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The Chair: Sorry, we're out of time.

Ms. Findlay.

Ms. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay (Delta—Richmond East, CPC): Thank you, and thank you all for being here today and for your vigorous testimony. This helps us very much in what we're trying to do.

My question is for Ms. Blais, this morning.

I was intrigued by what you were talking about, your town hall meeting, and the experience of victims you were interacting with and how powerless they felt. In other words, trying to expose the true impact of them having to navigate their way through what is often a very complex justice system. I applaud your outreach in that regard, and it echoes what we've been hearing from our constituents, and from people across Canada as to the very real cost to them, and this is some of what we're trying to address, although the opposition members have criticized the need to do so.

As with any new initiatives, there is a cost, and our estimates have been identified that it's \$78.6 million is the cost to implement bill C-10. Of course it's primarily aimed and targeted at those who would exploit our children and drug trafficking.

I note that your confrère in Manitoba, Attorney General Andrew Swan has said that public safety has a cost, we'll meet that cost. I am wondering what New Brunswick's position is on this.

⊕ (0930)

Hon. Marie-Claude Blais: As you know, justice in our province is in charge of court administration and the department of public safety would be in charge of the provincial side of imprisonment.

We're surely aware of the impact that this is going to have financially, and we don't deny that it will have an impact, but we need to bring forward our problems if there be. We'll need to sit down. We'll need to look at how we can be effective in the way that we budget.

We've been doing that since we have taken power, trying to do things differently, certainly, and we will continue on talking to the federal government about our needs and what needs this bill will cost us. We are not naïve and pretending that this will not have an impact. We do believe that it will have an impact.

We have been talking with the federal government about legal aid at various meetings. We will continue to talk to the federal government about the need to make sure that we do succeed for the victims in regards to this bill, and that we do see that, if need be, that we sit down at the table. It wouldn't be different from how we do things right now. We certainly know then, when legislation comes from the federal government, which we can't control, we do sit down, talk to officials about what the needs are in New Brunswick.

We need to be cognizant of the fact that even though we're a small province, we have major issues. Child exploitation in our province is a major issue. I'm pretty sure that you've seen the news lately. We have some of the worst cases of child exploitation in our small province. When you think about New Brunswick, you don't think about these things. For me, to think that our children are no longer safe in our own homes, we need to be serious on this. We need to act on this, and we intend to do so.

The Chair: You have a minute and a half.

Ms. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay: Am I correct, then, and I think this is what you're saying, and I want to make sure I understand, that there are many opportunities as you go along for both provincial and territorial governments to dialogue with your federal counterparts on issues of administration of justice?

Hon. Marie-Claude Blais: Absolutely. I always thought there was an openness to discuss our challenges. I'm here for New Brunswick, I'm here to discuss our challenges as New Brunswickers. They can be very different from other provinces, but surely, the fact that we do

support this bill won't stop us to bring forward our challenges that we have financially to the federal government.

Quite the contrary. We do intend to be very vocal about some of the challenges like we have been in many other cases. This is not only about justice.

Ms. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay: This may not be a happy commonality, but the fact that we face these issues in every province across Canada shows the need for some national strategies.

You also made some thoughtful comments about youth in the criminal system, in the justice system, and ways to intervene in their life path at an early age to try and get them on a different path.

Do you see anything in bill C-10 that prevents rehabilitation and reinsertion measures that you've already adopted and hope to adopt in your province?

The Chair: We're out of time, Minister. Maybe we can have that later.