

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Legislative Activities

2016



Legislative Activities

2016



New Brunswick

Prepared for The Honourable Chris Collins

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

New Brunswick



October 20, 2017

The Honourable Chris Collins
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 twenty-eighth annual report of *Legislative Activities*, for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald J. Forestell". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — Donald J. Forestell

The year 2016 was eventful for the offices of the Legislative Assembly. The second session of the 58th Legislature concluded and the third session began. In total, the House sat for 46 days during the calendar year and committees held 99 meetings. The year saw a cabinet shuffle, the election of a new Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick, the release of a select committee final report, and the recommended appointment of three new legislative officers.

The second session of the 58th Legislature, which adjourned on December 18, 2015, after 12 sitting days, resumed sitting on February 2, 2016. On that date, Finance Minister Roger Melanson delivered the second budget of the government. The reply to the budget speech was delivered on February 4 by the Opposition Finance Critic, Blaine Higgs.

During the spring sitting, the House considered 56 bills. The House adjourned on July 8, for a total of 27 spring sitting days. The second session was subsequently prorogued on the morning of November 2. A total of 66 bills were introduced during the second session, 36 of which received royal assent.

The House sat for 40 days during the second session, for a total of 171 hours. This compares to 64 sitting days during the previous session, or 245 hours. The reduced number of sitting days was the result of bills and estimates being referred to separate standing committees. The Standing Committee on Economic Policy spent 59 hours considering legislation, and the Committee on Supply and Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy spent the prescribed 80 hours considering estimates.

Significant changes to cabinet were announced on June 6, including the appointment of Cathy Rogers as New Brunswick's first female Finance Minister. Ms. Rogers had been serving as Minister of Social Development. In addition, two members were added to cabinet: Lisa Harris as Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care, and John Ames as Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. The remaining list of Ministers was as follows: Brian Gallant, Premier; Stephen Horsman, Deputy Premier, Minister of Families and Children; Denis Landry, Minister of Justice and Public Safety; Donald Arseneault, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Rick Doucet, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Minister of Energy and Resource Development, Government House Leader; Victor Boudreau, Minister of Health, Deputy Government House Leader; Ed Doherty, Minister of Service New Brunswick; Brian Kenny, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; Bill Fraser, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure; Roger Melanson, President of Treasury Board; Francine Landry, Minister of Economic Development; and Serge Rousselle, Minister of Environment and Local Government, Attorney General.

On June 29, Hédard Albert and Monique LeBlanc were appointed Deputy Speakers, replacing Lisa Harris and Bernard LeBlanc.

The Select Committee on Climate Change was appointed by the House on April 8. The committee was charged with conducting public consultations on the issue of climate change and reporting to the House with recommendations. From July to September, public hearings took place throughout the province including First Nations communities. The committee also received briefings from notable experts and government departments. The committee released its final report on October 24, which contained 85 recommendations on such topics as government leadership, economic opportunities, adaptation, mitigation, and funding for climate change initiatives.



On October 22, the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick held its leadership convention. Blaine Higgs won the leadership against six other candidates in a three-ballot race. Mr. Higgs was first elected in the general election of 2010 and served as Minister of Finance. He was re-elected in 2014 as the member for Quispamsis. Mr. Higgs replaced Bruce Fitch as the Leader of the Official Opposition.

On October 31, the electoral district of Charlotte-Campobello was renamed the electoral district of Saint Croix to better characterize the area it represents.

The third session of the 58th Legislature opened on November 2. The Lieutenant-Governor delivered the speech from the throne outlining the legislative agenda of the government. The Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Higgs, delivered the reply to the speech from the throne on November 4.

During the fall sitting, 38 bills were introduced. In particular, legislation that created the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to oversee existing legislation related to conflicts of interest, lobbyist registration, and right to information and protection of privacy; and legislation that broadened the responsibilities of the Child and Youth Advocate to include advocacy responsibility for adults under protection and seniors.

After 26 years of exemplary service to the Legislature and the province, Marion Macfarlane retired from her position as Senior Translator in Debates Translation. Ms. Macfarlane was meticulous in her uncompromising effort to find the “unique right word”. She led by example and patience throughout her successful career. Staff of the Legislative Assembly expressed their appreciation of her work at a reception held in her honour in the Legislative Library on November 14.

On December 7, the Assembly recommended the appointment of the following three individuals as legislative officers: Kimberly Poffenroth, an Assistant Deputy Attorney General, as Chief Electoral Officer; Michèle Pelletier, a lawyer at Arseneault and Pelletier, as Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and Hon. Alexandre Deschênes, Q.C., a former Justice of the Court of Appeal, as Conflict of Interest Commissioner and eventually New Brunswick’s first Integrity Commissioner.

Shirley Dysart, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, passed away on December 14. She was first elected in 1974 to represent the constituency of Saint John North and was re-elected four times to represent the riding of Saint John-Park. Ms. Dysart was the first female Liberal candidate elected to the Legislature, the first woman to serve as leader of a political party and leader of the Official Opposition, the first woman to hold the Education portfolio, and the first woman to be Speaker of the Assembly. Over her lifetime, Ms. Dysart received numerous awards and honours, including an appointment to the Order of Canada.

The House adjourned on December 16, after sitting 18 days. The standings in the House at year end were 26 Liberals, 22 Progressive Conservatives, and 1 Green.



HIGHLIGHTS

Library celebrates 175 years

On October 26, the Legislative Library hosted an open house in celebration of its 175th anniversary. Library staff welcomed Members, legislative officers and staff, civil servants, library staff from local university libraries and the public library, and public patrons of the library to browse the collections.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Chris Collins, addressed the large group, recounting the history of the library's official establishment in 1841, as well as the many changes that have taken place over the past 175 years.

In honour of the special occasion, a volume of the library's Birds of America was taken out of the archives and put on display. The complete set of hand-coloured copper engravings of the Birds of America by John James Audubon, painted in the 1830s, is one of the library's most prized possessions. Purchased in 1852, it is one of only five sets in Canada.

The joint committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly established the New Brunswick Legislative Library in 1841. This action formalized the library's creation, which had taken place in 1784 when the province was first formed.

During most of the 19th century, the library was located in Province Hall, the original legislative building. It is now located in the present Legislative Assembly Building which was erected between 1880-1882.

For much of the period up to 1955, the Legislative Library also provided public library service. In 1955 the responsibility for public library service was transferred to the now New Brunswick Public Library Service. The *Legislative Library Act* of 1976 formalized the Legislative Library's primary service to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.



Speaker Collins and Kenda Clark-Gorey, Legislative Librarian, administered the ceremonial cake cutting.



The Legislative Library of New Brunswick, in 1841 and in 2016.



Illumination in Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building. On September 21, the front entrance of the Legislative Assembly was bathed in gold to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and honour those who have been affected by pediatric cancers. One in 285 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. At any one time, more than 1,500 Canadian children and their families are facing childhood cancer.

The illumination of the Legislative Assembly was held in conjunction with the arrival of cyclists taking part in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride, a cross-Canada charity cycling event in which Speaker Collins cycled in 2013 and 2016. The charity raises money to directly fund research and support programs for pediatric cancer.



Speaker Collins has been an advocate for families with sick children. In July 2007, his son Sean passed away from a cancer-related illness.



33rd Presiding Officers' Conference

From January 28 to 31, the Legislature hosted the 33rd Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference. The four-day conference was attended by 41 delegates, representing provincial and territorial legislatures and the Parliament of Canada. Special observers also attended from the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the Partnership of Parliaments.

Business session topics included the Speaker's casting vote, democratic renewal in Prince Edward Island, decorum in the House, challenges and opportunities of being a new Deputy Speaker, the Speaker's role regarding the Independent Member, and policies on preventing and managing harassment in the workplace.



Participants of the 2016 Presiding Officers' Conference



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



ROLE OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is elected by secret ballot by all Members of the Legislative Assembly at the opening of a new Legislature, or when a vacancy occurs. The Speaker assumes the position of highest authority in the House. As the representative of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker is the guardian of its privileges and its presiding officer.

To facilitate the orderly flow of business, the House observes certain parliamentary rules, both written and traditional. The Speaker must ensure that these rules of procedure are observed and must protect the rights and privileges of the Assembly and its Members. The Speaker maintains order, interprets the standing rules and calls on Members to speak, ensuring a fair representation of opinion. The Speaker presides over the debates of the House with impartiality. The Speaker does not participate in debate, and does not vote except in the case of a tie.



*Hon. Chris Collins,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

The Speaker is the head of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and is responsible for the services, staff and facilities directly related to the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker is president of the New Brunswick Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and serves as the representative of the Legislative Assembly on ceremonial and official occasions.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Speaker remains a Member of the Legislative Assembly and is expected to carry out various duties on behalf of his constituents.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The Parliament of New Brunswick, composed of the Crown and the elected Members, is constituted as the Legislative Assembly. The Queen of Canada, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, is the official Head of State and is represented in New Brunswick by the Lieutenant-Governor. The primary function of the Legislature, making laws, is vested jointly in the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Assembly, with the Assembly passing legislation and the Lieutenant-Governor assenting to it. This follows centuries-old British tradition in which the power of the state rests with the Crown, while the exercise of that power rests with elected Members.

New Brunswick's system of government, like the federal system in Ottawa, is based on the British parliamentary system. Each of the 49 Members is individually elected to represent the voters in



one constituency. Although a Member need not be affiliated with an organized political party, this has generally been the tradition in New Brunswick.

The three main functions of the Legislature are law-making, surveillance and representation. The legislative process (law-making) claims a predominant share of the Assembly's sitting time.

Surveillance refers to holding the government accountable. The job of examining and criticizing the actions of government is primarily a task for the opposition. Oral Question period is the most visible means of surveillance.

Representation refers to serving and representing constituents. For many Members, the constituency is a defining characteristic of their job. Serving constituents is viewed by many Members as one of their primary roles and most spend a great deal of time and effort directed toward this end.

HOUSE ACTIVITY

The term *Legislature* generally refers to the institution which exercises the legislative power. More specifically, the term is used by parliamentarians to refer to the period between two general elections. Each general election brings about a new Legislative Assembly.

The annual meeting of the Assembly is called a session. Under the *Constitution Act, 1867*, at least one session of the Legislature must be held each year. There may be any number of sessions during the life of a Legislature. The term *session* refers to the period of time between the opening of the Legislative Assembly, when the Lieutenant-Governor delivers the throne speech, and the prorogation of parliamentary work. Any business not completed before prorogation dies on the *Order and Notice Paper*. A session may also be ended by dissolution, in which case a general election would follow.

