

NEW BRUNSWICK

Department of Education
Nouveau-Brunswick Ministère de l'Éducation
District Financial Services

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

This document reflects the 1998–1999 budget for primary-secondary education in the Province of New Brunswick, Canada. The Ordinary Account budget, totaling \$634.7 million, was presented by the Minister of Education and approved by the provincial legislature in January 1998. The 1998–1999 budget also included a Capital equipment budget of \$1.0 million and a Capital construction budget of \$17.0 million.

Employer costs for teacher pensions are under the Department of Finance. A total of \$1.4 million is budgeted for this purpose in 1998–1999.

Local

New Brunswick has 18 school districts administered by 8 administrative regions. Local taxation for education purposes does not exist under present legislation, thus district revenues are limited to funds collected for school district projects, scholarships and trusts, self-sustaining funds (rental of school facilities, co- and extra-curricular revenues, etc) and funding for specific federal programs.

Operational and capital funding is approved by the provincial legislature.

II. LOCAL SCHOOL REVENUE

Not applicable to New Brunswick. Funding is provided from a Consolidated Fund of the Province.

III. TAX AND SPENDING LIMITS

As previously mentioned, school districts have no taxation authority in New Brunswick. Spending is limited to amounts approved by the provincial legislature.

IV. STATE/PROVINCIAL EARMARKED TAX REVENUE

School districts have no taxation authority in New Brunswick. Spending is limited to amounts approved by the provincial legislature.

V. BASIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

The 1998–1999 basic school district budget allocation for operational programs totaled \$562.4 million (91.43% of grants in aid). This budget covers all operational aspects of district operations including professional staffing allocations, special needs, building operations, transportation operational costs, administrative staffing and employer benefit costs.

Two main funding instruments are used to allocate funding to school districts:

Professional (Teacher) Funding Norms (1998–1999)

Kindergarten	1.05 FTE per approved class
Grades 1–5	1.1 FTE per approved class
Grades 6–9 (Grade 9 students have been included in the high school allocation except in District 18)	1.2 FTE per approved class

High School Allocation: Grades 9- 12

First 100 pupils	1 FTE for every 14 pupils
Next 101 to 400 pupils	1 FTE for every 22.5 pupils
Next 401 to 800 pupils	1 FTE for every 23 pupils
Greater than 800 pupils	1 FTE for every 23.5 pupils

Note: A minimum of 5 teachers per school.

Administration and Other FTE Allocations:

Administration Guidance	1 FTE: 325 pupils
Grades 1–12	1 FTE: 537 pupils
Library Services	1 FTE: 27400 pupils

Maximum Class Sizes:

Regular Classes

Grades K, 1	25
Grade 2	28
Grades 3–6	32
Grades 7–12	33

Combined Classes

Grades K	20
Grades 1–2	24
Grades 3–6	27
Grades 7–12	28

Budget Guidelines (1998–1999)

This allocation covers ALL instructional professionals including the Professional Support Group 202. It does not include Superintendents, Education Directors, and Supervisors.

- Regular Teachers’ Salaries – Funding is based on 1998–1999 approved regular instructional professionals including Professional Support Group 202.
- Supply Teachers—The cost for supply teachers is provided at 12.0 days per 1998–1999 approved regular instructional professionals including Professional Support Group 202 at \$79.32 per day.
- Repair Services to Instructional Equipment - Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 projected actual expenditures.
- Travel Expenses for School Personnel -- Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 budget plus 7%.
- Instructional Materials, Supplies and Equipment - Funding is based on the following per pupil allocation (Grades 1–12):

(September 30, 1997 Enrollment) * (50.10 Per Pupil)

Supplementary Adjustment - “Literacy and Assessment”: Included in your budget is an allocation of \$3.75 per pupil (Grades 1–12).

- Computer Materials & Supplies—The allocation of funds for computer materials and supplies is included in Instructional Materials, Supplies and Equipment.
- Other Property & Equipment - The allocation of funds for other property and equipment is included in Instructional Materials, Supplies and Equipment.
- *KINDERGARTEN*
 - Kindergarten Teachers' Salary —An allocation has been provided based on the 1997/98 approved positions.
 - Supply Teachers' Salaries—The cost for supply teachers is provided at 12.0 days per 1997–1998 approved kindergarten FTE at \$79.32 per day.
 - Educational & Teaching Materials—Funding is provided at \$53 per kindergarten pupil as of September 30, 1997.

Supplementary Adjustment— “Literacy and Assessment”:
Included in budget is an allocation of \$3.75 per kindergarten pupil.
- *SPECIAL NEEDS* – The special needs budget is all inclusive including salary benefits. Funding is provided at \$315 per pupil as of September 30, 1997 (K–12). Districts are required to spend these funds for the special needs program only.
- *SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT*
 - Salaries of School Secretaries —Funding provided in accordance with Article 24 of Teachers' Collective Agreement. Secretaries are funded at the ratio of 1 to 30 Secretary/Teacher (The higher of 1997–1998 or 1998–1999 approved regular instructional professionals including Professional Support Group 202, plus the 1997–1998 approved kindergarten and special needs teachers). This allotment includes funding for one Sec. II for each high

school for 12 months with the remainder funded for 41 weeks at the Sec. II level.

An allocation of 20% of the above funded positions will be added to cover additional requirements and peak load times

- Telephone & Communication—Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 budget plus 50%.
- Stationary Office Supplies & Forms—Funding based on \$55 per approved full-time equivalent position (The 1998–1999 approved regular instructional professionals including Professional Support Group 202, 1997–1998 approved kindergarten and special needs teachers).
- Library Assistants—Salaries - Funding is based on a ratio of 1 per 1,000 pupils (September 30/97, Grs. 1–12) at a Library Assistant II position for 192 days.
- Educational Leave (Teachers)—Funds are provided as per the Collective Agreement between the Board of Management-Department of Finance, and the New Brunswick Teachers’ Federation (Article No. 37) and the recommendation of the Educational Leave Committee.
- Professional Development—Funding is provided at \$2.50 per pupil as of September 30, 1997.

- *SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS*
 - Excellence—The following Excellence in Education budget allocations have been included in the budget:
 - Tutor Support
 - Literacy Curriculum Enhancement
 - Learning Disabled
 - Kindergarten Integration
 - School Improvement
 - Extra Co-curricular Trips
 - Enrichment

- Summer Enhancement/Remedial Programs
- Behavioral Disordered.

- Educational Adjustment Allocation - Funding is based on an allocation of \$2.50 per pupil (K–12) as of September 30, 1997. Districts are required to spend these funds on programs which will assist in adapting to changes in curriculum.

- *PLANT*

- Salaries of Custodians, Stationary Engineers—Funding is based on the approved Personnel Establishment for the year.
- Salaries Maintenance—Funding is based on the approved Personnel Establishment for the year.
- Replacement Salaries—Funding is based on 4.9% of approved funding in account Salaries Maintenance.
- Freight and Courier—Funding is based on \$0.55 per pupil and applied to Sept. 30/97 pupil count (Grades. K–12).
- Fuel—Funding is provided at the level of the 1997–1998 budget plus 2.90%.
- Electricity—Funding is based on the 1997–1998 budget plus 2.90% plus the amount approved for new facilities opened in 1997–1998.
- Water and Sewerage—Funding is based on the 1997/98 budget plus 5%, plus adjustment increase for water meters.
- Contracted Cleaning—Funding for contracted cleaning of school facilities is based on the contracts funded for the 1997–1998 school year. Approval will be required from the Department of Education for all new or renewed contracts. Refer to Policy Statement 110.
- Garbage Collection—Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 budget plus adjustment increase for tipping fees.

- Snow Removal—Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 projected actual expenditures.
- Rent (Includes Kindergarten)—Funding is based on 1997–1998 approved contracts. Prior approval of the Department of Education is required to negotiate new or renewed rental contracts.
- Maintenance Vehicle Expenses - Funding is based on approved KMs at a rate of \$0.30 per KM.
- Other Repair Services - Based on a formula of \$0.185 per square foot of student utilized space plus \$5.21 per student population units (SPU) as of September 30, 1997 (Grades. K–12): SPU = # of Kindergarten + Elementary Students + Middle + (# of Senior High Students and Middle School Students X \$1.25).

