

**House of Assembly Management Commission
Briefing Note**

Title: *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*

Issue: Consequential amendments required to *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*

Background:

- The *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) provide resources to Members to assist them in fulfilling their public duties and responsibilities as elected officials.
- The 2015 Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed in February 2015, with a mandate to reduce the number of seats in the Legislature from 48 to 40. The Commission's report with its recommendations was submitted on June 8, 2015. In order to give effect to the new boundaries, the *House of Assembly Act* must be amended to reflect the proposed district changes.
- As a result of the district changes, a number of amendments are required to the Rules, specifically:
 1. The concept of capital region is used throughout the Rules to determine Members' eligibility for certain expenses. The definition [paragraph 2(d)] must be amended to reflect the names of the proposed districts encompassed in the capital region.
 2. Members from districts within close proximity to the capital region have the option of claiming mileage to return to their permanent residence, as opposed to staying in the capital region, when the House is in session. This provision [subsection 33.1(3)] will need to reflect the new names of the eligible districts.
 3. Members representing districts furthest from the capital region may claim certain expenses while in transit. This provision [subsection 37.1(2)] must be amended to reflect the new names of the eligible districts.
 4. Schedule A of the Rules outlines the allocations of Intra-Constituency Costs for each district. Should the new electoral boundaries come into effect, Schedule A will need to be amended to reflect the names of the 40 districts and give authority to pay expenditures under this allocation.
- At its May 26, 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the proposed amendments to the Rules based on the Electoral Boundaries Review Commission's preliminary proposal for the new electoral districts. These amendments were subject to change upon the issuance of the final report of the Electoral Boundaries Review Commission.

- The attached amendments reflect the final Electoral Boundaries report and require the approval of the Commission before forwarding to the Office of Legislative Counsel for final drafting.

Analysis:

Legal Consultation:

Law Clerk of the House of Assembly

Internal Consultation(s):

N/A

External Consultation(s):

N/A

Comparison to Government Policy:

N/A

Financial Impact:

Currently, \$445,100 must be appropriated annually for the Intra-Constituency allowance. The proposed Schedule A will require an annual appropriation of \$386,000.

Legislative Impact:

Amendments will be required to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

Options:

1. Approve the proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.
2. Do not approve the proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

Status:

- The provisions of the current *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* apply.

Action Required:

- Pursuant to Section 64 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Commission hereby gives approval to the attached proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*, subject to final wording by the Office of the Legislative Counsel and approval of the House of Assembly.

- The Commission waives the two day waiting period for decision confirmation to assist in having the proposed amendments prepared for the current sitting of the House.

Prepared by: Marie Keefe

Approved by: Sandra Barnes

Date: June 8, 2015

Attachments:

1. Proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*
2. Proposed allocations for Schedule A

**Consequential amendments to *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*
resulting from Electoral Boundary change**

1(1) Paragraph 2(d) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

(d) "capital region" means the area encompassing the following electoral districts as described and delineated in the House of Assembly Act as follows:

- (i) Cape St. Francis
- (ii) Conception Bay South
- (iii) Ferryland (North of Witless Bay Line)
- (iv) Mount Pearl-Southlands
- (v) Mount Pearl North
- (vi) Mount Scio
- (vii) Portugal Cove-Bell Island
- (viii) St. John's Centre
- (ix) St. John's East-Quidi Vidi
- (x) St. John's West
- (xi) Topsail-Paradise
- (xii) Virginia Waters-Pleasantville
- (xiii) Waterford Valley, and
- (xiv) Windsor Lake

(2) Subsection 33.1(3) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

(3) This section shall apply only to members who represent the districts of

- (a) Ferryland (South of Witless Bay Line)
- (b) Harbour Grace-Port de Grave
- (c) Harbour Main
- (d) Placentia-St. Mary's
- (e) Placentia West-Bellevue; and
- (f) Trinity-Bay de Verde

(3) Subsection 37.1(2) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

(2) The districts to which subsection (1) applies are:

- (a) BaieVerte-Green Bay
- (b) Burgeo-La Poile
- (c) Burin-Grand Bank
- (d) Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair
- (e) Corner Brook
- (f) Exploits
- (g) Fogo Island-Cape Freels
- (h) Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune
- (i) Grand Falls-Windsor-Buchans
- (j) Gros Morne
- (k) Humber- Bay of Islands
- (l) Labrador West
- (m) Lake Melville
- (n) Lewisporte-Twillingate
- (o) St. Barbe-L'Anse aux Meadows
- (p) St. George's-Grand Lake
- (q) Stephenville-Port au Port; and
- (r) Torngat Mountains

