



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Minutes of the House of Assembly
Management Commission**

Date: October 15, 2008

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, Speaker

Mr. William MacKenzie, Clerk of the House of Assembly

Hon. Joan Burke, Government House Leader

Mr. Kelvin Parsons, Opposition House Leader

Ms. Beth Marshall, MHA (PC) Topsail

Ms. Lorraine Michael, MHA (NDP) Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi

Hon. Trevor Taylor, MHA (PC) The Straits - White Bay North

Ms. Yvonne Jones, MHA (L) Cartwright - L'Anse Au Clair

Other:

Ms. Marlene Lambe, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy & Communications Officer

CM 2008 – 079

The minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meeting held on July 3, 2008 were approved as read.

Reports

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, provided the Commission with an update on the work of the Audit Committee.

The Clerk reported on an authorization of approval to purchase a table for the office of Ms. Tracey Perry, MHA, Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune.

CM 2008 – 080 The Commission, at an *in camera* session, recommended to Executive Council that [Candidate A] be appointed Law Clerk of the House of Assembly and that the Government House Leader introduce a Resolution to this effect, following which, if approved by the House, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council confirm the appointment.

CM 2008 – 081 The Commission classified the position of Law Clerk of the House of Assembly as SL-05 on the Solicitors' Pay Plan.

CM 2008 – 082 The Commission gave final approval to the following amendment to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*:

Section 45 of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

Committee allowance

- 45 (1) A member who is a member of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission may claim for reasonable expenses related to attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (2) A member who is a member of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission, other than a chair, may claim a daily amount of \$145 for attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (3) A member who is a chair of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission may claim a daily amount of \$190 for attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) shall not apply to a member who is a minister or who holds a position referred to in subsection 12(1) of the Act.
- (5) Reasonable expenses claimed under subsection (1) shall be
 - (a) in accordance with the Travel and Allowance rates permitted under these Rules; and
 - (b) approved by the Speaker before being reimbursed to the member.

CM 2008 – 083 The Commission gave first approval to the following proposed amendment of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*:

Subsection 41(2) of the *Members' Resources and Allowance Rules* is amended by adding immediately after paragraph (c) the following:

- (c.1) property taxes;

CM 2008 – 084

The Commission gave first approval to the following proposed amendment of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*:

Section 42 of the *Members' Resources and Allowance Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

Restriction on meal allowance

42. Where a member makes a claim under subsection 46(3) relating to a meal expense, the member shall not claim a meal allowance under this Part for that meal expense.

CM 2008 – 085

The Commission considered the recommendations of the Report on Caucus Resources and approved the following caucus resources:

1. Base Caucus Funding:

Government Members' Caucus and the Third Party Caucus shall be entitled to base caucus funding of \$100,000 per fiscal year for the purpose of research and administration.

2. Variable (per private Member) Funding:

Each caucus shall be entitled to \$18,000 per fiscal year for each private Member, for the purpose of research and administration. A private Member is defined as a Member who is not the Speaker or a Member of Executive Council.

3. Allocation to Party Leaders:

The Leader of the Official Opposition shall be entitled to \$253,600 per fiscal year for core staff support. The Leader of the Third Party shall be entitled to 50% of the amount allocated to the Leader of the Official Opposition for that purpose.

4. Assistant to House Leaders:

The Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader shall each be entitled to an assistant to be paid on the PS-05 salary scale.

5. Salary Adjustments:

The allocations under items 1 to 4 above shall reflect any salary adjustments made to the Management Pay Plan of the Executive Branch, beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

6. Operational Funding:

Each caucus shall be entitled to \$100 per month for each Member of that caucus, with a monthly minimum of \$800, to fund miscellaneous operational purchases. The Speaker shall be entitled to \$100 per month. Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, this allocation shall be adjusted based on the provincial Consumer Price Index for the prior calendar year. Guidelines respecting eligible and ineligible purchases under this allocation shall be determined by the Commission. Each caucus shall submit a report detailing

expenditures on the use of this allocation to the Commission within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

7. Funding Adjustments:

When a caucus increases in number and becomes entitled to additional amounts, that increase shall be effective immediately. When a caucus decreases in number, the calculated reduced amount shall not take effect until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

8. Caucus Management:

Each caucus will designate an administrative staff person to liaise with the Office of the Clerk and Corporate and Members' Services Division on financial and human resource management matters.

CM 2008 – 086 Implementation in the current fiscal year of the decisions outlined in **CM 2008-085** is subject to availability of funds.

CM 2008 – 087 The Commission deferred a decision on Recommendations 2, 16 and 17 of the report on the Review of Caucus Resources to a subsequent meeting of the Commission.

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.
Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Wm. MacKenzie
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission