the Assembly basement. Among the documents being moved were old newspapers and atlases from the 1800s, possibly the last of the documents still in existence in the province.

Within 30 hours of the decision to proceed with the evacuation, due to flooding of the utilities tunnel, power was shut off to the Departmental Building, the Old Education and the Legislative Buildings. All buildings including Government Documents, Jewett House and Edgecombe House, were evacuated until further notice. An alternative venue was identified at RCMP "J" Division Headquarters for potential meetings of the Legislative Assembly should the present facilities have become unavailable due to damage from the flooding.

The Clerk's Office was relocated to a vacant residence building on the UNB Campus, where it operated for a week and a half. A skeleton staff remained on site to limit flood damages by sandbagging, monitoring and pumping out the water. Following decontamination and utility inspections, most staff returned to work on May 8. Overall, the building suffered little actual flood damage as the pumps installed diverted the bulk of the rising water. However, the upheaval caused by the removal of stored documents, books, technical equipment, furniture and appliances was costly and labour intensive.

Student Legislative Seminar

The 19th annual Student Legislative Seminar proceeded as scheduled on April 25, 26 and 27 amidst concerns of a last minute cancellation due to the flooding situation. However, the rising waters held off just long enough to have a successful seminar. More than 50 students participated. Students heard

from various guest speakers including the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. The students also participated in workshops, drafted legislation, Member's statements and motions. On the final day, the students participated in a model parliament presided over by Speaker, and co-ordinated by the Clerks-at-the-Table. Also assisting were the Sergeant-at-Arms, several Pages, Hansard staff and interpreters. The program is open to grade 11 and 12 high-school students in New Brunswick.

Mace

New Brunswick's sterling silver gilt mace is the symbol of parliamentary authority and was presented to the Legislative Assembly in 1937, the coronation year of King George VI, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Murray MacLaren. Repairs to large cracks in the main staff of the mace took place in 2001 and in 2008. In 2001, After consulting with a local silversmith and contacting other provinces, it was determined that Henry Birks and Sons in Saint John would be the most qualified to effect the necessary repairs. The Mace was delivered to Saint John by the Sergeant-at-Arms in order that an estimate could be prepared. The contract was subsequently awarded to Morton-Parker, and included the following: the repair of the crack, the gold plating, buffing, polishing and relining of the storage box. In recent years, it had become apparent that the mace was in need of further restoration and repair as fine cracks had started to appear in junctions on the staff. On August 8, 2008, the mace was taken by the Sergeant-at-Arms to Birks in Saint John. From there, it travelled to Birks in Montreal for repairs. The mace was re-soldered and returned to New Brunswick in November. The mace will require gold plating, buffing, and polishing a second time to cover the 2008 restoration. In order to prevent further damage, the Mace will be handled less frequently in the future.

Varia

On September 25, the New Brunswick Provincial Capital Commission launched the "Walk with the Premier and MLAs" event from the Legislative Assembly grounds. More than 2,150 students from 68 schools in the capital region met Speaker Roy Boudreau, Premier Shawn Graham, Opposition Leader David Alward, and numerous MLAs, ministers, mayors, chiefs and councillors on the grounds of the

Legislative Assembly. Welcomed by Elder Gwen Bear, the event included students and teachers from the three founding peoples and from the various capital region schools. Participants walked from the Legislature, along the Green, across the Old Train Bridge, and back. Upon their return, all were welcomed with water and fresh New Brunswick apples. Over 100 volunteers participated including soldiers from CFB Gaagetown, members of the four capital Y's men's clubs, men's and women's rugby players from St. Thomas University, and the fire and police departments. Originally planned for early May, the walk was postponed due to the flooding of the Saint John River.

On October 4, the Girl Guides of Canada in New Brunswick held its annual Canada Cord Ceremony in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. This year, 43 young women from around the Province gathered at the Legislative Assembly to receive their Canada Cord from Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson. The Canada Cord is the highest award that can be earned by girls in Pathfinders (girls aged 12-14). Earning the Canada Cord allows girls to meet new people, learn great things about themselves and their capabilities, put their leadership skills into action, and make a difference in their community. The Legislative Assembly was filled to capacity with relatives and friends of the young women receiving their Cords.

The 2008 Awards Recognition Ceremony of the New Brunswick Council, Scouts Canada, was held at the Legislative Assembly on November 1. The Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, assisted by the Chief Commissioner of Scouts Canada, Glenn Armstrong, presented numerous awards to both youth and adults. The ceremony was conducted in the historic Legislative Assembly Chamber and a reception held afterwards at Old Government House.