Supplementary Adjustment: An allocation of \$3.00 per pupil (Grades K–12) has been added to your budget for minor repairs as per transfer from the Educational Facilities Branch Major Repairs Budget.

- Maintenance Travel—Funding is equal to the 1997–1998 approved budget plus 7%.
- Plant & Cleaning Supplies - Funding for plant supplies is based on \$12.00 per pupil applied to the Sept. 30, 1997 pupil count (Grades. K–12). An amount of \$6.20 per student will be deducted for schools covered by cleaning contract.

- *PUPIL TRANSPORTATION*

- Salaries of Bus Drivers - Funding is based on the approved Personnel Establishment for the year.
- Replacement - Funding for replacement drivers is based on 3.6% of approved funding in account Salaries of Bus Drivers.
- School Bus Block heaters—Funding for plug-ins is based on the number of buses times \$80.

- School Bus Driver Medicals—Funding for medicals is based on the rate of \$30.00 per bus driver as per the approved Personnel Establishment.
- Contracted Conveyance - A budget revision will be provided on the basis of approved contracts for the 1998–1999 school year. Approval is required from the Department of Education, Director of Pupil Transportation, for budget revisions covering new and renewed contracts throughout the year. An up-to-date copy of required contractor insurance policies must be available in the District Office for audit purposes. The maximum number of days budget for contracted conveyance is 187 per school year.
- School Bus Operation and Maintenance Expenses—Funding is based on the 1998–1999 projected actual expenditures.
- Board and Lodging—Funding for 1998–1999 will be temporarily held by the Department of Education. Approval is required from the Department of Education for a budget revision, The rate is \$12.00 per day to a maximum of \$60.00 per week as per regulations.
- Co-curricular Trips -Funding is based on the September 30/97 pupil count (Grs. K–12) times \$1.00.
- Other - An amount is allocated for extra-curricular trips based on September 30, 1997 pupil count (Grs. 1–12) times \$1.75.
- *DISTRICT OFFICE*
 - District Parent Advisory Councils—An allocation of \$5,000 per District has been included in your budget to fund expenditures (travel, communications, etc.) for the District Parent Advisory Councils. Plus, an allocation of \$3.50 per pupil (September 30, 1997) has been included in your budget to fund expenditures for the School Parent Advisory Councils.

For accountability purposes, expenditures are approved on a consultative basis between the school principal and the SPAC Chairperson.

- Salary District Office Personnel - The allocation is based on the approved personnel establishment. Note, a 2% reduction is applicable for all employees in this group.
- Salary School Business Officials -The allocation is based on the approved personnel establishment. Note, a 2% deflator is applicable for all the employees in this group.
- Salaries -Secretaries and Clerical—The allocation is based on the approved personnel establishment. Note, a 2% deflator is applicable for all the employees in this group.

Supplementary Adjustment - A temporary allocation of 2 Clerk III positions and one Assistant Human Resources Manager at 98% salary has been added to your budget for a 1-year duration, Note: These positions are to be used to assist in the payroll and accounting responsibility areas within your superintendency.

- Other Services - The allocation is based on the projected actual expenditures for 1997–1998.
- Salaries - Supervisors - The allocation is based on the approved personnel. A 2% deflator is applicable for all the employees in this group.
- Electricity—Funding is based on the 1997–1998 budget plus 2.90%.
- Contracted Cleaning—The allocation is based on the projected actual expenditures for 1997–1998.
- Rentals - The allocation is based on the negotiated and approved contracts. Prior approval of the Department of Education is required to negotiate new or renewed rental contracts.

- *EMPLOYEE BENEFITS* – The accounts below includes funding for all staff with the exception of Special Needs Personnel.
 - Pension Benefits - The cost of pension benefits is projected on the basis of the pension plans in operation prior to 1967 and the rates established according to those plans.
 - Retirement Allowances—This is a non-budgeted account and funds will be provided by the Department of Education as required.
 - Vacation Pay—Vacation pay is calculated according to the Vacation Pay Act (4%) and/or the Collective Agreements, whichever is applicable. Vacation for casual and replacement funds under account codes P71100-3467, P71200-3467, P74100-3466 and P75100-3466 is 4% of the total funds in these account codes. Bus drivers' vacation pay is calculated according to Appendix A.