The daily meeting of the Assembly is called a sitting. A sitting is not necessarily synonymous with a calendar day. Some sittings are very brief and others have extended over more than one calendar day. A sitting is concluded by the adjournment of the House.

The ordinary sitting hours for the House are:

Tuesday	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The ordinary sitting hours are prescribed by the standing rules and may be varied on occasion to include evening sittings.

Each sitting day is divided into two parts: Routine Business and Orders of the Day.



Routine Business

Routine Business is devoted to both new business and to providing Members with an opportunity to bring a variety of matters to the attention of the House. The same items of business reappear daily and include:

Prayers

The prayers consist of two separate invocations followed by the Lord's Prayer and are read partly in English and partly in French.

Introduction of Guests

Members have an opportunity to introduce persons from their constituency or other noteworthy individuals who are present in the House.

Statements by Members

Members who are not Ministers may be recognized to make a brief statement related to any matter of importance to the Member.

Oral Questions

Each sitting day, 30 minutes is set aside for the purpose of asking oral questions. During Oral Questions, Members may ask concise and clear questions on matters of urgency addressed to Ministers. Ministers may respond or take the matter under advisement.

Tabling of Documents

A Minister may table with the House any return, report or other paper within the administrative competence of the government. Many statutes require that certain reports and documents be laid before the House each session or year. Other documents may be tabled pursuant to a standing rule or resolution of the House.

Statements by Ministers

A Minister may make a brief statement on, or explanation of, government policy or administration. Debate is not permitted on such a statement or explanation but a representative of each recognized party in opposition may comment briefly.

Presentations of Petitions

The public has the right to petition the Legislature, or government, to take certain action. Individuals or groups with petitions must enlist the aid of Members to have their petitions presented in the House.

Answers to Petitions and Written Questions

A Minister, on behalf of government, may table with the House a response to any petition or written question previously presented in the House.



Presentations of Committee Reports

Any information to be transmitted to the House from a committee is presented in the form of a committee report. Committees submit reports on a variety of subjects, including: bills, estimates, procedural matters and subject-matter inquiries.

Introduction of Bills

Ministers and other Members have an opportunity to introduce new bills in the House and give a brief explanation as to their purpose.

Notices of Motions

In order for Members to be fully prepared when matters are called for debate in the House, two days' written notice is required for important House business. Members may give such notice under this item.

Notice of Opposition Members' Business

Opposition Members' Business is taken under consideration at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays. An item of Opposition Members' Business may be considered in an order different from its order of priority or its order of presentation in the House provided that one day's notice has been given under this item.

Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House

Motions moved under this item are those relating to the business of the House and are moved by the Government House Leader. The Government House Leader will also announce the scheduling and order in which the daily business of the House will be considered.

Deferred Recorded Divisions

The will of the House is usually ascertained by means of a voice vote. Once debate on a motion has concluded, the Speaker puts the question and determines whether the yeas or nays have it and declares the motion carried or lost. A recorded division may be requested on any voice vote. A recorded division requires those voting in the affirmative or negative to rise so their names can be entered in the Journal. A recorded division, if requested, need not be held immediately. At the request of the Government House Leader or Whip, it may be deferred to the next sitting day under this item.

Orders of the Day

This item refers to the business that is to come before the House each day, as set out in the *Order and Notice Paper*. An item of business may include consideration of bills at various stages, estimates, or motions for which notice has already been given.

Condolences and Congratulations

While no longer a part of Routine Business following the rule changes in 2015, Members have an opportunity to present a statement of condolence or extend congratulations to any person, group or association before the Speaker motions for the daily adjournment of the House.




























HOUSE STATISTICS

	57 th Legislature		58 th Legislature	
	<i>Third Session 2012 - 2013</i>	<i>Fourth Session 2013-2014</i>	<i>First Session 2014-2015</i>	<i>Second Session 2015 - 2016</i>
<i>Daily Sittings</i>				
Number of Sitting Days	58	70	64	40
Evening Sittings	5	6	0	0
<i>Government Bills</i>				
Introduced	56	70	50	40
Received Royal Assent	54	69	49	34
<i>Private Bills</i>				
Introduced	3	8	2	2
Received Royal Assent	3	8	2	2
<i>Private Members' Public Bills</i>				
Introduced	13	14	5	24
Received Royal Assent	0	3	0	0
<i>Government Motions</i>				
Total	19	10	14	8
Number debated	5	1	4	2
Number agreed to	18	10	14	7
Number withdrawn	0	0	0	0
<i>Private Members' Motions</i>				
Total	56	54	29	166
Number debated	13	22	24	15
Number agreed to	8	6	14	5
Number withdrawn	21	10	0	0
<i>Committee of Supply</i>				
In House (Days)	12	16	3	3
In Committee on Estimates	12	12	18	15
In other Committees	12	11	0	0
<i>Annual Reports Tabled</i>	66	59	87	56
<i>Petitions</i>	47	14	112	72
<i>Written Questions</i>	10	0	0	0



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 Seating Arrangement

 Bertrand LeBlanc Kent North	 Ed Doherty Saint John Harbour	 Victor Boudreau Shediac- Beaubassin- Cap-Pelé	
 Bernard LeBlanc Memramcook- Tantramar	 Chuck Chiasson Victoria-La Vallée	 Bill Fraser Miramichi	 Rick Doucet Fundy-The Isles- Saint John West
 Wilfred Roussel Shippagan- Lamèque-Miscou	 Monique LeBlanc Moncton East	 Lisa Harris Miramichi Bay- Neguac	 Brian Gallant Shediac Bay-Dieppe
 Gilles LePage Restigouche West	 Andrew Harvey Carleton-Victoria	 Francine Landry Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston	 Cathy Rogers Moncton South
 Daniel Guitard Restigouche- Chaleur	 Benoît Bourque Kent South	 Denis Landry Bathurst East- Nepisiguit- Saint-Isidore	 Stephen Horsman Fredericton North
		 Brian Kenny Bathurst West- Beresford	 Donald Arseneault Campbellton- Dalhousie
		 Serge Rousselle Tracadie-Sheila	 Roger Melanson Dieppe
		 John Ames Saint Croix	 Hédard Albert Caraquet



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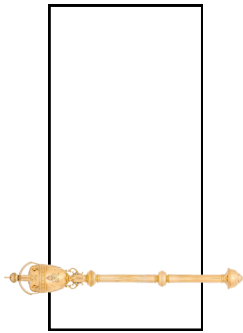
PC



GP




Hon. Chris Collins
Speaker
Moncton Centre


Donald J. Forestell
Clerk

Shayne Davies
Clerk Assistant


John-Patrick McCleave
Committee Clerk



Trevor Holder
Portland-Simonds




Pam Lynch
Fredericton-
Grand Lake




Gary Crossman
Hampton




Jody Carr
Oromocto-Lincoln-
Fredericton



Brian Macdonald
Fredericton
West-Hanwell




Brian Keirstead
Albert



Blaine Higgs
Quispamsis



Jake Stewart
Southwest
Miramichi-Bay
du Vin



Ernie Steeves
Moncton Northwest




Madeleine Dubé
Edmundston-
Madawaska Centre




Glen Savoie
Saint John East



Jeff Carr
New Maryland-
Sunbury




Kirk MacDonald
Fredericton-York




Sherry Wilson
Moncton Southwest




Bill Oliver
Kings Centre




Bruce Northrup
Sussex-Fundy-
St. Martins




Hugh Flemming
Rothesay



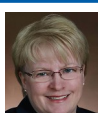
Carl Urquhart
Carleton-York




Bruce Fitch
Riverview




Stewart Fairgrieve
Carleton



Dorothy Shephard
Saint John
Lancaster



Ross Wetmore
Gagetown-
Petitcodiac



David Coon
Fredericton South

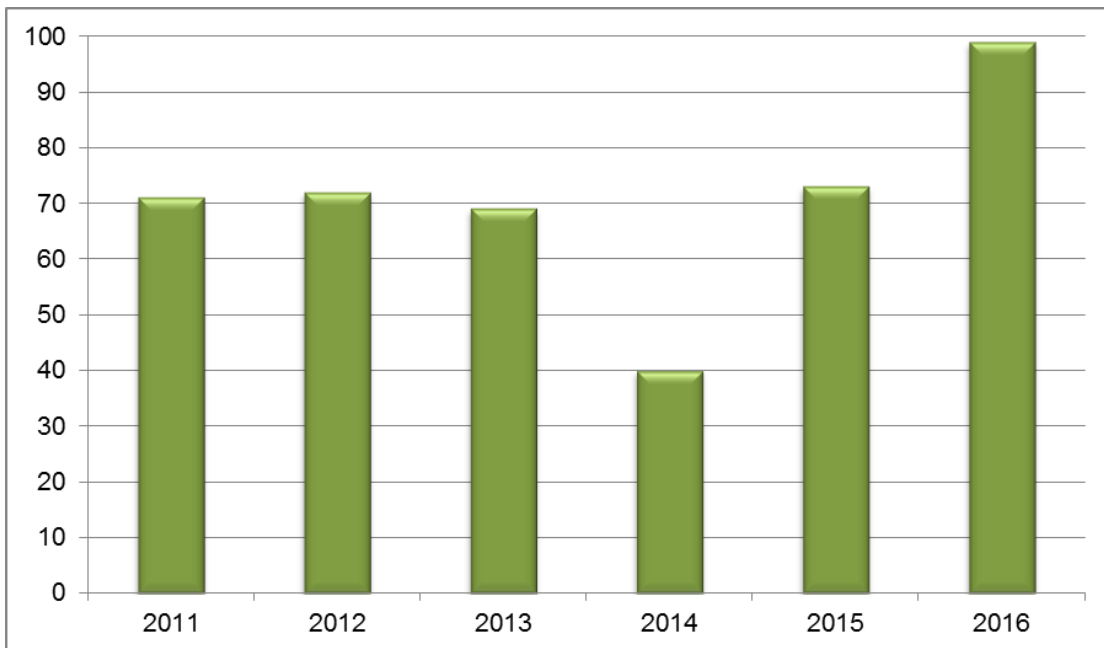


COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



A significant amount of work is carried out by legislative committees. These committees are an extension of the House and undertake responsibilities that the Assembly as a whole would find difficult, if not impossible, to carry out. Committees exist to expedite the work of the House and to allow for more thorough study of complex or technical questions. Committees are also able to consult with the public on important matters, and travel when necessary, allowing Members to hear from people in all areas of the province.

