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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Nouveau-Brunswick | 57e  | 1ère  | Discours sur le budget | 13-04-2011 | Jody Carr | Ministre de l’Éducation et du Développement de la petite enfance | PC |

*\*(Ce discours est bilingue)*

**Hon. Jody Carr,** after all items under the Department of Education and Early Childhood

Development had been presented: It is my pleasure to rise today to present the operating budget estimates for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the fiscal year 2011-12.

C’est agréable d’avoir l’occasion de parler du développement de la petite enfance et de notre

système d’éducation.

I have said before, and continue to believe, that whenever education and early childhood development are on the agenda, it is a good day. First, I would like to thank Premier David Alward, our Finance Minister Blaine Higgs, and my Cabinet and caucus colleagues for their continued support in making education and early childhood development a top priority of the government of New Brunswick.

Early learning, education, and training are the keys to our future. Improving childhood development and student achievement through such work as the MacKay report, the Gino LeBlanc report, and other platform commitments, and ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment, while facing our economic reality, is a priority of this government. During prebudget consultations, New Brunswickers told us that education and early childhood development are important to them and, as the members of the House will clearly see, the 2011-12 budget reflects the strong support for these priorities by our government.

Notre province est aux prises avec un long défi financier, mais, même pendant une période

financière difficile, nous devons tous vivre selon nos moyens. Le gouvernement actuel continue de mettre l’accent sur les priorités des gens du Nouveau-Brunswick. Our government’s priorities for the department include early childhood development, reaching

children early so that they build a strong foundation; inclusion, by supporting all learners in reaching their full potential; and student achievement, pushing the bar higher with better results. We will accomplish our goals and objectives within these priorities through relevant and focused curriculum development; responsible and accessible intervention programs for the short and long term; efficient and innovative support; training and leadership programs for teachers, support staff, and administration; and the building of an environment of continuous improvement and performance accountability.

Pour la première fois, le budget au compte ordinaire du ministère de l’Éducation et du

Développement de la petite enfance dépense la somme de 1 milliard de dollars. Il s’agit de la somme la plus élevée de l’histoire de notre province qui est dépensée en une seule année pour l’éducation et le développement de la petite enfance. Of this record amount, $51 million is for Early Childhood Development, representing an 8% increase from the last fiscal year, while $1.001 billion will be invested in the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 public school system. Based on projected enrollment, this represents funding of $9 766 per student in 2011-12. This is an increase of 2.5%, compared to $9 525 per student in 2010-11.

Même si la situation financière est difficile dans notre province, la priorité que donne le gouvernement actuel à l’éducation et à l’apprentissage saute aux yeux. Nous savons qu’investir dans ce domaine, c’est investir dans notre avenir.

A true measure of our collective success is how well our children are prepared to live in tomorrow’s world and work in tomorrow’s economy. That means we must focus our resources where they can have the most positive impact on students—in our schools and in our classrooms. We are going to put the focus back on the classroom to make sure that learning and education will be enhanced for the future of our province.

To accomplish this, we need to examine other program areas within the central office of the

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and in the school district offices to realize administrative savings, find efficiencies, and reprofile funding where required.

New Brunswickers have asked us to ensure that the education system is an effective and efficient system. It is not enough to continue doing business the same way. We will find efficiencies where we can, work smarter when we can, and focus on enhancing the education students receive. This is my pledge to the people of New Brunswick, this is my pledge to the children of our province, and, as a government, this is our pledge.

Dans le présent budget, plus d’argent est investi dans nos salles de classe, et moins d’argent est consacré aux activités et à l’administration du ministère et des bureaux des districts scolaires.

The districts have made it very clear that they want to work with us to find these efficiencies and savings. Over the next few weeks, we will be meeting with each of the districts to discuss their specific budgets to ensure that funding is invested responsibly, effectively, and efficiently, and we will make sure that it is tied to student achievement.

In addition, in the coming weeks, I will establish a special departmental budget steering committee, along with three subcommittees: one on school utilization and facility planning, one for shared services, and a district governance and amalgamation committee. We will make sure that there are clear expectations and accountability for districts and the central office. Out of a $1-billion budget, we have to be responsible and focused in our approach and be able to justify value in student learning for the dollars we invest. The members of the House and the people of New Brunswick have my commitment that funding will be spent on the priorities for our students for successful learning. By working together with our partners and stakeholders to find savings and efficiencies, we can do better as an education system and as a province. I want to thank the superintendents and district education councils for their support and their willingness to think outside the box regarding how we can do things differently to improve the learning of every child, within our financial means. Some of the steps we will be taking to find these savings and efficiencies include continuing travel restrictions we put in place last fall; decreasing the number of personal communication devices in use in central office and school districts; reducing administration and operational expenses; and reviewing policies, programs, and administrative operations to ensure that we spend our dollars more effectively and are more focused in order to leverage the greatest improvement in student learning in the classroom.

