



House of Assembly Chamber
Newfoundland and Labrador



2025-26 Annual Performance Report House of Assembly Service



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MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER



I am pleased to present the 2025-26 Annual Performance Report of the House of Assembly Service (the Service). This report outlines the accomplishments of the Service toward the objectives for the reporting period as identified in the 2023-26 Activity Plan.

The *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* establishes the Service by statute to support the functioning of the House of Assembly and its Committees, the Management Commission and Audit Committee, and Members of the House of Assembly.

I directed preparation of this report in accordance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 entity. As the Speaker, I am accountable for the actual results reported in this document.

Hon. Paul Lane, MHA
Speaker of the House of Assembly



OVERVIEW

The *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* (HOAAIAA) establishes the House of Assembly Service (the Service) by statute to support the functioning of the House of Assembly and its Committees, the House of Assembly Management Commission (the Commission) and Audit Committee, and Members of the House of Assembly (MHAs). The Service supports the work of the legislative branch of government (the Legislature), which has three main constitutional functions:

1. Passing legislation that provides power to the Executive branch;
2. Reviewing finances of the Executive branch and granting supply; and
3. Oversight of policies and activities of the Executive branch.

The Legislature of Newfoundland and Labrador includes:

- 40 elected Members and their constituency assistants;
- Caucus operations comprising the core support and research employees of the caucuses and independent Members;
- House of Assembly Service comprising the Office of the Speaker, Office of the Clerk, Information Management Division and Corporate and Members' Services Division; and
- Statutory offices, which include the Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Citizens' Representative, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards and the Office of the Seniors' Advocate.

The Legislature operates under the constitutional authority of a Westminster-style parliament and governs itself according to the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly; the *House of Assembly Act*; the HOAAIAA; internal and external precedents and parliamentary authorities; unwritten rules and conventions; as well as other applicable legal authorities.

The House of Assembly Service provides non-partisan services in the areas of parliamentary procedure, administrative support and information services to the institution of Parliament, the Speaker and other presiding officers, and elected Members in the performance of constitutional functions.

The Speaker is the impartial Presiding Officer of the House and is the guardian of its rights and privileges. As established by statute, the Speaker must also act as the Chair of the Management Commission. The Office of the Speaker provides support to the Speaker in carrying out these duties and responsibilities.

The Clerk is the non-partisan, chief permanent officer of the House, whose duties encompass two main areas: Chief Parliamentary Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. The Office of the Clerk supports the activities of the Clerk of the House of Assembly in all parliamentary and administrative matters.



The House of Assembly Service also includes the following divisions:

- Corporate and Members' Services, which is responsible for the functions of accounts payable; financial planning and reporting; general operations and purchasing; and human resources services and payroll administration;
- Information Management, which is responsible for the functions of proceedings support and procedural research; the Legislative Library; Hansard; and records management.
- Committees, Policy and Communications, which is responsible for the functions of Standing and Select Committees support; secretariat support to the Management Commission and Audit Committee; strategic communications; broadcast services; and visitor services and education.

Contact Information:

Office of the Clerk – House of Assembly
Main Floor, East Block – Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: 709-729-3405
Email: clerkhoa@assembly.nl.ca
Website: www.assembly.nl.ca



HIGHLIGHTS & PARTNERSHIPS

A core constitutional mandate of the House of Assembly Service is to support the functioning of parliament in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and to support all elected Members in the performance of their constitutional roles and responsibilities. In the parliamentary aspect, the 2025-26 reporting period saw the continuation and dissolution of the Second Session of the 50th General Assembly, as well as the constitution of the First Session of the 51st General Assembly. On September 15, 2025, the 50th General Assembly dissolved with the issuance of writs to returning officers in all 40 provincial electoral districts for a general election to be held on October 14.

With returns published on October 20, the election resulted in 21 seats for the Progressive Conservative Party and 15 for the Liberal Party. The New Democratic Party maintained its count of two seats, and two independent Members were re-elected. This result marked the province's first change in government since 2015.

The swearing-in for Members-elect of the 51st General Assembly eligible to take their oaths took place on November 3, 2025. The House also convened that day for the election of Speaker. As of the close of nominations on Friday, October 31, unaffiliated MHA Paul Lane was the only Member to submit a notice of intent for election to the Office of Speaker, and in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Standing Orders, he was acclaimed to the position. The swearing-in of Members and election of Speaker marked the formal constitution of the 51st General Assembly.

In accordance with the parliamentary calendar, the 2026 Spring sitting commenced on March 2, 2026. Her Honour The Honourable Joan Marie J. Aylward, O.N.L., E.C.N.L., B.N., R.N., ICD.D., Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered the Speech from the Throne beginning the First Session of the 51st General Assembly.

The following is a summary of statistics for House sittings from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026:

	Fiscal year totals <i>Note: The House of Assembly did not sit for a Fall 2025 sitting following the General Election.</i>	
	Minutes	Hours
Sitting time total	6630	110.5
Sitting days	15	
Bills passed	6	



REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

A main priority for the House of Assembly Service is to ensure fulfillment of the primary role of Parliament as the elected body that approves legislation and holds oversight of the Government within provincial jurisdiction in accordance with the Constitution of Canada.