In 2016, there were 9 standing committees and 1 select committee, which held a total of 99 meetings. Standing committees are appointed by the House and exist for the life of a Legislature. Select committees are appointed to examine specific issues and exist until the presentation of their final reports or until the dissolution of the House, whichever occurs first.



Yearly Number of Committee Meetings



The following is a list of committees, their membership, mandate and activities, as of December 31, 2016.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative Administration Committee

Members	Hon. Mr. Collins (C)	Mr. Albert
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (VC)	Mr. Guitard
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Oliver
	Hon. Mr. Melanson	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Hon. Mr. Doucet	Mr. Coon

Mandate

The Committee is responsible for the administration and operation of the legislative buildings and grounds, and generally for all matters relating to the Legislative Assembly and its Members, including budgets, financial policies, allowances and expenses of Members, and terms and conditions of employment of officers and employees.

Activities

The Committee held 6 meetings, on January 13, July 28, September 8, November 16, and December 7 and 14 to discuss various issues related to the operation and administration of the Legislature.

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

Members	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
	Mr. Harvey (VC)	Ms. Dubé
	Mr. LePage	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Northrup
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Roussel	

Mandate

The Committee reviews the annual reports of provincial agencies, boards and commissions.

Activities

The Committee held 7 meetings, on June 15, October 11, 12, 13, 14 and 26, and November 29. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2016, Volume I, II, III and IV. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of FacilicorpNB, NB Power, New Brunswick Health Council, New Brunswick Internal Services Agency, New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission, Service New Brunswick, and Vitalité Health Network.



Standing Committee on Economic Policy

Members	Mr. LePage (C)	Mr. Harvey
	Mr. Chiasson (VC)	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Mr. Albert	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Stewart
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Coon
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain government legislation related to economic policy.

Activities

The Committee held 25 meetings, on February 9, March 29, April 5, 19, 26 and 27, May 4, 10 and 11, June 22, July 5, 6, 7 and 8, November 22, 23, 24 and 25, and December 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 16. The Committee presented reports to the House on February 9, April 6, May 17, July 7 and 8, and December 6, 8, 13, 14 and 16.

Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy

Members	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Chiasson
	Mr. Bourque (VC)	Mr. Jody Carr
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Crossman
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Higgs
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Roussel	

Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review the estimates of certain government departments and related entities.

Activities

The Committee held 15 meetings, on February 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 and 26, March 1, 2, 3, 4, 22 and 23, and April 20 and 21. The Committee presented a report to the House on May 17.

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Members	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C. (C)	Ms. LeBlanc
	Mr. Albert (VC)	Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	Mr. Northrup
	Mr. LePage	Mr. Wetmore
	Mr. Chiasson	



Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain bills prior to second reading. This referral is often made to allow for public consultation.

Activities

The Committee held 3 meetings, on November 23, and December 12 and 13. The Committee was referred Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Crown Construction Contracts Act* and met with representatives from NB Power, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and various organizations within the construction industry to discuss the subject matter of the Bill. The Committee presented a report to the House on December 14.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Members	Mr. Roussel (C)	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Guitard (VC)	Mr. Jeff Carr
	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. K. MacDonald
	Mr. Harvey	Mr. Oliver
	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Savoie
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	

Mandate

The Committee reviews all private bills prior to second reading. Any person affected by a private bill may appear before the Committee.

Activities

The Committee held a meeting on May 3. The Committee presented a report to the House on May 17.

Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers

Members	Mr. Albert (C)	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc
	Hon. Mr. Doucet	Ms. Dubé
	Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.	Mr. B. Macdonald
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Jody Carr
	Hon. Mr. Boudreau	Mr. Holder
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

Mandate

All standing rules and practices of the House, together with any matter referred by the Speaker, stand permanently referred to the Committee. The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to consider a matter or question of privilege concerning the House, a committee or Member. The Committee also reviews reports of Legislative Officers.



Activities

The Committee held 2 meetings, on June 21 and December 6. The Committee reviewed the annual reports of the Commissioner of Official languages and the Ombudsman.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Members	Mr. Holder (C)	Mr. LePage
	Mr. Chiasson (VC)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Shephard
	Mr. Guitard	Mr. Steeves
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Mr. Flemming, Q.C.
	Mr. Harvey	Mr. Coon
	Ms. LeBlanc	

Mandate

The Committee reviews Auditor General reports, Public Accounts, and annual reports of government departments.

Activities

The Committee held 10 meetings, on June 15, September 14, October 4, 5, 7 and 26, November 29 and 30, and December 1 and 2. The Committee met on September 14 to participate in a workshop entitled “Fundamentals of Effective Oversight” held by CCAF-FCVI Inc. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick, 2016, Volume I, II, III and IV. The Committee also reviewed the annual reports of the following departments, secretariat or office: Aboriginal Affairs; Finance; Health; Justice and Public Safety; Attorney General; Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour; Social Development; and Tourism, Heritage and Culture.

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Members	Ms. LeBlanc (C)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Chiasson	Ms. Dubé
	Mr. Albert	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Ms. Lynch
	Mr. Bourque	Ms. Wilson
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

Mandate

The Committee may be directed by the Legislature to review certain government legislation related to social policy.

Activities

The Committee did not meet in 2016.



SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Climate Change

Members	Mr. Harvey (C)	Mr. Roussel
	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc (VC)	Mr. Jody Carr
	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Keirstead
	Mr. LePage	Mr. Coon

Mandate

The Committee was appointed on April 8 to conduct public consultations, informed by a discussion guide entitled *Building a Stronger New Brunswick Response to Climate Change*, and report to the House with recommendations.

Activities

The Committee held 30 meetings, on June 16, 23 and 28, July 5, 14, 15, 26 and 27, August 16, 17, 18, 26, 29, 30 and 31, September 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and October 6 and 20. The Committee heard from over 150 presenters, and received over 40 written submissions. The Committee released its final report, which contained 85 recommendations, on October 24. The Committee presented the final report to the House when it resumed sitting on November 2.



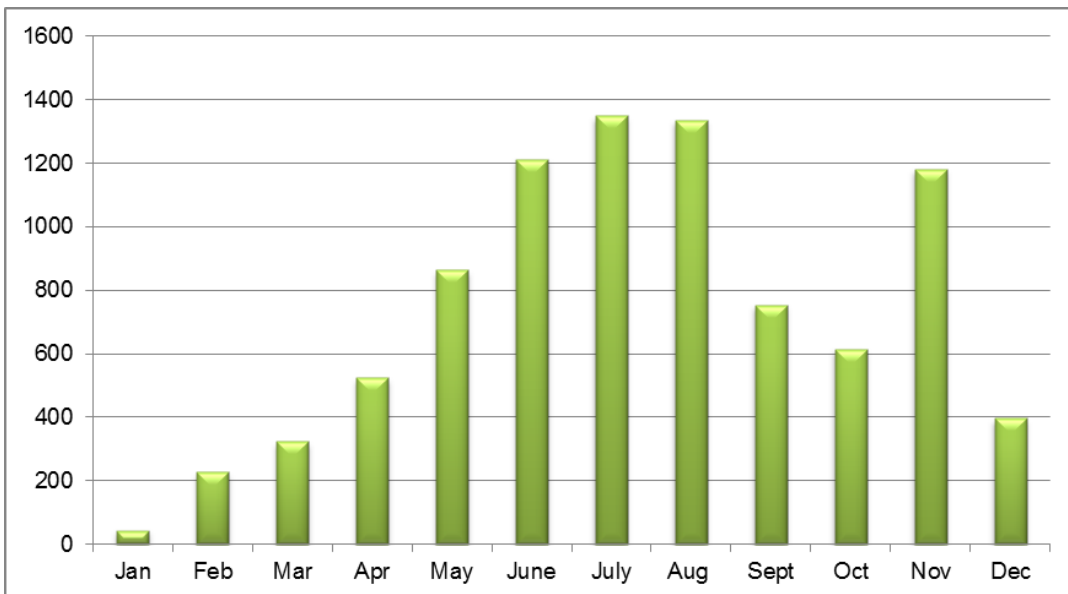
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



VISITORS AND TOURS

Parliament Square, which includes the Legislative Assembly, the Departmental Building, and the Old Education Building, was officially declared a protected historic site under the *Historic Sites Protection Act* in November 2000. The present Legislative Assembly in Fredericton has been the seat and symbol of democracy in New Brunswick since 1882, when it replaced a building destroyed by fire two years earlier.

The historic value of the site is shared with tourists, students, official visitors, and internal and external conference delegations. Tours of the building are offered year-round and focus on the craftsmanship of the structure, artifacts and artwork on the site, and the functioning of New Brunswick's parliamentary system.



Monthly Visitor Numbers in 2016



Numerous school groups from throughout the province visited the Legislative Assembly during the House sittings. Students and teachers had the opportunity to sit in the gallery and observe the proceedings of the House first hand. Over 8,800 people visited the Legislature in 2016, the highest number in 10 years, compared to over 6,200 in 2015. The increase in number of visitors was principally a result of the building remaining open during the entire summer. In 2015, the building was closed in the summer for renovations. Another contributing factor was the new outdoor signage that was utilized in the summer. A sandwich board which indicated tour hours was installed at the main entrance of the Legislative Assembly in an effort to guide tourists into the building.



Throughout the year, but particularly during the summer months, the Legislative Assembly Building and grounds attract visitors from all corners of the province and from all Canadian provinces and territories. In addition, international visitors are welcomed daily. Guided tours are available in both official languages or guests can enjoy self-guided tours throughout the historic building.

In May, three students began their summer employment as tour guides: Lauren Colter, Corben Parker, and Alex Robichaud offered daily tours until September. Since 2013, the Legislative Assembly offers tours seven days per week during the summer months. In addition, for the first time, tours were offered part-time from Labour Day to Thanksgiving weekend in October.



The Legislative Assembly's summer Tour Guides (right to left): Alex Robichaud, Lauren Colter, and Corben Parker.