School secretaries' (10 month) and library assistants' vacation pay is calculated at 7% of the approved funding in accounts P72100-3431 and P72202-3431.

- Group Insurance—The employer's share of group insurance is based on the budget provided in salary accounts P72100-3431, P72202-3431, P74100-3431, P75100-3431, P76200-3431 and P76300-3431 at 0.3%.
- Canada Pension Plan—The employer's share of C.P.P. for the total full time equivalent personnel establishment approved by the Department of Education.

The employer's share of C.P.P. for employees under account codes P71100-3467, P71200-3467, P74100-3466, and P75100-3466 is projected at 3.32%.

- Blue Cross/Confederation Life Health—Funding is projected on the basis of the following rates:

HEALTH	EMPLOYER COST
	Single \$297
	Family \$798

- Blue Cross/Confederation Life Dental - Funding is projected on the basis of the following rates:

DENTAL	EMPLOYER COST
	Single \$78
	Family \$174

- Employment Insurance—The employer’s share of E.I. for the total full time equivalent personnel establishment approved by the Department of Education.

The employer’s share of E.I. for account codes P71100-3467, P71200-3467, P74100-3466, and P75100-3466 is projected at the rate of 3.78%.

- Clothing Allowance—Funding is based on the approved personnel establishment times \$180 for qualifying employees.
- Dry Cleaning Allowance—Funding is based on the approved personnel establishment times \$120 for qualifying employees.

There are also provisions for specific funding allocations on an as needed basis which are considered below the line (off formula) funding. This relates particularly to joint partnership agreements such as the operation of swimming pools, auditoriums, etc. and is limited in terms of dollar values.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

Funding as part of grants in aid in 1998–1999 is \$39.2 million (6.37%) and excludes depreciation and insurance costs that are paid centrally. The fleet is operated by the school districts and maintained by the Department of Transportation. Costs include bus driver salaries and contracted conveyances.

VII. SPECIAL EDUCATION

The special education budget allocation of \$47.0 million represents 7.64% of grants in aid.

VIII. COMPENSATORY EDUCATION

Not applicable.

IX. GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Funding for gifted and talented children in New Brunswick is not specifically identified but we do provide additional courses and summer camps that benefit gifted and talented students.

X. BILINGUAL EDUCATION

New Brunswick's education system operates both an English and a French education system, which are separate in terms of philosophy and operations. The anglophone sector offers French immersion and core French programs to English speaking children from grades 1 to 12. Funding for second language education in the anglophone sector is not identified separately.

The francophone sector provides courses in the English language starting in grade 4. Specific funding in the francophone sector is not identified separately.

XI. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood initiatives are the responsibility of the Department of Health & Community Services. Health & Community Services has budgetary and operational responsibility for the delivery of this program aims at pre-school children and their families.

Initiatives are aimed at the following objectives : Improve the development of pre-school at-risk children; Improve family values; and Develop a healthier community to help at-risk children and their families

Funding allocation for 1998–1999 not available.

XII. OTHER CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS

Not applicable

XIII. TEACHER RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS

The Department of Education provides funding for retirement allowances to teachers who retire during the year. Budgeted retirement allowance costs for all employee groups in 1998–1999 totaled \$12.3 million.

The Department of Finance is responsible for the payment of retirement benefits. Estimated teacher retirement costs for 1998–1999 are approximately \$56.8 million.

XIV. TECHNOLOGY

Funding for the technology sector in 1998–1999 totaled \$12.0 million (1.96% of grants in aid). From an infrastructure perspective, the technology sector supports approximately 350 schools, 14,000 computers in the school system, a wide area network and a number of local area networks.

From an educational perspective, a number of courses are offered to students as a requirement for graduation from high school (see standards/accountability measures). Distance education programs are offered in specific areas based on demand.

XV. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE

Capital outlays are approved by the provincial legislature with debt servicing being the responsibility of the Province. As mentioned previously, the 1998–1999 budget includes a capital equipment budget of \$1.0 million and a capital construction budget of \$17.0 million.

XVI. STANDARDS/ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Province of New Brunswick enacted balanced budget legislation in 1993. The Department of Education and school districts are required to respect this legislation and remain within authorized budget allocations.

