Tabled by the Speaker
K. Hawkins-Gerson
October 26, 2026

Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 1

Member Consultations 1

Referred Questions – Reports 1

Disclosure Statements 2

Post Office Employment 2

Public Office Holder Appeals 2

Blind Trusts 3

Conferences / Meetings 3

Introduction

This report covers the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Member Consultations

The Commissioner's Office regularly deals with requests from Members seeking clarification, interpretation, or guidance respecting the obligations of the Member under conflict of interest legislation and/or the Member's code of conduct. In accordance with section 40(3) of the *House of Assembly Act,* an opinion offered by this office to a particular Member is privileged. The Member may, if they so choose, release a copy of such an opinion but the Office of the Commissioner may only do so with the consent of the Member in writing.

As such, Member consultations and opinions offered can only be referenced in this report in a manner that respects the confidential nature of that activity. Without referencing dates or specific issues, the cooperation of the Members involved is acknowledged and their desire to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the legislation is appreciated.

Referred Questions – Reports

The Commissioner's Office may also receive a request from a Member to conduct an inquiry and report on the activity of another Member with respect to conflict of interest provisions of the *House of Assembly Act* ("HOA") and/or the *House of Assembly, Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* ("HOAIA"). In such a case, the findings of the Commissioner are not privileged and would typically result in a report to the Member involved and to the House itself.

Alternatively, the Commissioner may initiate an inquiry into the activity of a Member with respect to conflict of interest provisions of the *House of Assembly Act* ("HOA") and/or the *House of Assembly, Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* ("HOAIA") when it is in the public interest to do so. In such a case, the findings of the Commissioner are not privileged and would typically result in a report to the Member involved and to the House itself.

Disclosure Statements

Paragraph 36(1)(b) of the *House of Assembly Act* requires every elected Member or appointed Minister to file a Disclosure Statement on or before April 1st of each calendar year. In addition, Paragraph 36(1)(c) requires every elected Member or appointed Minister to file a Disclosure within 60 days of his/her election/appointment.

Once filed, these disclosure statements are reviewed by the Commissioner and a Public Disclosure Statement is prepared for the signature of the Member. The review process can take a considerable amount of time as it often involves back and forth communication between the Member and the Commissioner. In some cases, the Commissioner may recommend that a Member place some or all of their business interests in a blind trust.

Year 2025 was unique in that there was a 30% turnover in Members of the House of Assembly. The Commissioner met with all newly elected Members to discuss Disclosure Statements, the *House of Assembly Act*, *Code of Conduct for Members*, and *Conflict of Interest*.

All the resultant Public Disclosure Statements are on file in the Commissioner's office and are available for public inspection.

Post Office Employment

The Commissioner was consulted by Members leaving the House of Assembly in relation to their post office employment and the application of Section 30 of the *House of Assembly Act*.

Public Office Holder Appeals

During the year, there were no appeals received from a public office holder in accordance with s.17 of the *Conflict of Interest Act*, 1995.

Blind Trusts

As previously reported, an issue that often arises is with respect to the requirement for a Minister to place certain private interests in a blind trust. Currently there is a conflict between the legislation and policy. The policy requires all Ministers to put private interests in a trust without any consideration about whether or not the private interest could actually result in a potential conflict. This is in contradiction with the legislation, which requires the Commissioner to make a determination on a case by case basis about whether or not a private interest should be placed in a trust. Given the continued cost to the taxpayers associated with establishing and maintaining a trust, a decision was made to follow the legislation instead of the policy.

Conferences / Meetings

Annual conferences and meetings provide Commissioners with an opportunity to exchange information on issues of common interest and review legislative and regulatory differences and trends. The Commissioner did not attend the annual conference on governmental ethics and law in Atlanta, Georgia. The Commissioner did attend the conference for the Canadian Conflict of Interest Network in Victoria, British Columbia.