On July 5, the Visitor Services Branch of the Legislative Assembly hosted Dr. Douglas Askman, Associate Professor of History at Hawai'i Pacific University, to deliver a presentation entitled "American State Houses" to the summer Tour Guides, the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture's Heritage Branch staff, New Brunswick's Legislative Library staff, and the Parliamentary Visitor Services Branch of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Askman has travelled extensively throughout the Commonwealth and the United States of America and its territories, visiting over 150 parliaments. He provided a comparative analysis in function, history, architecture, and visitor services among provincial and state buildings.

Many dignitaries were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly in 2016. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly met with the Ambassador of Ireland, His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett on April 6; the Ambassador of Senegal in Canada, His Excellency Ousmane Paye on May 17; the Consul General of Japan in Montreal, Mr. Hideaki Kuramitsu on September 29; and the Consul General of India in Toronto, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia on November 8.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND CEREMONIES

The outdoor lighting system of the Legislature permits special illuminations of the building. On April 2, the Legislative Assembly participated in the Light It Up Blue campaign for World Autism Awareness Day. The Legislature also participated in National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week. From April 17 to 22, the building was bathed in green to create and sustain support for New Brunswick transplant recipients and donors. On May 25, the Legislative Assembly lit the portico red for World MS Day. On September 21, the Legislative Assembly was glowing gold to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and honour those who have been directly affected by pediatric cancers. The Legislature, along with other iconic Canadian buildings, participated in the Light Canada Red campaign on November 12. The portico was illuminated in red to mark a 50-day countdown until the year-long celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. From November 14 to 21, the Legislature participated in the Purple Lights campaign. An initiative of Pancreatic Cancer Canada, this campaign saw the Legislature illuminated with a purple lighting scheme. The Legislature was also lit red from November 27 to December 3 in recognition of National AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day on December 1. The illumination of the building was an opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and address the stigma associated with the disease that may interfere with prevention, care and treatment.

The Legislative Assembly hosted the last Changing of the Guard ceremony of the 2016 summer tourist season on August 26. Held daily during the summer months in Officers' Square, the City of Fredericton asked the Legislature to host the last ceremony of the season in order to accommodate the New Brunswick Fine Crafts Festival held on that day.

Various award ceremonies took place at the Legislative Assembly during 2016, including the Canada Cord Ceremony on October 1, which is an annual award ceremony of the Girl Guides of Canada; the New Brunswick Council of Scouts Canada's annual Chief Scout Awards on November 5; and the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Ceremony on November 19. Traditionally, the Lieutenant-Governor presides over all three ceremonies.

The annual Queen's Counsel Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber on October 24. The distinction of Queen's Counsel is bestowed upon experienced lawyers in the province. The eleven recipients this year were: Christa Ann Bourque, Moncton; Krista Lynn Colford, Fredericton; Edward L. Derrah, Fredericton; Hon. Alexandre Deschênes, Bathurst; Shannon Doran, Fredericton; Nathalie L. Godbout, Saint John; Stephen J. Hutchison, Saint John; Dominic A.J. LeBlanc, Shediac; Luc Marcoux, Florenceville-Bristol; D. Andrew Rouse, Fredericton; and John R. Williamson, Fredericton.



Period-dressed guards re-enacted a Changing of the Guard ceremony to the beat of a piper and drummer on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly.



The annual Provincial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on December 2 in front of the Legislative Assembly. Special guests included Lieutenant-Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau;



Deputy Speaker and Member for Moncton East, Monique LeBlanc; Deputy Premier and Member for Fredericton North, Hon. Stephen Horsman; Member for Fredericton-Grand Lake, Pam Lynch; Member for Fredericton South, David Coon; Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Donald Forestell; and Chaplain Father Monty Peters. Hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served to the public by Epsilon Y's Men and Epsilon Y's Menettes. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Priestman Street School Choir and the Nashwaaksis United Church

Choir. Following the tree lighting, a procession led by Santa Claus and the Fredericton Concert and Marching Band proceeded along Queen Street to continue the festivities at Fredericton City Hall for the city's tree lighting ceremony.

The Legislative Assembly chose Makenzie Taylor to attend the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which was hosted by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia from November 6 to 10. The event provides a development opportunity for over 60 participants aged 18 to 29 with ambitions of public office and is designed to demonstrate to potential future young parliamentarians the fundamentals behind the processes of Parliament. The program includes a number of current Members of Commonwealth Parliaments and parliamentary staff who act as mentors throughout the proceedings that included debates, votes on bills, and government motions.



Participants of the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The 27th Annual Student Legislative Seminar was held April 29 to May 1. A total of 49 students from Francophone and Anglophone high schools participated, representing all areas of the province. The seminar is a non-partisan program open to grade 11 and 12 students. The objectives of the seminar 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 counselors and teachers.

The students were welcomed to the Legislative Assembly by Speaker Collins. Throughout the weekend, the students attended various lectures which focused on the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Human Resources, Hon. Denis Landry, spoke on the role of the Premier and Cabinet; the Member for Oromocto, Jody Carr, spoke on the role of the Opposition; the Member for Fredericton South, David Coon, spoke on the role of the Third Party; and the Deputy Speaker and Member for Miramichi Bay-Neguac, Lisa Harris, spoke about women in politics. Hon. Julian A.G. Dickson, Judge of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick, spoke on the role of the judicial branch.

The students attended various workshops led by the Clerks-at-the-Table in preparation for the highlight of the weekend: a model Parliament held in 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 legislation, all of which they had written themselves around topics of concern.



Participants of the 2016 Student Legislative Seminar



PAGE PROGRAM

A Page has a valued and integral role in the functioning of the Legislative Assembly. A prevalent belief is that Canada's use of Pages, which dates back to the mid-1800s, was based on the practice in the United States, where the word "runner" was in use as early as 1827. The designation of "House Page" first appeared in Canada in 1841. By the time of Confederation in 1867, the position of Page in Canadian legislative institutions was well established.

Today, Pages are young people selected to serve as messengers of the House and to perform various duties to assist Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly. Pages are chosen from university-aged students of high academic standing. They must be in full-time attendance at a post-secondary institution and be available for at least 12 hours each week while the House is in session, usually from November to June.

The presence of Pages in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly is required for all regular sitting days, and for various meetings of standing and select committees. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, Pages distribute the daily *Order and Notice Paper* to Members and legislative staff. While the House is sitting, Pages deliver documents on behalf of Members and staff to the Speaker, the Clerks, and to other Members, as requested.

To serve as a Page offers an opportunity to learn about the political and legislative processes. Persons interested in working as a Page may download an application form from the Legislative Assembly Web site at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/education/page/page-e.asp>.



The following individuals served as Pages during the spring 2016 sitting: (first row) Lauren Colter, Katie Avery, Andrea Robertson, Conor Munroe, Samantha Bizimungu, Amy Baldwin, Clara Simpson, and Phoebe Marmura Brown.

*In the second row, Gopi Krishna Adhikari, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), Nathaniel Wallace, Brandan Seagrave, Ben Graham, and Tyler Williams.
(Corben Parker not pictured)*

The Pages who served during the fall 2016 sitting were Katie Avery, Lauren Colter, Emily Dow, Jennifer Estey, Trupti Gadkari, Melissa Gottschall, Austin Henderson, Katie Kim, Phoebe Marmura Brown, Abigail McCarthy, Corben Parker, Andrea Robertson, Alex Robichaud (Head Page), Mackenzie Taylor, and Nathaniel Wallace.



BROADCASTING AND WEBCASTING

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has been televising its legislative proceedings since 1988. New Brunswick was among the first Canadian provinces to bring video cameras into its Legislature. In 1988, the Legislature televised the previously recorded Routine Proceedings of each sitting day on the community-access cable television channel 10. Coverage of the proceedings of the Legislature went live in 1989.

In the 1990s, the live coverage on channel 10, or channel 9 in some communities, was expanded to include almost an entire sitting day. In 2005, a committee of the Legislative Assembly resolved to launch the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service on a channel dedicated solely to the broadcast of legislative proceedings. The channel would provide gavel-to-gavel television coverage of all sitting days while the Legislature was in session. On March 28, 2006, the first broadcast took place on the dedicated channel.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick Television Service broadcasts the daily proceedings each sitting day in both official languages. In 2016, the proceedings continued to be broadcast on Rogers digital cable television channel 70 in select New Brunswick communities served by the cable television company. On channel 70 in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Miramichi, and surrounding communities, English, whether spoken on the floor of the House or translated from French, was the primary audio feed. On channel 70 in Bathurst, Edmundston and surrounding communities, French was the primary audio feed. Secondary Audio Programming is also available in all communities.

In 2016, Rogers continued to televise, at a designated time each sitting day, daily Question Period on various community channels. In addition, repeats of the daily proceedings were televised, usually commencing within 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

On May 17, 2016, Bell Aliant for the first time began to broadcast the daily proceedings of the Legislature in both official languages as a video on-demand on Bell Aliant's community television channel 1 and 401. The channels are available to all New Brunswickers with access to Bell Aliant, as well as those individuals with access throughout Atlantic Canada.

The proceedings of the Standing Committees on Economic Policy and Estimates and Fiscal Policy were also broadcast on Rogers channel 70 and Bell Aliant channel 1 and 401 in 2016, as they took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

In 2016, the video and audio of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly continued to be streamed live on the Internet for webcasting purposes in both official languages. In addition, the audio of meetings of the Select Committee on Climate Change and the Standing Committees on Public Accounts; Crown Corporations; Law Amendments; Private Bills; and Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers was streamed live on the Internet.

In an effort to upgrade the original broadcast equipment, two new HD cameras were installed in the Chamber and a new graphics box was purchased for the production room in 2016. The intent is to upgrade the remaining equipment over a number of years when resources are available.

When the Legislature was not in session, a graphics computer generated a rotating sequence of textual messages pertaining to the following: regular sitting schedule; channel's distribution; tour information; upcoming Legislature events; and several specially produced sequences on the Legislature's function, history, traditions, and other subjects of interest. A photograph of each Member was shown with accompanying party affiliation, ministerial portfolio (where applicable), riding, and contact information.