The Department of Education has also established internal performance measurement indicators in a number of areas as outlined below:

(Information details below have been divided into three sections. The first section reviews the performance measurement indicators introduced in association with the 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 budget submissions, and where possible, provides updated results for the measures. The second section provides the set of performance measurement indicators that has been adjusted in order to harmonize them with those included in the NBCC-SOA business plan. The third section provides a description of the new performance measurement indicator proposed for inclusion in the Department of Education’s indicator set.)

Public Education

To have each student develop the attributes needed to be a life long learner, to achieve personal fulfillment and to contribute to a productive, just and democratic society.

1. Goal: To increase the proportion of New Brunswick students who attain graduation.

Indicator: Graduation rate—probability that a student now in school will graduate.

Target: To increase the graduation rate to 86% by 1998/99, toward the goal of reaching 90% by 2000/01. Baseline data, for the 1993/94 school year is 84%.

Historical Data:

<u>Year</u>	<u>1993–94</u>	<u>1994–95</u>	<u>1995–96</u>	<u>1996–97</u>
Graduation Rate	84%	84%	85%	85%

Source of Information: Information on the number of graduates by age for each school year is gathered at each New Brunswick high school and compiled by the Department of Education. Statistics Canada produces information relating to population by age.

2. Goal: To ensure that New Brunswick students graduate with acceptable levels of literacy and numeracy.

Indicator 1: Language Arts achievement results—School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)

Target: To increase the percentage of 13 & 16 year old students achieving at acceptable levels of performance, defined as Level 3 or above (for 16 year olds) and defined as Level 2 or above (for 13 year olds), on the SAIP reading and writing examinations by 2003, as indicated in the following table.

Sector	Reading		Writing	
	Baseline (1994)	Target (2003)	Baseline (1994)	Target (2003)
English 13	75%	80%	93%	95%
French 13	66%	80%	74%	95%
English 16	69%	75%	82%	85%
French 16	60%	75%	53%	85%

Source of Information: The information to support this indicator is produced through the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada's School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP). The information for each SAIP examination is published in report form in the fall following administration of the examination. Results for the 1998 SAIP Language Arts examinations are anticipated to be available in late 1998 or early 1999.

Indicator 2: Mathematics achievement results—School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)

Target: To increase the percentage of 13 & 16 year old students achieving at acceptable levels of performance, defined as Level 3 or above (for 16 year olds) and defined as Level 2 or above (for 13 year olds), on the SAIP mathematics examinations by 2003, as identified in the following tables.

Sector	Content		
	Baseline (1993)	Results (1997)	Target (2003)
English 13	60%	55%	65%
French 13	66%	63%	65%
English 16	53%	47%	65%
French 16	60%	63%	65%

Sector	Problem-solving		
	Baseline (1993)	Results (1997)	Target (2003)
English 13	46%	47%	55%
French 13	42%	53%	55%
English 16	18%	34%	40%
French 16	16%	37%	40%

Source of Information: The information to support this indicator is produced through the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada's School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP). The information for each SAIP examination is published in report form in the fall following administration of the examination.

3. Goal: To ensure that New Brunswick students graduate with acceptable levels of understanding of science concepts and with acceptable science inquiry skills.

Indicator: Science achievement results - School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)

Target: To increase the percentage of 13 & 16 year old students achieving at acceptable levels of performance, defined as Level 3 or above (for 16 year olds) and defined as Level 2 or above (for 13 year olds), on the SAIP science examinations by 2003, as indicated in the following table.

Sector	Baseline 1996	Target 2003
English13	71%	75%
French 13	60%	75%
English16	70%	75%
French 16	58%	75%

Source of Information: The information to support this indicator is produced through the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada's School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP). The information for each SAIP examination is published in report form in the fall following administration of the examination. Students across Canada will write SAIP science examination in the spring of 1999, and examination results are anticipated to be available in late 1999.

4. Goal: To integrate information and communication technology into the public education program so as to support different learning styles, to promote literacy, problem solving and critical thinking, and to ensure that each New Brunswick student graduates with the basic knowledge, skills and attributes to use information and communication technologies. (As of June 1997, all New Brunswick high school students are required to achieve a basic level of computer literacy in order to graduate.)

Indicator: To reach the stated goal, it is necessary that students and educators have access to current, fully functioning information and communication technologies. The pupil/computer ratio is one indicator of the level of such access, and will be measured as follows:

Pupil/Computer Ratio—The ratio of the number of pupils enrolled in New Brunswick public schools to the number of computers available for use in the schools by the pupils. In order to attach a quality standard to the computers counted for the purpose of this ratio, a computer will be included in the ratio if it can be classified as “World Wide Web (V’MM)/ready.”

Target: To maintain the pupil/computer ratio at 10 pupils per WWW-ready computer by June 30, 1999. Baseline data, as of May 1996, is 20.3 pupils per WWW-ready computer.

Results: In 1997–1998, a ratio of 9 pupils per WWW-ready computer was achieved..

Source of Information: Information regarding the number of computer units to pupils in New Brunswick schools is collected by the Information Services Branch of the Department of Education. Information regarding pupil enrolment is collected by the schools and compiled by the Department of Education.

5. Goal: To expand the Youth Apprenticeship Program/Programme d’orientation à la carrière (YAP/POC) in order to make its benefits available to a broader range of students.

Indicators:

Phase I enrolment - The number of students that are enrolled in the first year (Phase I) of the YAP/POC in a given year.

Rate of completion—The percentage of students that successfully complete the three year YAP/POC. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of YAP/POC graduates by the number of students enrolled in Phase I three years earlier.

Historical Data: Between its inception in 1993/1994 and 1995/1996, the number of pupils enrolled in Phase 1 of the YAP/POC increased each year, after which time it has remained fairly stable. Rate of completion has increased annually. Enrolment and completion data over the life of the YAP/POC is as follows:

Intake Year	Enrolment	Completion Year	# Completions	Rate
1993–1994	27	1995–1996	13	48%
1994–1995	57	1996–1997	36	63%
1995–1996	215	1997–1998	158	73%
1996–1997	219	1998–1999	163	74%
1997–1998	197	1999–2000	NA	NA
1998–1999	206	2000–2001	NA	NA

Targets:

To increase Phase I enrolment by 25% between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001, such that 250 students will be enrolled in Phase 1 in 2000/2001.

To increase the rate of completion for the YAP/POC such that 80% of the students beginning the program in 1998/1999 graduate from the program in 2000/2001.

Source of Information: Information on the number of students enrolled in each phase of the YAP/POC, and the number of students completing the YAP/POC is compiled by the Department of Education.

Self-sufficiency – To provide each New Brunswicker with the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency through life long learning and employment programming.

6. Goal: To increase self-sufficiency through life long learning.

Indicator: The literacy skills and knowledge of New Brunswick adults.

Percentage of learners in New Brunswick's non-formal, second chance learning system (e.g., CASP's and CREW's) who achieve at least a grade 6 competency in:

- (a) mathematics
- (b) language

Percentage of learners in New Brunswick's non-formal, second chance learning system (e.g., CASP's and CREW's) who achieve at least a grade 9 competency in:

- (a) mathematics
- (b) language

Target: 1998–1999 will be a baseline year to establish targets.

Source of Information: Departmental data: CASP and CREW learner records.

XVII. REWARDS/SANCTIONS

School districts are required to meet budget requirements on an annual basis. No formal legislated rewards/sanctions are in place. The Department of education works with school districts not meeting budget requirements to find appropriate solutions to resolve issues identified.

XVIII. FUNDING FOR NON-TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Brunswick does not have charter schools or other types of non-traditional public schools.

XIX. AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

New Brunswick does not provide funding to private schools.

XX. RECENT/PENDING LITIGATION

In 1996, New Brunswick introduced a new Education Act with significant changes in the organizational structure of school districts (elimination of school boards) and the development of a parental governance structure. The governance structure has undergone an independent review in the fall of 1998. The minister addressed this group's recommendations on March 9, 1999.

The Education Act will be referred to the New Brunswick Court of Appeals to substantiate that the Education Act meets the requirements of the Charter of

Rights regarding minority rights in education. An appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada remains a possibility.

XXI. SPECIAL TOPICS

None