



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
RULE AMENDMENT (SECTION 20) - SHORT-TERM
ACCOMMODATIONS

Effective Date: June 08, 2012	Commission Minute: CM 2012-008
Subject: Short-term Accommodations	Reference: HoaMC Meeting – January 25, 2012 ➤ Agenda Item # 4 HoaMC Meeting – April 25, 2012 ➤ Agenda Item # 3
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

Rule 20(7) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) provides up to \$750 annually for rental of short-term accommodations to facilitate meetings with constituents for Members who represent districts located wholly outside the Capital Region. There are 15 districts within the Capital Region as defined by the Rules. While the definition might establish a reasonable commuting distance for Members, it does not necessarily follow that constituents of these 15 districts should have to come to Confederation Building for meetings with their MHA.

Short-term rental costs are not an eligible expense under any other allowance category. As a result, a Capital Region Member who establishes a constituency office outside of Confederation Building has no capacity to rent short-term meeting space.

The Commission at its meetings on January 25, 2012 and April 25, 2012 discussed the issue and approved an amendment to Section 20(7) of the Rules removing the restriction for Capital region Members.

Section 20(7) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

- (7) A member may rent short-term accommodation in one or more locations in the member's constituency from time to time, up to a maximum of \$750 annually to facilitate the travel of the member throughout the district to meet with residents on constituency issues.

The amendments to section 20(7) came into force on June 8, 2012, the date of publication in the NL Gazette.

William MacKenzie
Clerk of the House of Assembly