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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Nouveau-Brunswick | 56e | 3e  | Estimés budgétaires des dépenses en capital | 17-12-2008 | Kelly Lamrock | Ministre de l’Éducation | PL |

*\*(Ce discours est bilingue)*

**Department of Education**

**Hon. Mr. Lamrock,** after the item under the Department of Education had been presented: Indeed, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to talk about the capital budget for the upcoming year.

This year, we will have a capital budget of $49.5 million to invest in new schools. This is on top of the funding for two new P3 budgets. It will mean that this capital budget is part of the government’s balanced approach to stimulate the New Brunswick economy. We will have more construction than in any capital budget in history.

We know, of course, that the government’s main focus has been on the classroom. That is why we were pleased to see the largest increase in literacy in New Brunswick’s history in the last two years. Now, we must also turn our attention to making sure that our children have safe, clean, and up-to-date classrooms.

With the indulgence of the House, I would like to give a brief summary of the projects that we can expect to see as part of this capital budget.

On sait bien que les gens de Dieppe ont un problème. C’est une ville très populaire, et il y a

beaucoup de gens qui viennent habiter Dieppe. En même temps, c’est un défi pour les écoles. Il y a beaucoup de gens, et pour être absolument honnête, comme le président du district scolaire 1, Ernest Thibodeau, vient de dire : Il y a trop de monde à l’école Sainte-Thérèse. C’est le temps d’agrandir l’école et d’avoir une nouvelle école à Dieppe pour tous les enfants de la région de Moncton. C’est pourquoi je suis fier d’annoncer que nous avons 11 millions de dollars pour l’agrandissement de l’école Sainte-Thérèse, à Dieppe. Nous allons commencer cette année. J’aimerais féliciter le député de Memramcook-Lakeville-Dieppe, de ce côté de la Chambre, qui a travaillé très fort.

Last year, we also recognized that the problem we have seen in Dieppe is equally true in Moncton North. Evergreen Park School is overcrowded, for good reason. We see that, as part of the province’s overall population growth, there is a particular concentration in Moncton. That means that we need to respond with schools that have enough space for all the students who are coming to the Greater Moncton area. As part of our public-private partnership, construction will begin this year on a new school in the north side of Moncton, in District 2.

Dans le district 5, j’aimerais féliciter la population de trois collectivités qui ont travaillé ensemble pour rassembler sa population étudiante dans une nouvelle école. On va rassembler les enfants de Dundee, d’Eel River et de Balmoral dans une nouvelle école à Balmoral pour la région du Restigouche. Cette année, on va investir 650 000 $ pour commencer le projet et on va bâtir cette école l’année prochaine.

As did every member of the House, I enjoyed the speech from the member for Saint John East this morning. He has been a passionate defender of Saint John and of health care. The last thing the opposition members want to do is ask where the member for Saint John East has been, because they found out. He has been building health care facilities and medical schools in his region. He also left one thing out that he worked on. If you think he is tough on you guys, you should see him in the caucus room. I am proud to announce that, because of the work of the entire Saint John caucus, we will move forward with $1.2 million for the construction of the cafeteria at Bayside Middle School, and Phase 2 of a $5-million project in Saint John.

Comme vous le savez, l’année dernière, on a investi pour commencer le projet à l’école Clément-Cormier. Cette année, on va investir un total de 6 millions de dollars pour les rénovations à cette école afin de s’assurer que cette école est convenable pour tous les élèves. Je note que les deux députés de Kent sont bien contents. Il y a deux grands députés là-bas, et je suis certain que l’ancien ministre de l’Éducation veut appuyer ce projet-ci.

(Interjections.)

**Hon. Mr. Lamrock**: It is nice to hear. They all say they are against all the spending, but they are not against any of the projects we get with it. That is nice to see.

Of course, we also know we have a number of folks who stood up . . . For a long time, Andover Elementary School has been neglected. That was why it was announced in the Premier’s speech—and I am pleased to tell the member for Victoria-Tobique—that we will start with $200 000 for a new gym to back up the 100 new physical education mentors that we put into the system. Kids will have a proper gym in which to learn at Andover Elementary School.

This year, we will see a new school in District 16. We will begin construction in the Rexton area to upgrade Eleanor W. Graham Middle School, and that will accommodate 300 students from Grades 6 to 8. This is one I have been looking forward to. I notice that we have a number of folks here whom I met once before. There is a delegation here from Minto Memorial High School. I have to tell you that the MLA for Grand Lake-Gagetown had asked me to meet with these folks. The students had actually prepared a video to talk about how important the trades were to their economic future in the Greater Queens area and in Minto. Also, they wanted to make sure that we understood that we had to upgrade that facility.

