



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RULE AMENDMENT (SECTION 33) – COMMUTING FROM OUTSIDE CAPITAL REGION

Effective Date: April 26, 2013	Commission Minute: CM 2013-042
Subject: Commuting from Outside Capital Region	Reference: HoaMC Meeting – March 20, 2013 ➤ Agenda Item # 4 HoaMC Meeting – April 23, 2013 ➤ Agenda Item # 4
Issued To: All Members of the House of Assembly; Comptroller General; Directors of Government Accounting, Professional Services and Internal Audit, OMSP, and Corporate Services; Office of the Auditor General; Office Managers of Government Caucus, Official Opposition Caucus, NDP Caucus; Assistant Deputy Clerk, Executive Council; Director of Operations, Office of the Premier.	Contact: Marlene Lambe Chief Financial Officer 729-2923

BACKGROUND

Under the provisions of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules), a Member whose permanent residence is outside the commuting distance of 60 kilometers or less, but still within reasonable driving distance of the Capital Region, could not claim for daily travel costs of driving from their permanent residence to the Capital to attend sittings of the House. A Member in this circumstance was only eligible to claim one return trip per week to the Capital Region along with the cost of meals and accommodations of staying in the Capital Region during the sitting week.

The 2012 Members' Compensation Review Committee (MCRC) conducted a review of allowance provisions for Members. In its report, the MCRC recommended that a Member in the circumstances described above be permitted to claim either the daily transportation costs of commuting from his/her permanent residence to the Capital Region when the House is in Session, or to claim the cost of one return trip per week to the Capital Region along with meals and accommodations. The Commission adopted the recommendation of the MCRC at its February 27, 2013 meeting.

Appropriate approvals for the required amendments to Section 33 have been received from the House of Assembly Management Commission and by resolution of the House of Assembly as required under the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*. The effect of the amendments is that Members of the seven districts noted in subsection 33.1(3) can claim only transportation costs if they choose to travel daily from their permanent residence to the Capital Region when the House is in Session.

The Rules are amended by adding immediately after section 33 the following:

33.1 (1) Notwithstanding sections 31 and 33, a member whose permanent residence is outside the capital region at a distance greater than commuting distance may opt to travel between that residence and the capital region each day that the House of Assembly is in session and sitting and may claim the actual transportation cost of each daily return trip.

(2) A member who opts to claim an actual transportation cost for a day under subsection (1) cannot claim for costs described in paragraphs 31(1)(b) and (c) and 33(b) and (c).

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

- a) Bellevue*
- b) Carbonear-Harbour Grace*
- c) Ferryland*
- d) Harbour Main*
- e) Placentia-St. Mary's*
- f) Port de Grave; and*
- g) Trinity-Bay de Verde.*

The amendments to Section 33 came into force on April 26, 2013, the date of publication in the NL Gazette.



Sandra Barnes
Clerk of the House of Assembly