Newfoundland Throne Speech focuses on child care, human rights [1]

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EXCERPTS

Children are its top priority, the government of Newfoundland and Labrador says in a Throne Speech that vows action where it has been accused of neglect.

The provincial legislature opened Monday with the 20-page blueprint of government promises and achievements read by Lieutenant-Governor John Crosbie.

It charts a progressive course for the Tory government of Premier Danny Williams, including an overhaul of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, a new child care and early learning strategy, and a strengthened Human Rights Code.

"There is no gift more precious than a child, and no duty more important than advancing the best interests of our children through the choices we make," Mr. Crosbie read.

"In classrooms and homes across our province, a new attitude is taking hold, full of hope in the dream of a wonderful future for young people right here at home."

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael asked whether the glitter and gloss of the feel-good speech will amount to more than empty words.

Action is urgently needed, she said.

"Government today announced a 10-year strategy for early learning and child care. I certainly hope it will not take 10 more years to implement, and that there will be substantial money upfront to address the urgent need for new spaces."

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- reprinted from The Canadian Press

Region: Newfoundland [2]

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