As you know, last year, this government invested $2 million in ensuring that we updated our trades curriculum and in returning the trades to every high school in New Brunswick. We are proud to be able to do that. The trades should be there for every child who has those particular strengths. Now, we have to begin the next phase: making sure that we have not only the curriculum and the teachers to teach the trades, but also the proper facilities. I am proud to say that the first place we are going to upgrade is the shop lab at Minto Memorial High School, with an investment of $1 million. Those students will have a place to learn a trade, and we are glad to do it.

I notice that the teachers are congratulating the students. That is appropriate, by the way. The

students were very articulate spokespeople, and I hope that they will communicate to the folks at Minto how much of a difference they made by getting involved in the political process. I notice that the member for Grand Lake-Gagetown is beaming at this one too. He was pretty dogged on this one.

Of course, we know that, in District 18, in September, we will be breaking ground on a new middle school in the riding of Fredericton-Lincoln. It will be state-of-the-art, thanks to the efforts of my colleague from Fredericton-Lincoln. We look forward to welcoming students to Bliss Carman Middle School and building on a great history at Albert Street Middle School—a middle school that turned out many distinguished graduates, and me as well.

We also have some good news for folks in the upper Miramichi. This year, we will be putting in $150 000 for the architectural design and planning of renovations to Doaktown Consolidated School. Also, I have to tell you that the Minister of Human Resources and I had a great day in New Bandon. I do not know exactly what the population of New Bandon is, but I am pretty sure that if you had counted who was in the town hall, that would have been all of them. We had the town excited to turn out. The member for Southwest Miramichi did a great job of getting two communities to work together to build something greater because they cooperated and put aside regional differences.

(Applause.)

**Hon. Mr. Lamrock**: He deserves that, because, this year, we will see $6.4 million for a new school in New Bandon, for students in Boiestown, Doaktown, and the upper Miramichi. It will accommodate 350 students from Grades 6 to 12. Unlike the previous smaller schools, it will have proper facilities for trades. It will have a proper library. It will have facilities to give those kids equal opportunity, because that is what building schools is all about.

In addition, I will be happy to share details at another time, so as not to take up too much more time. This year, we have increased the budget for minor repairs. We know that we have a number of projects that have to be done. The average age of schools in New Brunswick is 40 years, and that did not accumulate overnight. It accumulated over years of neglect. No party should be proud of its historical record in building schools. We know that we need to begin to chip away at that. That is why, this year, we have funds for projects like making sure that we have safe facilities, making sure that we have new roofs and proper windows, making sure that the walls are fixed up so that schools do not fall into disrepair, making sure that we have proper theatres and safe gymnasiums. It is not glamorous work, but it matters a lot to the communities there.

This year, we have increased that budget by $5 million; it is up to $21.9 million that we can invest in schools. I know that my friend from Riverview asked me about this, and I have nieces who go to Claude D. Taylor School. When I was there to read to them, the principal showed me the parking lot and dropoff zone. You will be happy to know that, this year, I placed a call to the principal and told her that nearly $400 000 would be put into that project, so that there would be a safe drop-off zone at Claude D. Taylor.

There is one final thing I want to highlight out of this budget. The community of Port Elgin deserves an awful lot of congratulations. I was there for the launch of the community school. Some people have said that you cannot have a community school in a rural area, or that we should always worry that we would leave them behind. It is not true, because that school is a true community school. We have seen the local garage step up to give students a chance to learn a trade and to have a co-op program. We have local organizations across the region, helping to make sure that students have volunteer learning opportunities. There are more and more entrepreneurs mentoring students who have strengths in that area, and they came forward with a proposal. Thanks to an innovative partnership with the new regional health

authority, they actually want to have a school that is a true centre of the community, that offers a health centre. That way, students’ health needs, which are so vital to success in early childhood, can be dealt with in the same building where they get their education. The teaching team can work with medical personnel to do that. They had started fund-raising, but $30 000 is a lot of money for a community the size of Port Elgin. That is why, this year, to make the necessary renovations to have a true community partnership with Port Elgin School, we are putting in $30 000 to make sure that Port Elgin can have its community school. It can be done in a small community. I want to salute the teaching team there.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to answering questions.