ISSUE 1: SUPPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION & AUDIT COMMITTEE

The House of Assembly Management Commission establishes, implements and controls financial and administrative policies applicable to the House of Assembly, the Service and the statutory offices. The Commission oversees the finances of the House of Assembly, including its budget, revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities. It ensures the proper administration of allowances for Members, as well as reimbursement and payment of their expenditures.

The support of the Service is critical to the Commission in carrying out its mandate as established in the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*.

Objectives:

By March 31, 2026, the House of Assembly Service will have supported the operations of the House of Assembly Management Commission and Audit Committee.

Planned Results	Actual Results
Conducted research and prepared all briefing materials necessary for meetings of the Commission and Audit Committee.	During the report period, the Commission held 8 meetings and the Audit Committee held 6 meetings. The Service conducted research and prepared briefing materials and other supporting documents as required for each meeting. Commission briefing materials, except for <i>in camera</i> meetings, can be viewed at: www.assembly.nl.ca/ManComm/Meetings/
Prepared and distributed minutes of all Commission and Audit Committee meetings.	The minutes for all meetings of the Commission were prepared, approved, distributed, tabled in the House of Assembly and posted to the House of Assembly website as required under the HOAAIAA. All Commission minutes for the reporting period can be viewed at:



Planned Results	Actual Results
	www.assembly.nl.ca/ManComm/Meetings/ Minutes of all Audit Committee meetings were prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with the processes established by the Committee.
Tracked all decisions of the Commission and Audit Committee, and completed the work necessary to properly action them.	All decisions of the Management Commission and Audit Committee during the reporting period were appropriately actioned and completed, where possible.
Updated and maintained manuals and templates that support the work of the Commission and Audit Committee, as necessary.	Updates and revisions were undertaken to the orientation and training materials for the Management Commission and Audit Committee for the transition to the 51 st General Assembly.
Developed and maintained orientation and training materials for members of the Commission and Audit Committee, and facilitated their delivery to new members, as required.	All members appointed to the Management Commission and Audit Committee at the beginning of the 51 st General Assembly received orientation and training on their roles.

Discussion of Results

The House of Assembly Service fulfilled its mandate to support the operations of the House of Assembly Management Commission and Audit Committee throughout the reporting period by ensuring that briefing materials and supporting documents were prepared and distributed for all meetings, that minutes were approved and that decisions were appropriately actioned, where possible.



ISSUE 2: SUPPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A main line of business for the Service is providing support to all Members of the House of Assembly. The Service is responsible for ensuring that Members have the tools and resources they require to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities as elected officials. While the Service provides supports and services to Members on an ongoing basis, the volume of work required increases following general elections and by-elections. A provincial general election took place in October 2025 which required extensive additional planning and work by the Service to ensure the necessary tools and resources were in place to support the transition between general assemblies.

By March 31, 2026, the Service will have continued to provide the necessary support to Members of the House of Assembly.

Indicators:

Planned Results	Actual Results
Revised and updated Member guides, manuals and orientation materials, as required.	Significant updates and revisions were undertaken to the Members' Guide to Resources and Allowances and the Members' Parliamentary Guide in preparation for the transition to the 51 st General Assembly.
Provided training and orientation to Members, constituency assistants and caucus support staff, as required.	Orientation and training to newly elected Members of the 51 st General Assembly was delivered in three phases between November 2025 and March 2026. Phase one focused on topics such as Structure of Responsible Government, Separation of Powers and Role of MHAs; MHA Conduct and Accountability; Overview of the House of Assembly Service; and Overview of MHA Resources and Allowances. Phase two focused on topics such as Conducting Constituency Business and Office Operations; MHA Travel and Living; and MHA Records and Protection of Privacy. Phase three focused on the parliamentary aspect of a Member's role including Parliamentary Procedures and Practice; the Legislative Process and Progress of a Bill; and the Budget and Related Proceedings.
Provided ongoing services to support Members in carrying out their constitutional roles as elected officials,	The Service provided non-partisan services to all Members and their staff, as required. This included support in submitting and



Planned Results	Actual Results
as required.	processing expense claims, purchasing goods and services, providing parliamentary and legal advice, tendering, acquiring and setting up constituency offices, and providing research and reference support.

Discussion of Results

The core mandate of the House of Assembly Service is to provide non-partisan support, services and advice to all 40 Members to assist them in carrying out their role as elected officials. A wide variety of services are provided to Members on a daily basis, ranging from expense-claims processing, purchasing of goods and services, library reference and research, acquiring and setting up constituency offices, providing advice and guidance on the management of records, and providing parliamentary and procedural advice.