The annual Queen's Council Ceremony took place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on November 22. The distinction of Queen's counsel is bestowed upon experienced lawyers in recognition of their commitment to the principles of the legal profession and contributions to their communities. No more than one per cent of the bar may be appointed Queen's counsel in any one year. Eleven recipients

were recognized for their notable contribution to the practice of law: David R. Ames of St. Stephen, Anne E. Bertrand of Fredericton, Norman J. Bosse of Saint John, Michel Doucet of Dieppe, Peter R. Forestell of Saint John, John D. Laidlaw of Saint John, Terrence J. Morrison of Fredericton, M. Elizabeth Nicholas of Fredericton, Brent D. Theriault of Bathurst, Daniel R. Theriault of Fredericton, and Peter M. Wright of Moncton.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on the front grounds of the Legislative Assembly on December 5. Hundreds of people braved chilly temperatures to enjoy musical entertainment,

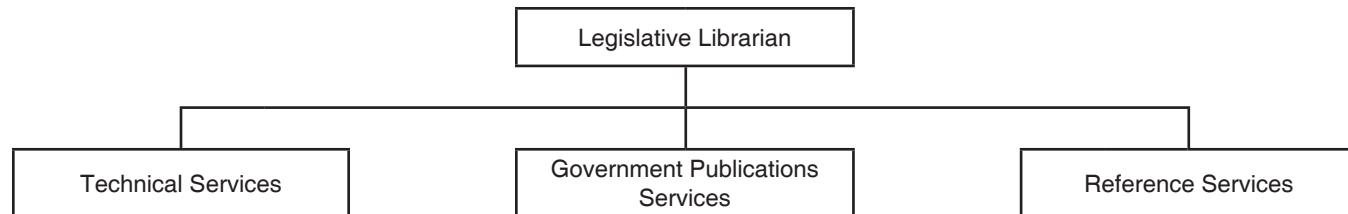
refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus. Among those participating were Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson, Speaker Roy Boudreau, Premier Shawn Graham, Opposition Leader David Alward, York MLA Carl Urquhart, and chaplain Keith Joyce. The tree was lit by Fredericton-Silverwood MLA Rick Miles and his son, Jack. Hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served by park officers and wardens from Mactaquac Provincial Park. Festive candles and treats for the children were distributed by Fredericton-area Girl Guides. Entertainment was provided by St. Paul's United Church senior choir and Priestman Street School choir. Following the countdown, the 9-metre balsam fir tree was lit with thousands of colourful Christmas lights.



The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on the front grounds of the Legislative Assembly on December 5, 2008. Hundreds of people braved chilly temperatures to enjoy musical entertainment, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus. Among those participating were Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson, Speaker Roy Boudreau, Premier Shawn Graham, Opposition Leader David Alward, York MLA Carl Urquhart, and Chaplain Keith Joyce. The tree was lit by Fredericton-Silverwood MLA Rick Miles and his son, Jack.

Legislative Library

Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey



Mandate

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library operates 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. Subject to the government publications deposited by the Queen's Printer, all departments are required to deposit with the Legislative Library four copies of every government publication printed by it or under its authority within thirty days after its printing.

The Legislative 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 also 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 own 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 confidence and in a non-partisan fashion. Twenty-four hour access is available through phone, e-mail and fax. 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

In mid April the threat of a possible flood forced the staff of the Legislative Library to review the library's contingency plan. As water levels kept rising it was decided that important New Brunswick materials such as microfilms, serials and city directories would be boxed and moved from the library basement. As the days passed it was predicted that the water levels would meet or exceed 1973 levels which flooded most of downtown Fredericton and filled the library basement full of five feet of water according to reports found in the Provincial Archives. It was decided on April 29 that other important materials from the library basement would be boxed and taken to higher ground. These materials included the second copy New Brunswick Collection as well as the portion of main collection housed in the basement and some of the old reference collection. In the government documents building there seemed to be no memory of whether it flooded in 1973. As a result it was decided that certain sections of the collection would be boxed and moved out. It took the better part of two days for the movers and library staff to box and remove everything and put it in storage. By 11:30 p.m. on April 30 as the movers were finishing loading the trucks the intersections around the legislative complex were filling with water. By the morning of May 1 a lot of downtown Fredericton was under water. Fortunately, the water level peaked just below that of 1973 and

there was no rain in the forecast for several days. As a result the main library basement had no water and the government documents building received only a couple of inches in one area. The rest of the complex didn't fare as well and as a result electricity to the building was shut off and it was seven days before library staff could return to work. Preparing for the flood was a huge undertaking but returning all of the materials to their proper place turned out to be a larger one. As a result of this event, changes were made concerning the arrangement and storage of the basement materials. It was definitely a learning experience. Library staff hopes that the next big flood doesn't happen for at least another 35 years.

On November 27, the library hosted a reception for MLAs and legislative staff to mark the beginning of the Third Session of the 56th Legislature. Once again the event was well attended.

In March, the last volume of the library's Audubon collection, *Birds of America*, was returned from the Canadian Conservation Institute after several years of treatment. It is currently being held in the Provincial Archives until a new display case is constructed. In late fall the press showed a great interest in the library's Audubon volumes. An article appeared in both provincial papers, the *Telegraph-Journal* and the *Times & Transcript*, on November 1. Once the provincial articles were published Canwest Publishing picked up on the story and the Legislative Librarian was interviewed again as well as those who worked on the volumes at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa. This interview resulted with articles in both the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Vancouver Sun*.

The Legislative Television Service, operated jointly by the Legislative Assembly and Rogers Communications Inc., did a feature on the Legislative Library. The feature included several photos and text explaining the history of the library and its holdings as well as current services offered. The length of the feature was approximately 15 minutes and it aired several times.