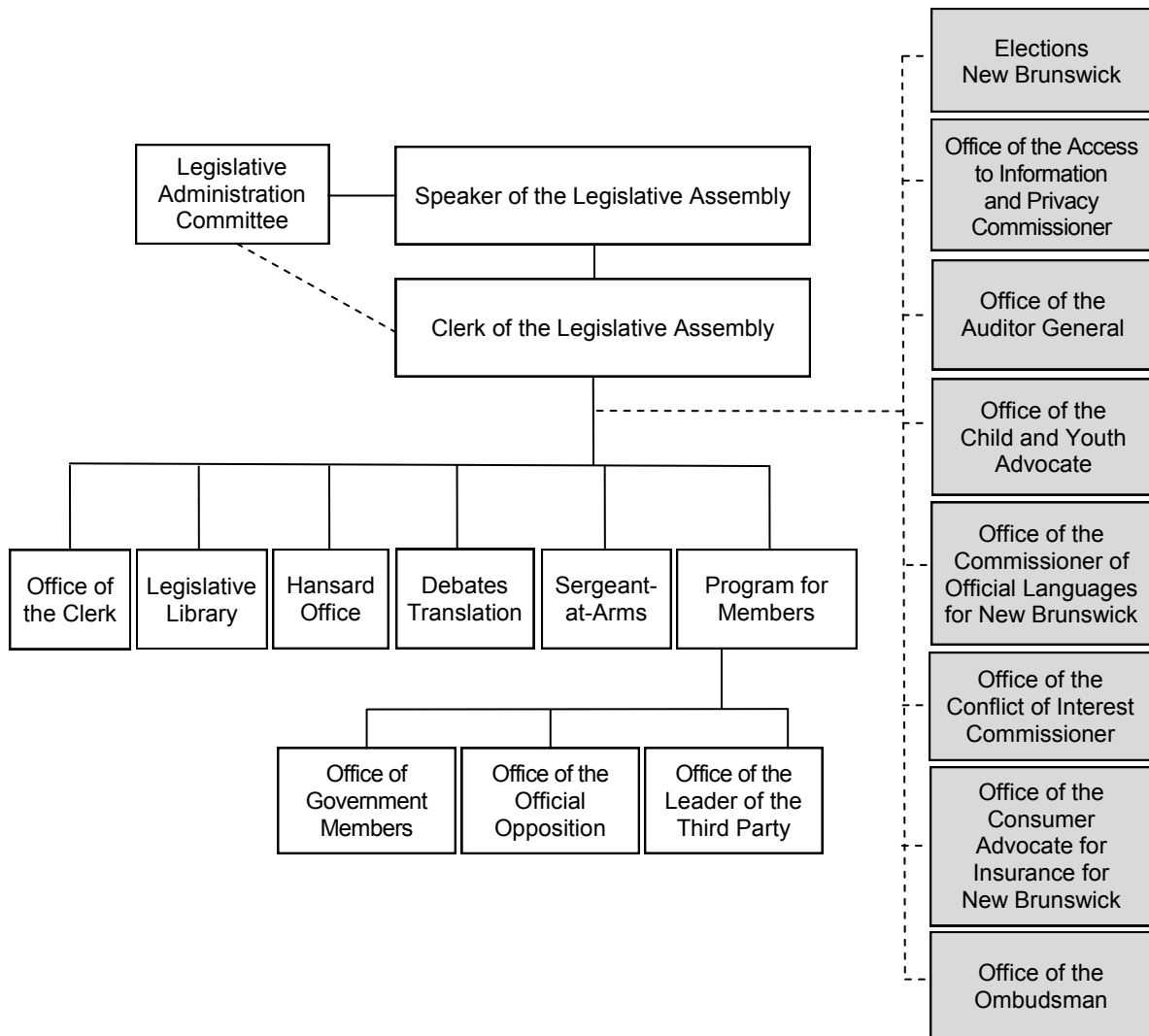


OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MISSION STATEMENT

- To assist the Legislative Assembly in fostering respect for the institution and privileges of parliamentary democracy.
- To provide assistance and support to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, their staff and the public.
- To provide impartial and confidential service to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- To record the proceedings and maintain the records of the Legislative Assembly.
- To provide public education and information services on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.
- To provide administrative, financial, and human resource services to certain statutory offices reporting to the Legislative Assembly.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





FUNCTIONAL STATEMENTS

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.

Office of the Clerk

- Produces the Journal, Orders of the Day and maintains the official permanent records of the Assembly.
- Provides advice to the Speaker and Members on questions of parliamentary law, procedure, and interpretation of the rules and practices of the House.
- 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 resources support to Elections New Brunswick, Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and Office of the Ombudsman.

Legislative Library

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

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.

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.

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.

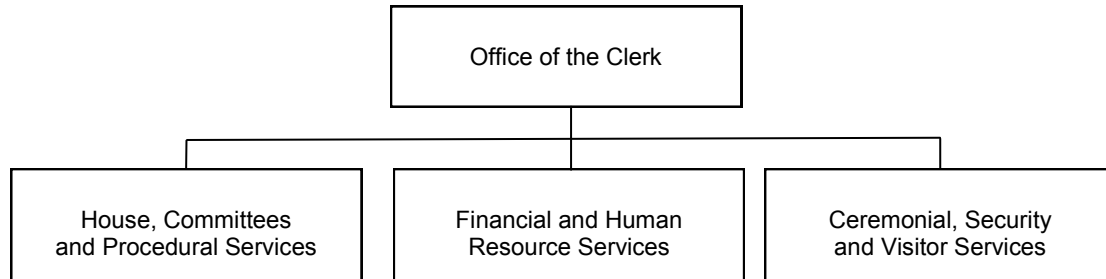
Program for Members

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



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees — Shayne Davies



In 2016, the dedicated staff of the Office of the Clerk met the primary goal of the office: to assist Members in carrying out their parliamentary functions as legislators and representatives of their constituents.

Procedural Services

Members were supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered with impartiality by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. As the senior permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly and chief procedural adviser, the Clerk advised the Speaker and Members on administrative matters, questions of parliamentary law and procedure, and the interpretation of the Standing Rules, precedents and practices of the House.

The Office of the Clerk and its staff supports the activities of the Clerk. The Clerk and Clerks Assistant served as Table Officers and Law Clerks in the House. They assisted Members with the interpretation and application of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and other applicable legislation, and drafted or reviewed floor amendments, private Members' public bills and private legislation.

During the course of the year, the Clerk and Clerks Assistant met regularly with the Speaker and other presiding officers to provide advice as required, draft rulings and prepare procedural documentation. In addition, the Clerks met with committee Chairs to advise on committee procedure, arrange meetings and public hearings, and prepare documentation and reports to the House.

Journals and Publications

In 2016, the Journals Clerk compiled 46 unrevised journals. 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 journals are finalized, indexed and published. The 2014-2015 bound version of the *Journals of the Legislative Assembly* was published in 2016.

First reading bills continued to be published online. During the 2016 calendar year, 87 bills were introduced. The online status of legislation, which tracks the progress of bills as they proceed through various stages in the House, was produced and regularly updated.

The Assembly continued to archive online proceedings. The 2016-2017 budget speech and reply thereto, the Premier's closure of the budget debate, the November 2 throne speech and reply thereto, and the Premier's closure of the throne speech debate were all archived to the website.



In addition, oral question period continued to be archived online, allowing the public to view the daily question period online, either live or as video-on-demand webcasts.

Biographical information and photographs of Members of the 58th Legislature were updated during the year. Any changes to the executive council, shadow cabinet and seating plans were reflected in published and online updates. The Legislature's calendar was updated to reflect daily sittings and special events. Committee memberships were also updated when necessary and reports were posted online.

Renovations and Security Initiatives

Renovations to the Legislative Assembly and surrounding buildings within the complex continued in 2016. During the summer months, the fire suppression system was updated with the installation of a new sprinkler system throughout the Departmental Building. In addition, several security initiatives were undertaken, including the installation of an intercom system to improve accessibility at the gates between the Departmental and Legislative Assembly buildings, the installation of a card reader system at key security points throughout the complex, and the design, planning and installation of security bollards around the front perimeter of the grounds of the Legislative Assembly to protect the visiting public, members and staff.

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 Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which included meetings of the Canadian Regional Council and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar; the annual meeting and regional policy forum of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference; conferences of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF); and the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees.

Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada is an organization composed of the Table Officers from every provincial and territorial legislature in Canada, as well as the House of Commons and the Senate. The objective of the Association is to advance the professional development of its members by enabling them to expand their knowledge of the foundations and principles of the parliamentary system and procedure in Canada.

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table list server (CATS) allows an open exchange of ideas and information. CATS is used by members of the Association to contribute information, pose questions, conduct surveys and seek advice on a wide variety of procedural and administrative issues.

In 2016, Clerks responded to numerous inquiries posted to the CATS system. Topics canvassed during the year included: committee membership, employment diversity, parliamentary oversight, courtesy flagpole, use of social media, committee co-chairs, filibusters, scrutiny of independent agencies, media relations, and access to information legislation.



Canadian Parliamentary Review

Staff of the Clerk's Office prepared quarterly submissions to the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. The purpose of the publication is to inform Canadian legislators about the activities of the various branches of the Canadian Region of the CPA and to promote interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. In 2016, staff ensured that a summary of legislative activities in New Brunswick was included in each edition under the "Legislative Reports" section.

Tributes

Ten former Members passed away in 2016:

Carole Juanita Keddy (Progressive Conservative) in January 2016. Ms. Keddy was elected on June 7, 1999, to represent the riding of Saint John Champlain. During her time at the Legislature she served on several standing and select committees.

Joseph Douglas Moore (Progressive Conservative) on February 3. Mr. Moore was elected on November 29, 1976, to represent the riding of Victoria-Tobique. He was re-elected in 1978 and 1982. During his time at the Legislature he served as Deputy Speaker and on several standing and select committees.

Gregory Hugh O'Donnell (Liberal) on May 26. Mr. O'Donnell was elected on October 13, 1987, to represent the riding of Memramcook. He was re-elected in 1991 and 1995. During his time at the Legislature he served as Minister of Supply and Services, Deputy Speaker, and was a member on several standing and select committees.

Robert Arthur Hall (New Democratic) on June 7. Mr. Hall was elected on October 12, 1982, to represent the riding of Tantramar. He was the first member of the New Democratic Party to be elected to the New Brunswick Legislature.

Leon Norbert Thériault (Liberal) on June 19. Mr. Thériault was elected on June 27, 1960, to represent the riding of Northumberland, County of Baie-du-Vin. He was re-elected in 1963, 1967, 1970, 1974, and 1978. During his time at the Legislature he served as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Health and Welfare.

René (Pepsi) Landry (Progressive Conservative) on August 2. Mr. Landry was elected on June 7, 1999, to represent the riding of Moncton North. During his time at the Legislature he served on several standing and select committees.