(4) Schedule A of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

Schedule A
House Operations
Estimates of Intra-constituency Costs

District No.	Electoral District	Total
1	Baie Verte-Green Bay	\$12,600
2	Bonavista	11,200
3	Burgeo-La Poile	11,300
4	Burin-Grand Bank	12,700
5	Cape St. Francis	7,200
6	Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair	25,600
7	Conception Bay South	6,100
8	Corner Brook	6,000
9	Exploits	10,800
10	Ferryland	10,100
11	Fogo Island-Cape Freels	12,700
12	Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune	16,300
13	Gander	7,700
14	Grand Falls-Windsor-Buchans	9,100
15	Gros Morne	12,600
16	Harbour Grace-Port de Grave	7,700
17	Harbour Main	7,600
18	Humber-Bay of Islands	12,500
19	Labrador West	6,600
20	Lake Melville	8,000
21	Lewisporte-Twillingate	9,200
22	Mount Pearl North	6,000
23	Mount Pearl – Southlands	6,000
24	Mount Scio	6,000
25	Placentia-St. Mary's	11,500
26	Placentia West-Bellevue	13,800
27	Portugal Cove-Bell Island	7,700
28	St. Barbe-L'Anse aux Meadows	12,200
29	St. George's – Grand Lake	8,400
30	St. John's Centre	6,000
31	St. John's East-QuidiVidi	6,000
32	St. John's West	6,000
33	Stephenville-Port au Port	6,800
34	Terra Nova	12,700
35	Topsail-Paradise	6,000
36	Torngat Mountains	20,700
37	Trinity-Bay de Verde	8,600
38	Virginia Waters-Pleasantville	6,000
39	Waterford Valley	6,000
40	Windsor Lake	6,000
	Total	\$386,000

2. Section 1 shall come into force the day immediately following the general election which occurs immediately after the coming into force of this Act.

Proposed Allocations for Schedule A

- Schedule A of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules specifies the amount allocated to each district for Intra-Constituency Travel (commonly referred to as I&E)
- The method of developing the I&E amount for each district was established in ***Rebuilding Confidence: Report of the Review Commission on Constituency Allowances and Related Matters***, Appendix 10.3 refers.
- Since the original I&E amounts were established, there have been several adjustments as a result of Members Compensation Review Committee (MCRC) recommendations and directives from the Management Commission. Specifically:
 - As a result of MCRC 2012 recommendations, the helicopter allocation was removed from the I&E and established as a separate allowance. Several districts were also provided an increase in the mileage allocation used to calculate the allowance.
 - In 2013, a 20% reduction was applied to each district's I&E allocation as a cost reduction measure.
 - In 2014, the allocation for eight districts changed as a result of redistributing the mileage allocation by reducing it in four districts and increasing it in four other districts to address shortfalls in those districts.
- To establish I&E allocations for the proposed new districts, the following approach was followed:
 - The template set out in Rebuilding Confidence was used with the amendments above incorporated into it.
 - The Economics and Statistics Branch of the Department of Finance provided estimates of the kms of roads in each of the current and proposed districts.
 - The proposed districts were compared with the size of existing districts based on the estimated kms of roads in each.
- For most of the proposed new districts, the I&E allocation for a current district that is substantially incorporated into a proposed districts is suggested as the allocation for the proposed districts. Where the size of the proposed district, exceeded the size of the current district used as the base, funding for additional mileage was allocated as follows:
 - Less than 100 km: No change in allocation
 - 100-200: An additional 2000 km added to allocation
 - 200-300: An additional 3000 km added to allocation
 - 300-400: An additional 4000 km added to allocation

- Based on the final recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Review Commission, the following are the districts where additional mileage was allocated.

Proposed District	Rationale
Baie Verte – Green Bay	The proposed district includes the current Baie Verte-Springdale district as well as a portion of the current Grand Falls-Windsor-Green Bay South district. The size of the new district will be approximately 190 km larger than the current Baie Verte-Springdale. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current allocation for the Baie Verte-Springdale with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,600.
Bonavista	The proposed district includes the current Bonavista South district and a portion of the current Terra Nova and Trinity North districts. The proposed district will be approximately 250 km larger than the current Bonavista South district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current allocation for Bonavista South with funding for an additional 3,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$11,200.
Burin-Grand Bank	The proposed district is approximately 140 km larger than the current Grand Bank district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance for Grand Bank with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,700.
Corner Brook	The proposed district is not comparable to any current district. It is confined within the municipal boundaries similar to the urban districts of the Northeast Avalon. It is suggested the district of Corner Brook be given funding for 7000 km with an allocation of \$6,000, which is the same as the existing urban districts.
Exploits	The proposed district is approximately 190 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$10,800.
Fogo Island-Cape Freels	The proposed district encompasses a large portion of the current Bonavista North district, a portion of the Isles of Notre Dame district (Fogo and Change Islands) and a portion of the Lewisporte district. It is suggested the allocation for the proposed district be based on the Bonavista North allocation with the addition of ferry travel from the Isles of Notre Dame. As it is approximately 210

Proposed District	Rationale
	km larger than the current Bonavista North district, funding for an additional 3000 km is suggested. The proposed allocation is \$12,700.
Gros Morne	The proposed district largely encompasses a portion of the current St. Barbe district and a portion of the Humber Valley district. The proposed district is approximately 125 km larger than the current district of St. Barbe. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current St. Barbe allocation with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,600.
Harbour Main	The proposed district is approximately 110 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$7,600.
Placentia West-Bellevue	The proposed district is based substantially on the current district of Bellevue with portions of the current Burin-Placentia West and Placentia-St. Mary's districts added. It is approximately 160 km larger than the current Bellevue district. It is suggested the allocation be based on Bellevue with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$13,800.
St. Barbe – L'Anse aux Meadows	The proposed district largely encompasses the Straits-White Bay North district with a portion of the current St. Barbe district. The proposed district is approximately 305 km larger than the current Straits-White Bay North district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current The Straits-White Bay North allocation with funding for an additional 4,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,200.
St. George's – Grand Lake	The proposed district is approximately 170 km larger than the current St. Georges – Stephenville East district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current St. Georges – Stephenville East allocation with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$8,400.