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 2008, New Brunswick publishers were once again approached to donate their books, as were numerous authors of privately published material. In many instances, the Library was 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

Charles Allain
Shawn DeLong
G. A. Fierheller
Alice Finnamore
Chok C. Hiew
Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship,
Immigration and Multiculturalism
Elizabeth Weir
F. J. Weissenhorn
Jean Weissenhorn DeLong

Publishers/Associates

Alberta Law Reform Institute
Economics Department, UNB, Fredericton
The Fraser Institute
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce
Goose Lane Editions
La Grande Marée
Library of Parliament
Office of Protocol (New Brunswick)
Rights & Democracy (Montréal, Québec)

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. Some of the titles acquired were: *University of St. Joseph's College*, 1903; 113th Annual report of the Grand Orange Lodge of NB, 1957; 1932 Constitution of the Moncton Club Limited; *By-laws, rules and regulations of the Municipality of Westmorland*, 1901. Without this generous grant, purchase of these valuable New Brunswick books would not have been possible.

The serials collection is a heavily used collection of the library. In 2008, the Legislative Library added a number of new serials and two new newspapers to its already extensive collection. The new newspapers added were *KV STYLE* and *La Voix du Restigouche*. New serial titles added included: *Mieux-Etre*, *PCWorld*, *Archivaria* and *ZOOMER*.

Reference

The reference team kept busy throughout the year. The staff answered approximately 1900 reference questions and Hansard requests. The types of reference questions were wide ranging along with the more usual ones of tracing acts, amendments and regulations. Once again the process that filtered all Hansard requests through the library increased the number of demands on reference staff.

The library subscribes to several electronic databases that 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 databases 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 were created in-house continued to be used on a daily basis by library staff and patrons. The effort to keep them up to date is well worth the time spent. These databases include MLA biographies, Women MLA biographies, Maiden Speeches, Election History, News clippings and Reference questions.

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. Many Members regularly stop by in the morning to catch up with the newest issue of their local newspaper before the daily sitting. Others stop by briefly to borrow periodicals or other 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.

An information session was given to the Pages at the beginning of the session. They were shown where certain materials are located in the library and the proper procedures for acquiring material for members when needed in the House.

Several tours were given throughout the year to various groups. These groups included the summer tour guides, branches of different departments, various delegations and tour groups, delegates attending the annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada, French second language students, and several groups from academic institutions. During the tours the groups were provided with information about the library and its services as well as viewing many displays set up by library staff.

In terms of publishing, the Legislative Library has several publications produced on regular basis that are sent out to MLAs and other government employees.

The *Government Publications Checklist* is available in PDF format on the library's Web site at: <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/leglibbib/publications/publications-e.asp>.

The *Selected Accessions List* is distributed to Members and Legislative staff in a paper copy format four times a year. Electronic copies of this list of new books are also provided by e-mail to all New Brunswick government employees. These copies 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. The response to this service continues to be strong.

The *Periodical Contents* publication is distributed to Members ten times a year. It 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 positive with many requests being made for the articles mentioned.

The Legislative Library's Web site includes a virtual bookshelf. Every month, new books are chosen to be on the bookshelf. The covers of these books are scanned onto the Web site. By running the cursor over a book cover a patron can see details about the book and link directly to the catalogue for more details and to request it, if desired.

Over the past year, the Legislative Library has mounted several displays within the Legislative complex. Topics included: New Brunswick Musical Heritage, renewable energy, Heritage Trust Icons, Hansard Association of Canada and Christmas

material found in the Library. The book displays usually generate interest in the topic by visitors and result in discussions and questions about the materials. Quite often the material from the display is requested for loan once the display has been dismantled.

Government Documents

Over 85 e-documents have been added to the library's electronic documents repository this year.

Selective weeding of the library's large, uncatalogued, and now 'static', federal Canadian document collection continues. The Harriet Irving Library, Government Documents Department, at UNB is the chief beneficiary of this streamlining exercise. We were able to replace some items, missing or lost, from their Canadian federal document collection, and to offer them past titles that they had not received, but now, might want to consider adding to that collection. In a few cases, other libraries in Canada were offered specific items that seemed too rare, or valuable, in subject matter to throw away. It's estimated that, overall, more than a hundred items, so far, have been 'donated' from our collection, in the manner described.

Initiatives

Due to the large number of uncatalogued/unidentified volumes in the library's main vault it was decided that they should have catalogue records created for them indicating their location in the vault. While they were being handled for this project it was decided that they would be cleaned as well before being placed back on the shelves. The value of each book was also researched.