Jim Parrott (Progressive Conservative, Independent) on October 4. Dr. Parrott was elected on September 27, 2010, to represent the riding of Fundy-River Valley.

Shirley Theresa Dysart (Liberal) on December 14. Ms. Dysart was elected on November 18, 1974, to represent the riding of Saint John North. She was re-elected in 1978, 1982, 1987, and 1991. During her time at the Legislature she served as Interim Leader of the Liberal Party, Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Education, and Speaker of the Assembly.

William U. Malenfant (Liberal) on December 16. Mr. Malenfant was elected on November 18, 1974, to represent the riding of Memramcook. He was re-elected in 1978. During his time at the Legislature, he served on several standing and select committees.

Thomas Gilbert (Liberal) on December 22. Mr. Gilbert was elected on October 13, 1987, to represent the riding of Oromocto. During his time at the Legislature, he served on several standing and select committees.



FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Director, Finance and Human Resources — Katie Hill, CPA, CA

The Finance and Human Resources Branch is accountable for the proper and effective management of the financial and human resource services of the Legislative Assembly. In addition, the Branch provides financial and human resources support to the following statutory offices: Elections New Brunswick, Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Financial Services Overview

Financial Services include the following responsibilities:

- Members' and Committee Expenses
 - Ensure timely and accurate payment of expenses.
 - Provide advice on the application of various rules and guidelines for eligible expenses for members.
- Purchasing of and Payment for Goods and Services
 - Ensure compliance with Acts and Regulations.
 - Ensure transactions are properly recorded for financial statement presentation.
- Financial Analysis and Expenditure Projections
 - Review the financial position of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and its various offices.
 - Advise clients of various issues related to expenditures.
- Budget Process
 - Coordinate budget process, prepare budget submissions and liaise with related departments or agencies.
- Reporting
 - Prepare quarterly and annual expenditure reports as prescribed by the *Legislative Assembly Act* and Department of Finance.

Financial Services Section

The House sat a total of 53 days during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, compared to 55 days in 2014-2015 and 87 days in 2013-2014. Since the annual budget of the Legislative Assembly only provides for expenses and allowances associated with approximately 40 sitting days in a fiscal year, additional funding was required for 2015-2016. In total, supplementary estimates in the amount of \$195,000 were approved to fund expenditures associated with the additional sitting days.

The accompanying Financial Summary shows total actual expenditures of \$12,963,000 based on a revised total budget of \$13,326,000 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year (excluding statutory officers). This compares with total actual expenditures of \$13,170,700 based on a budget of \$13,835,000 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.



Financial Summary—Legislative Assembly
For the Year Ended March 31, 2016
(in \$ 000s)

	Budget	Actual
<i>Members' Allowances, Committees and Operations</i>		
Allowances to Members	7 976.0	7 825.0
Legislative Committees	<u>231.0</u>	<u>210.7</u>
Subtotal	8 207.0	8 035.7
<i>Office of the Legislative Assembly</i>		
Legislative Library	426.0	425.5
Office of the Clerk (includes Speaker's Office)	1 596.0	1 554.9
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	221.0	142.3
Hansard Office	580.0	577.1
Debates Translation	<u>708.0</u>	<u>708.6</u>
Subtotal	3 531.0	3 408.4
<i>Offices of the Members of Registered Political Parties</i>		
Office of Government Members	505.0	469.3
Office of the Official Opposition	929.0	894.5
Office of the Green Party	<u>154.0</u>	<u>155.1</u>
Subtotal	1 588.0	1 518.9
<i>Total : Legislative Assembly</i>	13 326.0	12 963.0

Total expenditures for capital repair and restoration of the Legislative Assembly Buildings were approximately \$736,400 in 2015-2016. Major projects included: continuation of the multi-phased roll-out of fire suppression and fire alarm systems upgrades throughout the legislative complex; upgrades to the House and committee sound and interpretation systems and the general maintenance and preservation of legislative buildings.

The operating budget for the Legislative Assembly was frozen for the 2016-2017 fiscal year (net of special appropriations in 2015-2016 of \$226,000 and an increase in the amount of \$79,000 to compensate for economic increases awarded retroactively as of April 1, 2015.) A total operating budget of \$13,179,000 was approved for the Legislative Assembly for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Pursuant to the *Auditor General Act*, a qualified auditor is appointed annually by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to audit the accounts of the Office of the Auditor General. Finance and Human Resources staff facilitated this process for the financial statements of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, including inviting and reviewing a proposal from the audit firm, coordinating the audit process with the auditor and officials from the Office of the Auditor General, and ensuring receipt of the auditor's report by the Speaker.

Pursuant to a decision of the Legislative Administration Committee, the Legislative Assembly provides direct payment service of constituency office rent on behalf of all Members.



Human Resource Services Overview

Human Resource Services provide services to Ministers, Members, employees of the Legislative Assembly and Statutory Offices. The responsibilities include:

- Payroll and Benefits
 - Ensure timely and accurate payment of salaries and benefits.
 - Provide payroll and benefit orientation to all new Members and employees.
 - Administer and track employee leave.
- Personnel Administration
 - Assist in recruitment process.
 - Ensure proper classification, compensation and benefits of staff.
 - Maintain payroll and personnel records.
 - Communicate policies and benefits.
- Human Resource Development
 - Facilitate staff training for both professional and personal development.
 - Administer and promote the Employee and Family Assistance Program.
- Personnel Policies
 - Develop, maintain and document personnel policies in accordance with the Administration Manual of the Province and the Legislative Administration Committee.

Human Resource Services Highlights

In 2016, staff coordinated and participated in the recruitment process for 3 permanent competitions of statutory and legislative offices. In total, staff administered the commencement of 11 employees and the termination arrangements for 9 employees who either retired, resigned or otherwise ceased to be employees of the Legislative Assembly.

Economic increases were processed for employees during 2016. The Members and Ministers indemnities and salaries were not adjusted during the same period. Eligible employees received merit increases depending on employee anniversary date, performance and current salary level.

The section continued to provide a payroll service on behalf of Private Members for their constituency office staff. Constituency office employees of Private Members are paid bi-weekly using the Province's Human Resources Information System (HRIS). Constituency Office employees are paid from the Constituency Office Allowance as prescribed in the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

A total of 48 students and other individuals were employed under various casual or term employment programs administered by the Finance and Human Resources section, including 17 Pages. 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 a Record of Employment) of each of the related employees.

In 2016, the section continued to host employee wellness sessions provided by the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP). Staff also participated in various professional development sessions offered by UNB, GNB, the Human Resources Association of New Brunswick, and the Financial Management Institute, as well as French second language training to facilitate financial and human resource services in both official languages.



In 2016, the section worked with Service New Brunswick's payroll group to implement Employee Self-Service's e-leave system for all Legislative Assembly offices, the Office of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Office of the Consumer Advocate for Insurance, and the Office of the Ombudsman. The system allows employees to request and submit leave electronically. The section provided training to all participating offices.

Human Resource Summary—Legislative Assembly

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Sessional</i>	<i>Casual</i>	<i>Payroll Constituency Offices</i>
<i>Office of the Clerk</i>					
House and Committee Support	5	0	0	0	0
General Administration	0	0	0	1	0
Finance and Human Resources	5	0	0	6	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0
Sergeant-at-Arms	3	0	0	7	0
Speaker's Office	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Office of the Conflict of Interest</i>					
Commissioner	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Legislative Library</i>	7	0	0	2	0
<i>Hansard Office</i>	9	0	0	1	0
<i>Debates Translation</i>	10	0	0	2	0
<i>Office of Government Members</i>	4	0	0	3	0
<i>Office of the Official Opposition</i>	10	0	0	2	0
<i>Office of the Third Party Member</i>	2	0	0	7	0
<i>Pages and Tour Guides (students)</i>	0	0	17	0	0
<i>Members</i>	0	49	0	0	53
<i>Total</i>	61	49	17	31	53



LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Legislative Librarian — Kenda Clark-Gorey

According to the *Legislative Library Act*, the Legislative Library shall operate primarily for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff of departments of government 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 publication that may serve the Members and staff 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 and each government department are required to deposit with the Library four copies of every government publication issued under its authority within 30 days of its printing date. The Library has broadened its mandate to receive all "online" or "born digital" New Brunswick government publications. A repository for electronic government publications has been established whereby selected publications will be downloaded for long-term preservation and better access. It should be noted that the Library still maintains a print collection of all government documents. A significant challenge over the past few years has been adapting to the rapid expansion of electronic information resources. The Library continues to stress the importance of producing print copies, as well as electronic versions, of government publications for future generations and for members of today's public who might not own a computer.

The Library strives to serve Members, Legislative Assembly staff, civil servants and the public in an efficient and accommodating manner. All requests for information are handled in confidence and in a nonpartisan fashion. The Library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. When the House is in session, the Library remains open in the evening until the House rises.

Collection Development

The Legislative Library's New Brunswick Collection is an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and an incredible resource for the province. In 2016, several publishers, associations, groups, and individuals donated materials to the Library. The Legislative Library is grateful to the following who donated books during the past year:

Publishers, Associations, and Groups

Goose Lane Editions, La Grande Marée, Le Boutons d'Or Acadie, and House of Commons (Ottawa).

Individuals

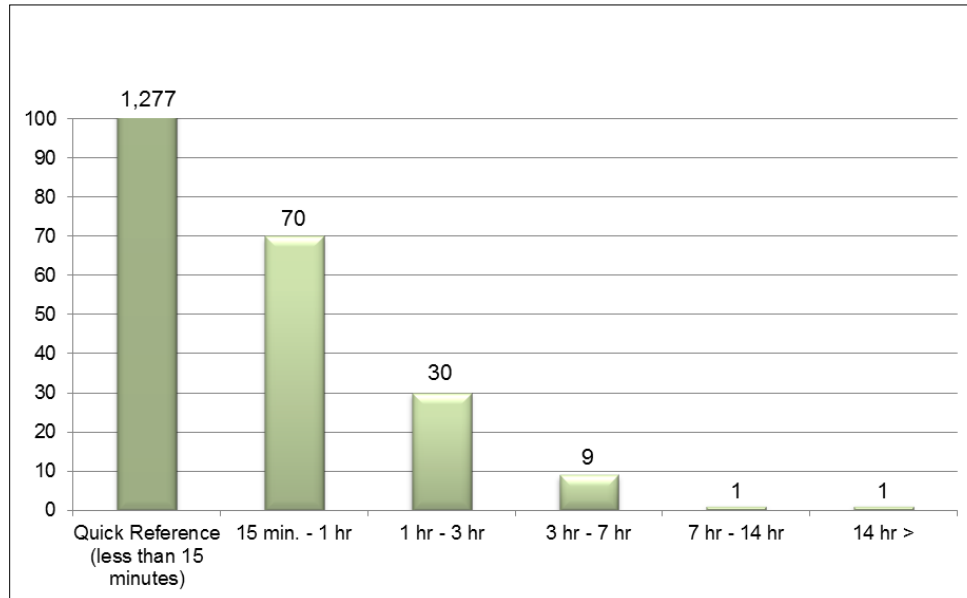
Gilles Bourque, Chuck Chiasson, Estate of Marc Chouinard, Michael Gardner, Margie Pacey, Roberte Sénéchal, Janet Trail, and James Murray Whalen.

