



ACTIVITY PLAN 2023-26

Commissioner for Legislative Standards



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR LEGISLATIVE STANDARDS

It is with pleasure that I present the 2023-2026 Activity Plan for the Office of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards.

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards is responsible for the enforcement of the Conflict of Interest provisions under the **House of Assembly Act** (Part II – Conflict of Interest) and the Codes of Conduct provisions of Part V of the **House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act**. The Commissioner may provide advice and recommendations to members of the House of Assembly in the filing of their annual disclosure statements and is responsible for reporting to the Speaker annually on the affairs of the Commissioner. In addition, the Commissioner is responsible for hearing appeals of public office holders under the **Conflict of Interest Act, 1995**.

This document describes the Commissioner for Legislative Standards' activity plan for the next three years, which includes facilitating member compliance with legislation.

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards is considered a Category 3 entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. Therefore, an Activity Plan that sets a clear direction of the actions that have to be completed to fulfill the mandate of the Commissioner must be prepared. As the Commissioner for Legislative Standards, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of its goals and objectives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Chafe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

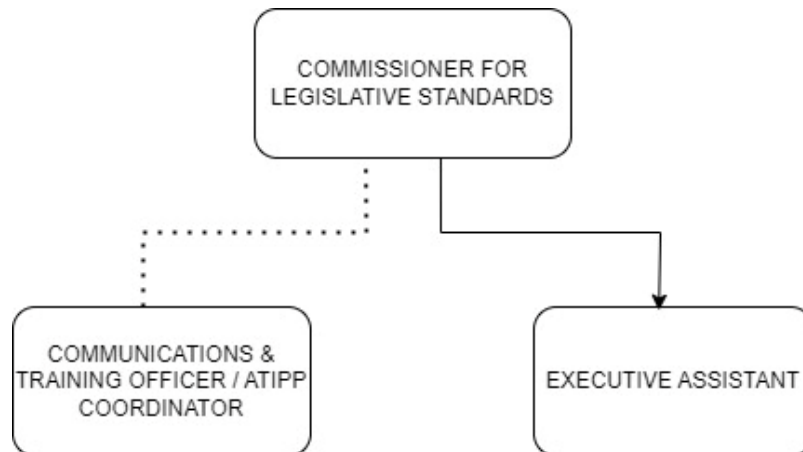
Ann Chafe
Commissioner for Legislative Standards (Acting)

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INTRODUCTION

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards is a statutory officer of the House of Assembly.



In addition to the responsibilities assigned under the **House of Assembly Act** and the **House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act**, the Commissioner is also responsible for hearing appeals of public office holders under the **Conflict of Interest Act, 1995**.

The Commissioner's office is located at 39 Hallett Crescent, St. John's, NL, A1B 4C4. The telephone number is (709) 729-0714 and the fax number is (709) 729-0679.

MANDATE

Under the **House of Assembly Act** (Part II – Conflict of Interest), the Commissioner is responsible for the enforcement of the Conflict of Interest provisions of the Act as they pertain to current and former Members of the House of Assembly (MHAs).

On April 1st of each year, every elected MHA is required to file disclosure statements with the Commissioner. After doing so, the Commissioner prepares public disclosure statements for each member, which are then made available for viewing by the public.

The Commissioner may provide advice to members regarding whether or not steps need to be taken to ensure their obligations under legislation are fulfilled. The Commissioner may also be required to provide opinions, make recommendations or conduct inquiries

on matters pertaining to the obligations of members under Part II of the **House of Assembly Act** or under the Codes of Conduct provisions of Part V of the **House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act**.

As an officer of the House of Assembly, the Commissioner must report annually on the affairs of the office to the Speaker of the House of Assembly, who then presents the report to the House of Assembly.

The mandate of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards is to ensure that all members follow the Conflict of Interest and Codes of Conduct legislation and to hear appeals of public office holders.

VISION

The office of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards' vision is to maintain an environment where the highest standards of integrity are in place for the House of Assembly.

LINES OF BUSINESS

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards provides the following lines of business in carrying out the mandate:

Inquiries

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards may conduct inquiries to determine whether a member has failed to fulfill an obligation under the conflict of interest provisions of the **House of Assembly Act** or the code of conduct provisions of the **House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act**.

Disclosure Statements

Every elected member and appointed Minister is required to file with the Commissioner a disclosure statement within 60 days of his or her election or appointment, before the second April 1st following this date and before each April 1st thereafter. The disclosure must be in a form determined by the Commissioner that is a full statement of the

member's private interests other than certain personal property identified under subparagraph 20(a)(iv) of the **House of Assembly Act**.

The Commissioner then prepares a public disclosure statement for each member, which is submitted to the member for review. All public disclosure statements are placed on file at the Commissioner's office and made available for public inspection during normal business hours.

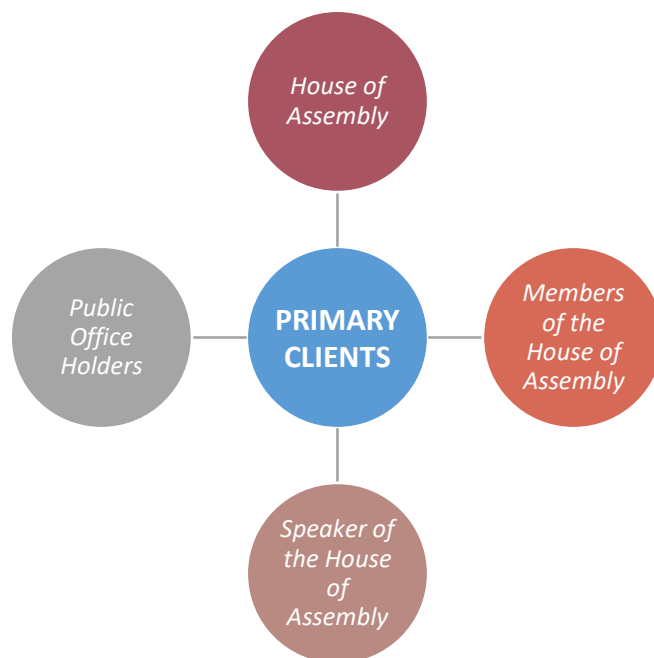
During this process, the Commissioner may provide advice, give an opinion and/or make recommendations to members to ensure the member has fulfilled the member's disclosure obligations under the Act.

Annual Reporting

The Commissioner reports annually upon the affairs of his/her office to the Speaker who presents the report to the House of Assembly.

PRIMARY CLIENTS

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards has four primary clients and they are as follows.



ACTIVITY

Compliance with Legislation

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards is assigned responsibility for investigating and conducting inquiries (if necessary) to determine whether a member has failed to fulfill any obligation under the Code of Conduct.

The Commissioner is also responsible for reporting to the House with recommendations as to appropriate sanctions similar to the ones that are available for breached Conflict of Interest duties in Part II of the **House of Assembly Act**. Therefore, the primary issue for the Commissioner for Legislative Standards is 'Ensuring Compliance with Legislation'.

The objective and indicators below will be reported on each year in the planning cycle.

Annual Objective: By March 2024, 2025, and 2026, the Commissioner for Legislative Standards will have facilitated member compliance with legislative requirements regarding annual disclosure statements.

Indicators:

- Provided support to members, as necessary
- Reviewed annual disclosure statements
- Provided advice to members, as necessary
- Responded to inquiries and/or complaints, as necessary