This year the Library began a number of electronic projects and initiatives intended to allow staff to be more productive and give patrons access to additional information electronically. These projects were as follows:

1. **Creation of an Election History Database:** Results from all elections between 1984 – Present were transferred from the Library's previously compiled document into a database. In this new electronic format, staff can view results of all ridings of a specific election, view the complete history of results for a specific riding or view the results for a particular candidate in all elections in which they ran. The database is currently searchable by Library staff only with the intention to make it available publicly when the Library's new Web site is launched. Work is also under way to add election data from 1784-1984.
2. **Migration of the Library's in-house "DataBrowser" database tool from a desktop program to a completely Web-based application:** In the fall, work was completed to convert the Library's custom DataBrowser database management tool to an online Web application. In addition to the previous tool's abilities to add and edit entries in the Library's databases such as the MLA Biographies, News Clippings, Maiden Speeches, and Reference Question Databases, other tools were incorporated. These included modules for handling catalogue requests as well as generating library catalogue/inventory reports. This centralized online application gives all staff access to functions that were previously spread out over multiple programs. It also removes the need to update individual applications on every staff member's computer. Further modules will be added in coming months including other databases and integration of the Overdue Checker tool.
3. **Finalization of new Web site design:** Design for the Library's new Web site was completed and development work is currently underway. Besides a new layout and look and feel, the site will offer new services for users, including an easier to use E-Doc index and access to the Election History database. The target date for launch is late spring.
4. **Creation of a Staff Wiki and Blog:** To help staff communicate and organize information an in-house wiki and blog were set up. The blog is used to post items of importance and permit discussion. Some examples include: program tutorials, requests for input on projects and general announcements concerning materials in the library. The Wiki was set up to allow staff to collaboratively create pages containing frequently used information and keep it in a central location instead of spread out between emails, binders, and loose files. RSS feed integration allows staff to monitor for new content updates for both applications from within Outlook.
5. **Beginning of Private Act Digital Preservation project:** During the removal of attic contents a large number of duplicate New Brunswick Statutes were discovered and a project was started to look

into digitally archiving the private acts. While still in its early stages, the Library has been testing its new photocopier, which also functions as a scanner, to digitize all individual pages from the acts.

Investigation is also ongoing to test the feasibility of performing OCR on these scanned pages.

Space/Storage

Accommodation of the collections continues to provide challenges especially in the main library. The Legislative Library continues to accept material from various departmental libraries and government agency libraries that are closing or weeding their collections. Staff has sorted through these collections and will be attempting to find space for them.

Staffing

The Legislative Library has not had any changes to the full time staff in 2008. The Library was staffed with seven full-time permanent employees: Kenda Clark-Gorey, Legislative Librarian; Janet McNeil, Government Documents Librarian; Kathleen Gaudet, Reference and Outreach/Continuous Learning Librarian; Anthony Lovesey, Automation Specialist; Jonathan Bowie, Government Documents/ Reference Services Assistant; Tom Stillwell, Head of Circulation and Reference Services Assistant; Jean Weissenhorn Delong, Technical Services.

Jean Weissenhorn Delong took on the added responsibility of being the Legislative Assembly team captain for the United Way Campaign again this year.

Peggy Goss worked on the conservation/preservation project with materials from the main library vault.

Cheryl Hitchman continued working in the library on a casual basis throughout the year.

The Legislative Library also benefited this past summer from the work of summer students: Sarah Richard, Kristi Peterson and Meghan Calhoun. The students worked on a variety of projects including: reshelving material that was boxed during the flood, organizing pamphlet file material, inputting information into new databases, inventory and shelf reading.

Continuing Education

Jonathan Bowie and Anthony Lovesey attended the annual conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists which was held in Fredericton in June. The

conference's theme of digitization was of great interest to the library staff.

Jonathan Bowie enrolled in a French second language class starting in September and running until June of next year. He attends class one day per week.

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 Libraries in Canada.

Janet McNeil and Kenda Clark-Gorey are members of the Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick/Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick.

Hansard Office

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey



2008

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 priority given to the production of oral questions transcripts; 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

In late 2008, two vacancies were filled, bringing the full-time staffing complement of the Hansard Office to ten employees: the Official Reporter; two French Parliamentary Editors, including a senior editor; six English Parliamentary Editors, including a senior editor; and one English and French Parliamentary Editor.

Four outsourced professionals worked on transcription and editing on a part-time basis and another, hired under a four-month secondment agreement, undertook console operation as well as transcription.

Highlights During 2008

- Hansard staff recorded and logged 539 hours of proceedings: 365 hours of House sittings—297.25 hours for the second session of the

56th legislature and 67.75 hours for the third session—and 174 hours of committee sittings. A total of 2 956 365 words were transcribed: 2 805 201 words of House transcription and 151 164 words of committee transcription.

- Work continued throughout the year on the planning of the 35th annual Hansard Association of Canada Conference, which was held in Fredericton in late August.
- The two in-house manuals were continually updated and expanded, and training modules for console operation were developed and implemented.
- The Hansard Office was closed for two weeks due to spring flooding. As a result of the development of a business continuity plan in advance of the flood, all items in the basement storage area were safely and permanently relocated, and staff were able to proceed with some transcribing and editing work off-site. The business continuity plan was later reviewed, and recommendations were made to ensure readiness for a similar event.
- The Official Reporter attended the triennial Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association Conference and continued to be active in the Hansard Association of Canada by contributing to its newsletter, hosting its conference, and serving as secretary-treasurer.
- Two full-time staff were hired in late December, and staff assisted in their orientation and training on console operation; transcribing, editing, and research; and office procedures.

House

Objective: to record, transcribe, and edit House proceedings, with priority given to oral questions and requests for transcripts.