In December, several boxes of New Brunswick books were donated from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. These books will greatly enhance the Library's New Brunswick Collection.



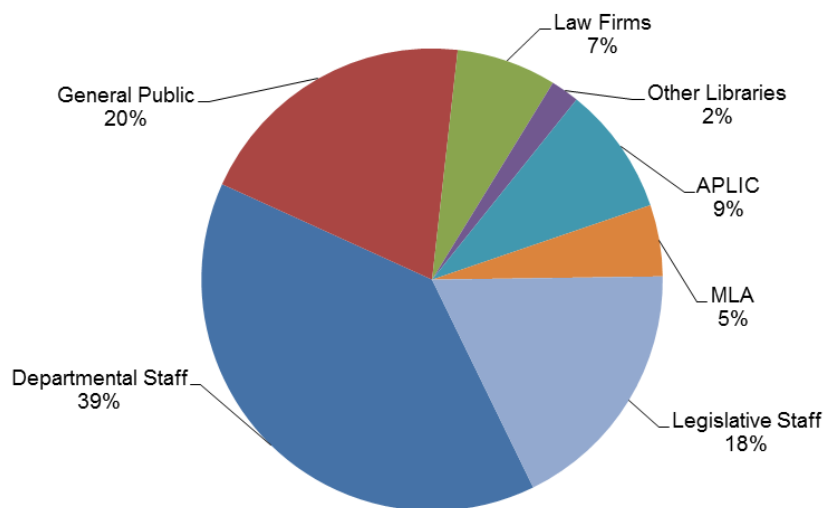
Reference, Library Services, and Outreach

Reference staff members were busy in 2016. Several large research questions were received which took numerous hours to answer. The Library's statistics reporting system allows staff to record the amount of time spent to answer each question. The following graph shows the number of questions corresponding to various time ranges.



Number of Questions Per Time Range

The following chart shows a breakdown of the types of patrons requesting information from the Library, in person or otherwise, in 2016.



Patron Types Requesting Information



The inter-library loan service the Library offers was active in 2016. A total of nine requests were sent to other libraries requesting material on behalf of our patrons. The Library received four loan requests from other libraries wishing to borrow our material.

There were four displays mounted in the Library's display case. They were: Heritage Week 2016 – leadership and legacy, Healthy Eating month, Freeman Patterson, and 175 years of the Legislative Library.

Government Documents

The New Brunswick Government Publications collection is housed separately in a small building located across the street from the main Library. Documents staff manage a physical collection of catalogued print items numbering over 8,000, as well as a large collection of uncatalogued print materials including duplicate copies. In addition, staff also manage the electronic repository of New Brunswick documents. During 2016, a total of 297 electronic government documents, including both monographs and annual reports, were added to the repository. To date, over 2,400 documents are available.

In the fall, the Library received more than 40 boxes of material from University of New Brunswick. The contents of the boxes are New Brunswick government and legislative materials post 1985. While the Library's collection is very strong post 1985, Library staff will look through the material to determine if there is anything that is missing in the government documents collection. The material may also be used for future digitization projects.

Projects and Initiatives

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Legislative Library, the Library unveiled its new interactive John James Audubon's "Birds of America" digital kiosk. The kiosk allows patrons to browse through high quality digitized scans of all 435 hand-coloured plates. Users also have the ability to zoom and pan; getting an extremely close look at the minute details contained in each image. Information of the history of the collection as well as details about the Library's own copy are also included. The kiosk was developed completely in-house using off-the-shelf hardware.

The Library also began development of a digital archival repository system to help manage and organize the many digitization projects identified by the Library. This new electronic, online system permits collections of digital materials (text, photos, video, audio) to be catalogued with custom meta data and provides features such as advanced full-text searching capabilities. Initial collections that will be added include digitized copies of the Royal Gazette (1972-1997) and government press releases (1965-present). The application is targeted for initial general use starting in the spring of 2017.

Staffing

The Library hired two summer students. Emma-Jayne Orser-Kooistra and Makenzie Taylor worked on a variety of projects including inventory, adding scanned covers to catalogue records, searching for articles of historical value in newspapers, preparing lists of Statistics Canada material, as well as scanning tabled documents for the new DocVault initiative.



HANSARD OFFICE

Official Reporter — Linda Fahey

As in most other British Commonwealth jurisdictions, the official reports of the debates of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, the *Journal of Debates (Hansard)*, are referred to as “Hansard”. The name originated with Thomas Hansard, who published the debates of the British Parliament in the early 1800s under the name *Hansard’s Parliamentary Debates*.

The New Brunswick Hansard Office produces transcripts of the sittings and committee meetings of the Legislative Assembly and participates in the sound and recording operations for all events. In the year 2016, New Brunswick Hansard staff transcribed and edited over 3.4 million words and attended and recorded 548 hours of Assembly and committee proceedings.

Hansard Transcript Production

From five-minute audio files, staff produce the blues, which are those transcripts that have undergone a first edit, and post them to the Assembly network. When the blues of a day’s sitting or meeting have been completed, they are compiled and reposted as a single document. Finalization is carried out for Assembly transcripts and for those committee transcripts that, by motion carried, must be appended to the Assembly transcripts. Finalized transcripts are sent out for translation, after which the original and translation are arranged by Hansard staff in dual-column format. The dual-column transcripts are sent out for printing and binding and are then distributed.

Daily during Assembly sittings, question period, message, and request transcripts are completed first, after which the remaining transcripts of the sittings and committees are addressed. The following table indicates the number of priority transcripts that were produced throughout the year.

PRIORITY TRANSCRIPTS PRODUCED			
Questions Periods	Messages	Requests	TOTAL
39	554	246	839

Question period transcripts were completed, posted to the Assembly network, and distributed within approximately three hours of questions concluding. The opposition posed 634 questions, of which the most prevalent topics were French immersion, the Extra-Mural Program, the education system, legislation, and Enbridge Gas New Brunswick.

Message transcripts included 200 introductions, 195 congratulations, and 159 condolences. The messages were transcribed, researched, edited, and posted to the Assembly network on the day of delivery or immediately thereafter.

Requests for transcripts were received by the Hansard Office either directly from clients or through the Legislative Library. Of the 246 requests handled by the Hansard staff, 107 were for Assembly transcripts and 139 were for committee transcripts. As well, 91 of the requested transcripts were completed by staff and delivered on the day requested.



In 2016, staff attended to 46 Assembly sittings and 85 committee meetings. There were 40 meetings of standing committees whose transcripts are appended to the Assembly transcripts and 45 meetings of standing and select committees whose transcripts are not appended. Staff completed the blues of 45 daily sittings, 45 committee meetings, and portions of other sittings and meetings. Additionally, staff finalized 31 daily sittings.

As set out in the following table, by year's end, staff had transcribed and edited 3.4 million-plus words, which represented a 281,666-word increase compared to the previous year.

TRANSCRIPTION COMPLETED	
Transcript Sources	Word Counts
Legislative Assembly	1,714,781
Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy*	502,047
Standing Committee on Economic Policy*	591,872
Other Standing and Select Committees	647,881
TOTAL	3,456,581

*By motion carried, appended to the Legislative Assembly transcripts

Research

To produce accurate transcripts, staff undertake research, using internal reference resources as well as documents that are collected by the Hansard staff in the Chambers or that are issued by or sourced from other offices. Research material is kept on file for further reference during the processing of transcripts. Once all transcripts of a session have been completed, the files are made available to those who will be translating Hansard so that the research completed can be of further benefit.

In 2016, 474 statements were delivered in the Assembly, 86 by ministers and 388 by members. Statements, speeches, and messages received are checked by staff against delivery to ensure that the transcripts reflect the spoken word. When possible, paper documents are scanned into electronic format to reduce the need for retyping.

Audio and Recording Operations

The Hansard Office continued to participate in broadcasting, webcasting, and Hansard recording operations. In 2016, staff registered events in three recording system loggers, which are located in the Hansard Office, managed the microphones throughout events, coordinated and carried out regular audio and recording tests, and conducted additional audio tests prior to each Assembly sitting and committee meeting. While recording was under way, staff monitored the loggers and changed the recording status of events as needed.

During sittings and meetings, staff who operate the microphones in the Chambers also dub names and other commentary, assemble and post logs to the Assembly network, collect documents that have been referenced during speeches and debates, and obtain names and other information regarding presenters and visitors who have been introduced. The dubbing and the documents and information collected are used during transcript production, as are the logs, which are used by Hansard staff and by staff in other offices for research purposes.



Throughout 2016, broadcasted committee meetings frequently occurred in the Assembly Chamber during recesses of the House. While Hansard staff in the Chamber liaised with the table officers, staff in the Hansard Office stopped and started recordings in the recording systems, repeating the process upon the House resuming. Study was undertaken during 2016 with respect to acquiring a more efficient recording and transcription process.

During the year, Hansard staff attended, logged, and recorded approximately 548 hours of proceedings: 198 hours during 46 Assembly sittings and 350 hours during 85 committee meetings. In 2016, there was a 133-hour increase in time spent at the consoles compared to the previous year and a 90-hour increase compared to the most recent five-year annual average of 458 hours. The following table displays the time expended on console operation for Assembly sittings and committee meetings over the past five years and includes the number of 75-minute shifts completed by staff.