In 2011-12, we will continue to invest in our classrooms to ensure that our teachers and students have the resources and support they need to succeed. This investment in our classrooms is a course we will maintain. Even in this time of fiscal restraint, we are enhancing our commitment to education development, and we will meet the commitments we set out in our platform.

The significant investments we will be making this year include investing $3.1 million to maintain the number of teachers in public schools, despite the reduction in the number of students. We will invest $750 000 in the new school supplies fund for teachers. We will increase funding for support workers in our schools, including teacher assistants and clerical staff. We will invest $1.4 million in Year 2 of the integrated service delivery demonstration project, and we will invest in a review and updated action plan to continue implementing the MacKay report on inclusive education.

Nous visons à accorder la priorité à l’amélioration continue et au rendement. Nous réaliserons le tout ensemble grâce à la participation de nos partenaires et de nos parties prenantes.

The inclusion of Early Childhood Development in the education portfolio provides us with the opportunity to build stronger linkages between these two important sectors. Learning is a lifelong practice, and the connections we can make to early childhood will help position youth for success in the school system and beyond. I am equally committed to working with stakeholders and partners regarding Early Childhood Development. Together, we will be able to enhance early learning and child care opportunities for children and families.

Je suis fier de dire que, depuis octobre 2010, quelque 1 829 places ont été ajoutées dans les garderies. Nous avons donc déjà atteint 18 % de notre objectif d’augmenter le nombre de places dans les garderies en six mois seulement.

This is outstanding. Our commitment to increase child care spaces is real. In this budget, we have worked hard to listen to our partners, stakeholders, and the people of New Brunswick. We are investing more money in our future by investing in a number of early childhood initiatives and programs, including $1.4 million more to fund more early learning and child care spaces going forward, increasing funding by $800 000 for the Day Care Assistance Program, and increasing preschool autism funding by $2 million.

Je suis très fier de notre budget. Malgré la conjoncture difficile, le gouvernement a très clairement fait comprendre que nous mettons les enfants, les élèves et l’apprentissage d’abord, pour un changement. L’éducation et le développement de la petite enfance sont les clés de notre avenir, comme le premier ministre l’a clairement indiqué aux gens du Nouveau-Brunswick. Nous remettrons la province sur la bonne voie au moyen de bons investissements.

As I mentioned earlier, anytime education and early childhood development can be highlighted is a happy day for us in government, because education and learning are the keys to the future of our province. We are going to do that each and every day to make sure we have a brighter province that is escaping the past of big deficits and big debts.

In conclusion, I want to thank each and every member of our Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for their hard work in the past several weeks and months in preparing for today. I want to thank our district staff, our teachers, support staff, and all the early learning and child care sector, who work so hard for the children of New Brunswick and truly make a difference. As well, I thank members of the district education councils, Parent School Support Committees, and community partners for their time and dedication to improving early learning and education across the province.

Once again, I want to thank my colleagues in government for their support, which we all have, for education and learning for our future. As we begin a new fiscal year, I look forward to continuing to work with our partners and stakeholders in education and early childhood development to meet our goals and objectives. By working together, we can achieve much more and go further.

I referred to the staff at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development during my introductory remarks. For the benefit of the members of the House, I would like to introduce them and let you know who is here with me. I have brought a few people.

Il y a Roger Doucet, le sous-ministre du secteur francophone du ministère de l’Éducation.

Wendy McLeod-MacKnight is the Anglophone deputy minister. Zoë Watson is the assistant deputy minister for the Anglophone sector. Marcel Lavoie is the acting assistant deputy minister for the Francophone sector. Val Guimond is the Director of Human Resources. Lise Bellefleur is the Executive Director of Policy and Planning. Luc Paulin is the Director of Finance. He was here yesterday, and for some of today as well, for Wellness, Culture and Sport. Thank you, Luc. Michel Pitre, Nicole Gervais, Ron White, and a number of others are in the building at our disposal as well, for the many questions that the opposition have. I look forward to that.