During 2008, there were 66 sitting days that entailed the recording of 4 828 five-minute takes. Hansard documents—transcripts, console notes, and Committee of Supply data—continued to be posted on the Legislative Assembly intranet to enable independent research within the offices of the complex as well as in the library.

Oral questions transcripts were prepared and e-mailed to 477 individuals within hours of the conclusion of question period. The distribution lists of recipients were kept up to date, with modifications occurring frequently. A small number of hard copies were also distributed.

Condolence, introductory, and congratulatory messages were transcribed and posted on the Legislative Assembly intranet on a same-day basis.

A total of 265 requests were processed by the Hansard staff, including 250 requests for House transcripts and 15 requests for committee transcripts. Staff continued to collaborate with Legislative Library staff in the handling of requests, with the library being the initial point of contact for clients.

The transcription of the 2007-08 session was completed in November 2008, just as the fall session

began. The transcription of the 2008-09 fall sitting was completed by early 2009. A total of 69 dailies in blues format, which are those that have undergone a first edit, were completed by staff and posted on the Legislative Assembly intranet during the 2008 calendar year:

- Dailies 1, 2, and 4 to 64, second session, 56th legislature, 2007-08
- Dailies 1 to 5 and 8, third session, 56th legislature, 2008-09

Upon completion of the transcription of current dailies and all House requests, the uncompleted work of prior years was addressed.

Progress was made on the remaining transcription:

- fifth session, 54th legislature, 2002-03 (completed early 2009)
- first session, 55th legislature, 2003-04

The following 62 dailies were finalized and distributed:

- Dailies 1 to 52, first session, 56th legislature, 2007
- Dailies 60 to 69, fourth session, 54th legislature, 2001-02 (completed early 2009)

Table 1 provides comparative statistics on the number of days, hours, and takes for the past seven sessions, and Table 2 provides comparative transcription statistics for the past four.

| 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** |
| 2007 (56-1) | 79 | 477 | 6 486 |
| 2007-2008 (56-2) | 64 | 363 | 4 817 |

* 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. Standing Committee on Estimates transcripts were appended to House transcripts in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Table 2

House Transcription Word Counts

| Session | English | French | Total Word Count |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 55-2 (2004-05: 58 days) | 1 609 598 (71%) | 646 720 (29%) | 2 256 318 |
| 55-3 (2005-06: 54 days) | 1 494 012 (74%) | 527 373 (26%) | 2 021 385 |
| 56-1 (2007: 79 days) | 2 524 185 (73%) | 929 210 (27%) | 3 453 395 |
| 56-2 (2007-08: 64 days) | 1 978 333 (70%) | 847 493 (30%) | 2 825 826 |

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 2008, Hansard staff attended 46 public meetings of standing and select committees: Crown Corporations, 6; Crown Corporations/Public Accounts, 1; Private Bills, 2; Public Accounts, 16; Law Amendments, 2; Wellness, 8; Lifelong Learning, 1; and Tax Review, 10. These committee meetings entailed 178 hours of recording, or 2 136 five-minute takes. Staff also attended the meetings of the Select Committees on Wellness and Tax Review that were held in various locations in the province.

Committee transcripts were provided in unrevised format, as requested, once transcription of the House transcripts had been completed.

Table 3 shows a comparison of hours recorded for the committees and the House.

Table 3
Hours Recorded
2008 Calendar Year

| Proceedings | Hours | % of Workload |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| House | 365 | 67% |
| Committees | 178 | 33% |
| TOTALS | 543 | 100% |

Recording

Since the Hansard Office is responsible for overseeing the recording of sittings of the House and committee

meetings as well as other events that take place in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers, the staff perform sound and equipment checks before events and maintain an up-to-date schedule of events in the Multiple Unit Recording Facility (MURF) and backup recording systems, which are located in the Hansard Office. The queue of meeting details is updated daily during House and committee sittings, and the systems are monitored to ensure continual recording. The digital recordings are broken down into five-minute segments that are accessed and transcribed by staff from workstations in the office.

Hansard staff operate the sound consoles in both the Legislative Assembly Chamber and the Legislative Council Chamber. These staff open the microphones, provide dubbing, take notes, and collect documentation.

Special Events

Hansard Office staff operated the sound equipment for various events, such as the Student Legislative Seminar, April 25 to 27; the official welcome and presentation to delegates and guests of the Hansard Association of Canada Conference, August 26; the Boy Scouts ceremony, October 4; the Girl Guides ceremony, November 1; the swearing-in ceremony for MLA Jack Carr; and the Queen's Counsel ceremony, November 22.

Staff also assisted the Clerk's Office with telephone-answering and messaging services throughout the year.

Hansard Association of Canada Conference

The New Brunswick Hansard Office hosted the 35th annual Hansard Association of Canada Conference, August 25 to 29. A total of 68 registered delegates and guests from each Canadian province and territory as well as from England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were in attendance. The conference afforded delegates an opportunity to become acquainted with Hansard professionals from across Canada and beyond, exchange information and ideas, and attend the following sessions:

- Welcome, history of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, and guided tours of the Legislature Building and the Hansard Office by Don Forestell, Diane Mercier-Allain, and the New Brunswick Hansard staff.
- Sliq digital recording presentation, demonstration, and discussion, Sanjiv Menezes and Nicolas Côté, Sliq Media Technologies, Montreal, Quebec.
- Use of virtual private networks during off-site committee meetings, Steve Smal, Ontario Hansard.