Console Operation Hours 2012 to 2016						
Year	House		Committees		Total Console Hours	Number of Console Shifts (1.25 hours each)
	Sittings	Hours	Meetings	Hours		
2016	46	198	85	350	548	438
2015	64	241	60	174	415	332
2014	58	296	29	84	380	304
2013	67	347	60	174	521	417
2012	53	297	46	130	427	342

In addition to console operation and audio and recording testing for Assembly sittings and committee meetings and special events, staff undertook the associated routine tasks of console equipment preparation and staff scheduling as well as travel to offsite committee meetings. Throughout 2016, staff provided console support for 141 events, as listed below:

46 Legislative Assembly Sittings

85 Committee Meetings

- 25—Standing Committee on Economic Policy
- 25—Select Committee on Climate Change, including 10 off-site meetings
- 15—Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy
- 8—Standing Committee on Public Accounts
- 4—Standing Committee on Crown Corporations
- 3—Standing Committees on Crown Corporations and Public Accounts (joint meetings)
- 2—Standing Committee on Law Amendments
- 2—Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers
- 1—Standing Committee on Private Bills

10 Special Events

- 2—Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference
- 3—Student Legislative Seminar
- 1—Executive Council Office's Orientation Session on Official Languages
- 1—Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's Shaking the Movers Workshop
- 1—Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony
- 1—Queen's Counsel Ceremony
- 1—Canada Cord Ceremony



Professional Activities—Hansard Association of Canada

The role of the Hansard Association of Canada is to enhance the expertise of those who produce Hansard, to serve as a channel of communication among reporting services across Canada and the Commonwealth, to provide assistance regarding Hansard production, and to inform and educate others about Hansard. The New Brunswick Hansard Office remained active in the association in 2016 by contributing to its newsletter, by responding to queries received from colleagues in other jurisdictions and to those received through the association's list server, and by attending and participating in the annual conference.

Human Resources and Activities

Throughout the year, staff met weekly to plan for and discuss upcoming sittings and events, to implement and review and refine work systems, and to provide updates on the progress being made on all segments of Hansard production. Staff completed offsite computer software courses, second language training, and professional development courses. Several staff attended the in-house employee wellness sessions and later, during the staff meetings, shared the information and documents received.

One staff member participated in the orientation session for new pages to explain the work of the Hansard Office and the responsibilities of the Hansard staff in the Chambers. She related how the work of the pages in the Chambers is helpful in the production of transcripts, and she provided the pages with an information sheet for future reference.

The past calendar year was busy for the Hansard Office staff. Audio and recording work took place each month of 2016, and there was the corresponding transcript production and finalization that arose from the Assembly sittings and committee meetings. In the upcoming year, the staff look forward to employing new efficiencies and processes in order to improve further the services provided by them to the Legislative Assembly.



DEBATES TRANSLATION

Chief Translator — Rebecca Colborne

Debates Translation provides professional translation services for the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The Debates Translation team includes 3 autonomous translators, 2 intermediate translators, and 2 junior translators, as well as the Chief Translator and an executive secretary.

The mandate of Debates Translation arises from the *Official Languages Act* of New Brunswick. Under section 8 of the Act, “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 procedural and other material for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

House

There were 46 daily sittings of the House in 2016, including 28 daily sittings in the second session of the 58th legislature and 18 daily sittings in the third session of the 58th legislature, compared to 64 daily sittings in 2015.

Debates Translation staff members translate the records and journals of Legislative Assembly proceedings (Hansard and Journal), as well as motions introduced in the House, the *Order and Notice Paper*, Speaker’s rulings, and other documents. Translation of Hansard accounted for 62.8% of total production in 2016, compared to 55.5% of production during the previous year. About 25% of this translation was into English. Non-Hansard work involved the translation of 2,018 pages, or 492,439 words.

Table 1 provides comparative statistics on the number of words for the past five sessions.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Days	55	58	70	64	40
Words	2 204 380	2 049 070	2 627 731	2 153 215	1 499 702

In 2016, translation of the daily Journal represented 8.7% of production, accounting for 2.4% more of the annual production of the office than the previous year, in spite of the reduction in the number of sitting days for the House. The increase is primarily due to the exceptionally high number of motions tabled. Translation of the Journal is usually completed shortly after the session ends. The Order Paper and notices of motion accounted for 5.9% of production. These documents are translated the same day. Primary responsibility for the Order Paper was transferred from Debates Translation to the Office of the Clerk at the end of the spring sitting in 2016.



Members of the Legislative Assembly

Debates Translation is responsible for the translation of statements and speeches delivered in the House by members, including Cabinet ministers and opposition members. The material translated includes messages of condolence, congratulations, and the introduction of guests, statements by ministers and members, the introduction of bills and speeches on second reading, speeches related to debatable motions, speeches on the tabling of special documents, and, of course, the speech from the throne, speeches related to the debate on the speech from the throne, and the closure of the debate, as well as the budget speech, speeches related to the budget debate, and the closure of the debate. Speeches on budget estimates for the various departments are also translated.

The translation of speeches and statements for Members of the Legislative Assembly accounted for 10.3% of total production in 2016. The number of words translated was significantly lower than the previous year because of the shorter session. During the 46 daily sittings in 2016, 245 requests for translation of speeches and statements were processed. This decrease in the number of requests compared to the preceding year reflects the reduction in the number of sitting days. Documents translated included the budget speech for the second session of the 58th legislature and the speech from the throne for the third session, as well as 99 statements and 146 speeches given in the House by ministers or private members. Translation for Cabinet ministers accounted for 99% of production. Over 99% of the translation was into French.

During the intersession, written translation services provided for both government and opposition members included correspondence and press releases. The number of words indicated in Table 2 represents the translation of press releases related to the budget speech and throne speech and press releases translated for the Leader of the Third Party, various documents translated for legislative committees, such as agendas, correspondence, and reports, as well as requests from offices of the Legislative Assembly.

Table 2: Debates Translation Production, in words 2016 Calendar Year	
HOUSE	
Notices of Motions and Order Paper	77 647
Journal	115 423
Hansard	831 640
MEMBERS	
Speeches and Statements	135 841
Correspondence and press releases	14 063
COMMITTEES	87 002
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	62 463
TOTAL	1 324 079

Translation for Members, offices, and committees of the Legislative Assembly is generally done on the same day or the day after, as resources allow.



Committees

Debates Translation staff members translate reports, agendas, summaries of presentations, notices of meetings, and other documents for standing and select committees of the Legislative Assembly. Translation for committees represented 6.6% of total production in 2016, mainly due to the work of the committee reviewing the officers of the Legislative Assembly and the Select Committee on Climate Change.

Offices of the Legislative Assembly

The Debates Translation office is responsible for translating material of a procedural and administrative nature for the Speaker's Office, the Office of the Clerk, the Hansard Office, the Legislative Library, Finance and Human Resource Services, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as correspondence, disclosure statements, and reports for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Translation for the offices of the Legislative Assembly represented 4.7% of total production in 2016. Documents translated during the year included the annual report of the Legislative Assembly.

Human Resources

In 2016, the Debates Translation office had an exceptional year in terms of human resources. Two competitions were planned and held to fill vacancies and potential vacancies. One former employee was rehired at the senior level during the summer. Examinations and interviews with candidates were held in cooperation with human resource staff in the fall and winter. Behavioral event interviews were held and, towards the end of the year, successful candidates were chosen at the beginner and senior levels. The two translators accepted offers and agreed to begin work in January 2017.

The Chief Translator, in collaboration with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the Interim Director of Finance and Human Resources, the Human Resource Services Supervisor, and a senior translator, developed a teleworking policy and agreement to govern the new teleworking employee, as well as any future teleworkers.

Senior staff members continued to coach and train junior and intermediate translators and to develop tools and resources to refine procedures and increase production. Various members of the team took training courses in software programs and in translation skills, and most of the staff attended several workshops held through the Employee and Family Assistance Program in topics such as change management and time management.

Debates Translation team members continued to show considerable dedication during the session by working nights, often until the early hours of the morning, and weekends, after a full work week, to ensure that members received timely, true, and accurate translations of their statements and speeches.

Conclusion

In 2016, production totalled 1 324 079 words, a significant increase in comparison to the 2015 year. During the year, 860 electronic translation requests were processed, and frequent requests for prompt translation made by telephone and email were also dealt with. New staff members were trained and prepared to continue providing the service for which the office is known, meeting the highest standards of professional translation for the Legislative Assembly of our bilingual province.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Special Project Officer — Valmond LeBlanc

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. During the year in review, no outside funding for translation outsourcing was available.

The second component was internal funding for translation outsourcing. During the year in review, no internal funding for outsourcing was available.

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

- Hansard translation demand was 1.72 million words, compared to 2.15 million words in the previous year, a decrease of 20%.
- Hansard translation output totaled 0.83 million words, compared to 0.68 million words in the previous year, an increase of 22%.
- During the year in review, demand exceeded output by 0.89 million words, compared to 1.47 million words in the previous year. Over the past five years, demand has exceeded output by an average 1.25 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 19.83 years earlier than the published volumes.
- At year’s end, translation of dailies up to April 5, 2005, was posted on the internal network of the Legislative Assembly.
- A total of 642 Hansard dailies in dual-column PDF format are available for the 1993 to 2004-05 sessions, including 23 replies to the throne speech and budget speech up to December 2016. These finalized, translated dailies can be viewed, printed, and are fully searchable electronically.



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

Results

- The Hansard translation backlog rose by 0.89 million words, compared to 1.47 million words during the previous year, a decrease of 39%.
- During the year in review, 46 new daily sittings occurred, while translation of 22 sitting days was completed, for a net backlog increase of 24 sitting days, compared to an increase of 45 sitting days in the previous year.
- Hansard translation was trailing by 143 months (or 709 dailies), compared to 138 months (or 685 dailies) at the end of the previous year.

Quality Control

The *Directory of New Brunswick and National Organizations* was updated monthly during the year. It serves as a repository of over 53 500 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 stylebook and directory are available for consultation and download at <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/publications/publications-e.asp>.

Conclusion

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



PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

Program for Members

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

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.

These 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 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 the Act, funding is approved annually for the leaders of registered political parties represented in the House (Leader of the Opposition and Third Party Leader) to be used for salaries of staff, salaries and expenses of the leaders, and other expenses related to the operation of the respective offices.

Research and Administrative Support

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

Office of Government Members

The staff 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.

Office of the Official Opposition

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties to support 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.

Office of the Leader of the Third Party

The staff of this office report to a Chief of Staff who is responsible for all communications, research, policy development, secretarial and receptionist duties to support the Leader of the Third Party. The Member and staff of this office occupy the third floor of the Departmental Building.