- Information management tool for indexing, Joan Blanchard, Martine Rocheleau, and Kim Buzzetti, Senate Hansard.
- Recruitment and retention, Jo-Anne Kern and Rob Sutherland, British Columbia Hansard.
- Availability and use of ergonomic furnishings and equipment, Fran Robinson, Proactive Therapy, Fredericton.
- Feldenkrais method of movement, Carolyn Townsend, Fredericton Physiotherapy, Fredericton.
- “Stormont Hansard: Up and Running Again”, Dr. Colm McNamee, Northern Ireland Hansard.
- “Dancing on the Ark”, Dr. Kelly Walker, Stratford, Ontario.

Delegates attended a luncheon at Old Government House, hosted by Lieutenant-Governor Herménégilde Chiasson, who spoke about the role of Hansardians, past and present, as “the historians, the authors, the wordsmiths—the witnesses—to some of the most important events and speeches and personalities in our nation”.

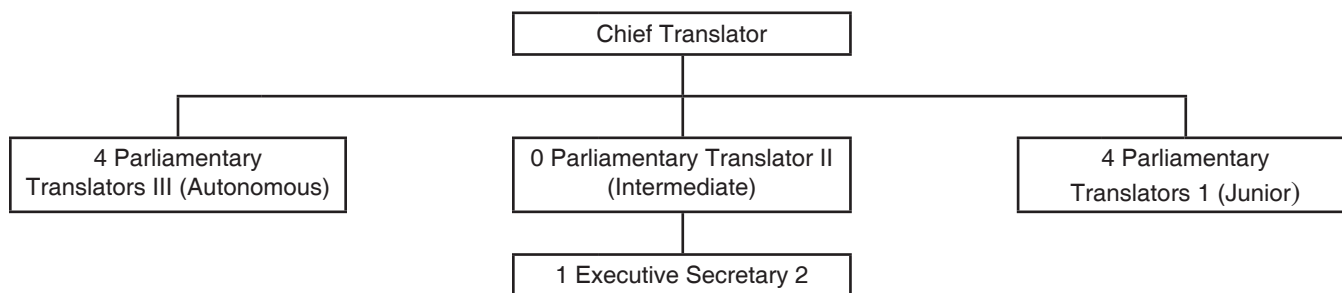


The New Brunswick Hansard Office hosted the 35th Annual Hansard Association of Canada Conference from August 25 to 29, 2008.

Delegates attended a luncheon at Old Government House hosted by His Honour, Herménégilde Chiasson, the province's Lieutenant-Governor. Pictured fourth from left is His Honour and Linda Fahey, Official Reporter, to His Honour's right.

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.

Calendar Year 2008

Highlights

- In early February, the New Brunswick Translation Bureau invited staff to attend workshops offered by the federal Translation Bureau. Workshops were offered on English language difficulties and “buzzwords”, principles and practice of revision into English, as well as language problems and translation issues for people translating and revising into English. Staff members very much appreciated this opportunity for professional development.
- From late April to late August, the office welcomed a co-op student in translation from Université de Moncton, who enjoyed her co-op term very much. The office had the opportunity to contribute to training a new generation in a profession experiencing a worldwide shortage of workers.
- The 2008-09 budget included a new position for a translator, and Sonia Wilson, who was recruited from a recently held competition, joined the staff on June 2, 2008, as a junior translator.
- In late October, Rebecca Colborne and Marion Macfarlane attended a workshop on usage myths and woes in English writing, facilitated by Frances Peck from the federal Translation Bureau and offered through the Quebec/Atlantic Canada Branch of the Editors’ Association of Canada.
- There were 64 daily sittings in 2008. The period covers the end of the second session and the beginning of the third session of the 56th legislature. Since, for the first time, this report covers the calendar year instead of the fiscal year, no comparison can be made with figures from the previous year.
- During 2008, production reached more than 1.6 million words.
- During the year, more than 1 062 translation requests were processed, not including requests for prompt translation made by telephone or e-mail.
- During the year, platforms were constructed in two more Edgcombe House offices to solve the problem of uneven floors, bringing to six the total of offices with platforms. There are still four offices where similar work remains to be done as resources become available.

House

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

Translation of Hansard accounted for more than 57% of the workload. Almost 26% 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 almost 6% of the workload; translation is usually completed shortly after the session ends. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for almost 12% of the workload; they are translated the same day.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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

Translation for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for almost 16.5% of the total workload.

During the 64 sitting days during the year under review, 377 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed, representing 1 240 pages. These included the speech from the throne for the third session of the 56th legislature and the 2008-09 budget speech, as well as 260 statements and 115 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. The average speech length was 7 pages. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 94% of the workload. Approximately 95% 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, accounting for 92% of the workload. The Office of Government Members accounted for 8% of the workload. Translation requests by Members of the Legislative Assembly usually receive same-day or next-day service, as resources allow.

Committees

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

Translation for committees represented more than 3.5% of the total workload.

Office of the Legislative Assembly

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

Translation for the Office of the Legislative Assembly represented more than 7% of the total workload.

**Table 1 : Debates Translation Output, in words,
2008 Calendar Year
(rounded figures)**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| HOUSE | |
| Notices of Motions and Order Paper | 196 000 |
| Journal..... | 98 000 |
| Hansard ¹ | 939 000 |
| MEMBERS | |
| Speeches and Statements | 233 000 |
| Correspondence and press releases..... | 37 000 |
| COMMITTEES..... | 59 000 |
| OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY | 83 000 |
| TOTAL² | 1 645 000 |

¹ Includes a carryover of about 904 000 words (16% of 2000-2001 Hansard, 21% of 2001-2002 Hansard, and Sitting 23 of 2007-2008 Hansard) from the previous year.

² Excludes a carryover of approximately 20.35 million words (79% of 2001-2002 Hansard, 100% of 2002-2003 Hansard, 100% of 2003-2004 Hansard, 100% of 2004-2005 Hansard, 100% of 2005-2006 Hansard, 100% of 2007 Hansard, 100% of 2007-2008 Hansard, and Sittings 1 to 16 of 2008-2009 Hansard) into the next year.

Table 2 : Comparative Statistics for Sessions

| | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2007 | 2007-2008 |
|-------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Days | 62 | 58 | 54 | 79 | 64 |
| Words | 2 571 000* | 2 377 000* | 2 240 000* | 4 121 000* | 3 072 000* |

* Estimate

Special Project

Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc

2008

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 seek outside funding to assist catch-up efforts. In 2007-08, no outside funding for translation outsourcing was received.

The second component was internal funding for outsourcing. In 2007-08, an amount of \$66 500 was added to the Debates Translation budget for outsourcing, and funding was provided for an executive secretary position.

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 2007-08, Hansard translation demand was an estimated 3.44 million words, an increase of 28% over the 2.69 million words for the previous year.
- Hansard translation output totaled 0.96 million words, compared to 0.99 million words in the previous year, a drop of 3%.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 2.48 million words. Over the past five fiscal years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.36 million words per year.

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

Results

- Online translation of Hansard dailies was made available on the Legislative Assembly network 11.25 years earlier than the published volumes.
- As of March 31, 2008, translation of dailies up to Day 4 (November 23, 2001) of the 2001-02 session was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly.
- A total of 405 Hansard dailies in dual-column and PDF format are now available for the 1993 to 2001-02 sessions. These finalized, fully-translated dailies can be viewed, printed, and are fully searchable electronically.

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

Results

- In 2007-08, the Hansard translation backlog rose by 2.48 million words, compared to 1.70 million words during the previous year, an increase of 46%.
- During the year in review, 78 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 24 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 54 sitting days, compared to an increase of 39 sitting days in the previous year.
- As of March 31, 2008, Hansard translation was trailing by 76 months (or 400 dailies), compared to 71 months (or 346 dailies) at the end of the previous year.
- Over the last five fiscal years, backlog growth was 11.6%, compared to a 22.2% increase over the previous five-year period.

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. The *Parliamentary Stylebook* was also updated.

Both the directory and the stylebook are available for consultation and download at

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

Program for Members

The other components or branches of the Legislative Assembly Office are the Government Members' Office and the Office of the Official Opposition.

Each party grouping or caucus of elected Members is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office. The Speaker has authority over the administration of each caucus office; however, for obvious reasons, these branches operate with considerable autonomy.

Both 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.

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*, the Legislative Administration Committee approves annual 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 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.

Conclusion

Translation of House proceedings is conducted in concert with the 9 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 and staff of the Legislative Assembly, government departments, and New Brunswickers.

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 eight permanent staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, secretarial and receptionist duties required to support the elected Members of the Government Caucus.

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

Office of the Official Opposition

The staff of this office is comprised of 14 permanent positions and includes a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties in support of the elected Members of the Official Opposition Caucus.

The offices of the Members and staff of the Official Opposition are located in the Old Education Building and in the Jewett House.

Tributes

Jean Clarence Bourque, MD

A former MLA, Dr. Jean Clarence Bourque died in Edmundston, N.B. on September 11, 2008.

A Liberal, he was elected June 28, 1948 to represent the County of Madawaska. He retired at the dissolution of the Legislature in 1952.

He was born in Edmundston on March 28, 1923. He was educated at Sacred Heart University, in Bathurst; Université St. Joseph, B.A (1942); and at Laval University, M.D. (1946).

He resided in Saint Leonard, Madawaska County, where he established a medical practice. He completed post-graduate studies in psychiatry, obtaining his Specialist Certificate in Psychiatry from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

In 1958, he was appointed Director of the Mental Hygiene Clinic in Edmundston.

Harold Fanjoy

Premier Shawn Graham paid tribute to the memory of Harold Newton Fanjoy who died April 26, 2008:

Born in Saint John, Mr. Fanjoy studied accounting at the New Brunswick Institute of Technology.

After succeeding in business, he became involved in politics, joining the Progressive Conservative Association and becoming a member of the board of directors of the Fundy-Royal Progressive Conservative Association.

Mr. Fanjoy was first elected to the Legislature in 1974. In fact, he served with my father in this Chamber for a number of years. As the MLA for Kings Centre, he would serve as Minister of Supply and Services and as Chairman of Treasury Board in the government of Premier Richard Hatfield before retiring in 1987. Harold Fanjoy was well known for his passion to serve the people in his community and was well respected by his colleagues, regardless of which side of the House they sat on. He will be missed by all who knew him and worked for him.

J. Robert Martin

J. Robert Martin passed away February 17, 2008.

A Progressive Conservative, he was elected to the Legislature June 18, 1956. He sat one term and was defeated at the polls in 1960, 1961 and 1963.

He was born August 1, 1926 in Chatham, NB. and educated at St. Thomas College in Chatham, and at

Dalhousie University Law School in Halifax, NS. He received his B.A. and B.C.L. degrees. He was admitted to New Brunswick Bar November 13, 1952, and began to practice in Chatham. He was director of the United Insurance Agencies Ltd.

He was a Chatham Town Councillor from 1961 to 1964, and was elected mayor in June 1967. He was a member of the local Board of Trade, and the local hospital board. He was a director of the Miramichi Exhibition Association.

Jean-Marc Michaud

Jean-Marc Michaud was born in Edmundston on October 4, 1923. He died August 26, 2008.

A Liberal Member, he was elected to represent Madawaska County in 1960 and served until 1963.

He was a graduate of Ottawa University (B.A.) and the University of New Brunswick (B.C.L.) He was a solicitor and the former president of Radio CJEM.

Kal Seaman, M.D.

Premier Graham paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Kal Seaman who died March 2, 2008:

Kal proudly served as MLA for Kings Centre under former Premier Frank McKenna. A sportsman and community leader throughout his life, Kal was a true gentleman who worked tirelessly for his patients, his constituents, and his community.

Kal first came to New Brunswick in 1953, as an orthopedic surgeon. He served as chief of orthopedic surgery for the Saint John region, and he was a founding member of both the New Brunswick and Atlantic Provinces orthopedic associations. He was recognized as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He retired from medical practice in 1985.

In 1987, Dr. Seaman was elected to represent the riding of Kings Centre, and he served in this House for one term. In 1994, his beloved wife, Trudi, was struck ill, and Dr. Seaman dedicated himself to the full-time task of caring for her at home. He became active as a passionate advocate for improved palliative home care services, and he advocated for better home care for the critically ill, at both the federal and provincial levels. Dr. Seaman was predeceased by his wife in 2007.

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

April 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007*

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Fourth Session, 54th Legislature, 2001-02. Finalized daily sittings: 17, 55, 56, 59.

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Second Session, 55th Legislature, 2004-05. Finalized daily sittings: 2, 5, 12, 15, 19, 21 to 58, which completed finalization of all dailies of the session. Daily Sitting 58 included the five transcripts of the Standing Committee on Estimates.

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Third Session, 55th Legislature, 2005-06. Finalized Daily Sittings 1 and 2 as well as 4 to 54, which completed the finalization of all dailies of the session. Daily Sitting 54 included the nine transcripts of the Standing Committee on Estimates.

Journal of Debates (Hansard). First Session, 56th Legislature, 2007. All 79 dailies in unrevised (blues) format.**

Journal of Debates (Hansard). Second Session, 56th Legislature, 2007-08. Daily Sittings 3 and 8 in unrevised (blues) format.**

Written Questions and Answers. Five sessions, from the Third Session, 54th Legislature, 2000-01, to the Third Session, 55th Legislature, 2005-06.**

Console Notes. First Session, 56th Legislature, February 6, 2007 to July 6, 2007, 79 logs. Second Session, 56th Legislature, November 27, 2007, to December 20, 2007, 15 logs.**

Statistics, Committee of Supply and Standing Committee on Estimates. Second Session, 55th Legislature, 2004-05; Third Session, 55th Legislature, 2005-06; First Session, 56th Legislature, 2007; and Second Session, 56th Legislature, 2007-2008.**

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, 1929-2006.***

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).***

Office of the Clerk

Legislative Activities 2006.***

Journals (Unrevised): Legislative Assembly: Province of New Brunswick, First Session, Fifty-Sixth Legislature (79 issues).***

Journals (Unrevised): Legislative Assembly Province of New Brunswick: Second Session, Fifty-Sixth Legislature (15 issues).*

Biographies of Members: 56th Legislature: 2007: Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick.***

Order and Notice Paper, February 6, 2007, to July 6, 2007, 79 issues.***

Order and Notice Paper, November 27, 2007, to December 20, 2007, 15 issues.***

Seating Arrangement, First Session, 56th Legislature.

Seating Arrangement, Second Session, 56th Legislature.

Status of Legislation Introduced during the First Session of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.***

Status of Legislation Introduced during the Second Session of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.***

Quarterly Jurisdictional Reports, Canadian Parliamentary Review, 2007.

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>>.

*Reporting changing to calendar year from fiscal year.

**Available on Legislative Assembly intranet.

***Internet: <<http://www.gnb.ca/legis>>.

Notes