During the reporting period, the Service delivered an extensive orientation and training program for newly elected MHAs for the transition to the 51st General Assembly. In addition, extensive work was completed to update training and orientation materials for presiding officers of the House of Assembly, include the launch of a new presiding officers handbook.



ISSUE 3: SUPPORT TO STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES

Another main line of business for the Service includes support to the Standing and Select Committees of the House of Assembly. The Committees, Policy and Communications division, and other areas of the Service as required, provides supports to assist Standing and Select Committees in their work, such as procedural advice and expertise, research, report writing, media relations and legal advice.

Objectives:

By March 31, 2026, the Service will have continued to provide support, as required, to Standing and Select Committees of the House of Assembly.

Indicators:

Planned Results	Actual Results
Organized logistics for Committee meetings, including the preparation of meeting agendas, minutes and clerking Committee meetings.	During the reporting period, the Standing Committees of the House were very active, requiring extensive procedural, operational, logistical and research support of the House of Assembly Service. The following provides a breakdown of the number of meetings for each Standing Committee in the reporting period: Government Services Committee – 5 Public Accounts Committee – 8 Resource Committee – 5 Social Services Committee – 5 The following provides a breakdown of the number of reports tabled by each Standing Committee in the House of Assembly: Government Services Committee – 1 Resource Committee – 1 Social Services Committee – 1 There were no Select Committees struck by the House of Assembly during the reporting period.
Provided procedural, legal and operational advice, as required.	
Conducted non-partisan research and reference support, as required.	
Drafted Committee reports and other documents, as required.	During the reporting period, staff in the Committees, Policy and Communications division undertook significant updates to the Parliamentary Committees Guide and
Developed and updated related orientation and training materials, as required.	



Planned Results	Actual Results
	related training module in preparation for the transition to the 51 st General Assembly.

Discussion of Results

During the reporting period, the Service carried out significant work and planning to support the work and operations of Standing Committees of the House. This work included planning and logistics for all Committee meetings, provision of procedural and legal advice and expertise, research and analysis of issues under consideration by each Committee, drafting of Committee minutes and reports, the updating of orientation and training materials, and media relations.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following financial information was extrapolated from the 2026 Estimates tabled in the House of Assembly. The Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 31 March 2026 was not released as of the tabling deadline for this report (September 30, 2026).

This report will be re-tabled once financial information from the Report on Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund is available.



LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

	2026-27 Estimates \$	2025-26 Revised \$	Budget \$
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
1.1.01. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT			
Appropriations provide for the Office of the Clerk and the financial, human resource and administrative activities associated with the operations of the Legislature.			
01. Salaries	1,774,200	1,856,400	1,887,000
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	4,500	8,500	4,500
Transportation and Communications	59,400	54,400	59,400
Supplies	38,600	46,200	36,200
Professional Services	101,300	89,500	88,500
Purchased Services	156,500	88,100	96,400
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	92,500	77,500	92,500
02. Operating Accounts	452,800	364,200	377,500
Amount to be Voted	2,227,000	2,220,600	2,264,500
02. Revenue - Provincial	(32,000)	(1,800)	-
Total: Administrative Support	2,195,000	2,218,800	2,264,500
1.1.02. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY, PROCEEDINGS SUPPORT AND RESEARCH, RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND HANSARD			
Appropriations provide for the operations of the Legislative Library and activities related to proceedings support and procedural research, records management, and production and publication of verbatim reports and sessional records.			
01. Salaries	1,262,500	1,167,500	1,207,500
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	1,200	1,300	1,200
Transportation and Communications	10,500	4,500	10,500
Supplies	116,300	113,900	113,900
Purchased Services	6,000	6,000	6,000
02. Operating Accounts	134,000	125,700	131,600
Amount to be Voted	1,396,500	1,293,200	1,339,100
Total: Legislative Library, Proceedings Support and Research, Records Management and Hansard	1,396,500	1,293,200	1,339,100



LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

	2026-27 Estimates \$	2025-26 Revised \$	Budget \$
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (Cont'd)			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
1.1.03. COMMITTEES, POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Appropriations provide for the activities associated with parliamentary and administrative support for Standing and Select Committees; secretariat and policy support for the Management Commission and Audit Committee; strategic communications support for the House of Assembly and the Offices of the Speaker and Clerk; and broadcasting services for proceedings of the House, Committees, and Management Commission.			
01. Salaries	778,400	774,600	650,900
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	1,300	1,300	1,300
Transportation and Communications	54,800	9,800	54,800
Supplies	9,200	6,700	9,200
Purchased Services	107,300	96,200	91,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	10,000	10,000	10,000
02. Operating Accounts	182,600	124,000	166,300
Amount to be Voted	961,000	898,600	817,200
Total: Committees, Policy and Communications	961,000	898,600	817,200
1.1.04. MEMBERS' RESOURCES			
Appropriations provide for expenses of the Members of the House of Assembly and associated support staff.			
01. Salaries	7,095,800	7,384,600	7,121,800
Operating Accounts:			
Transportation and Communications	5,200	40,600	5,200
Purchased Services	10,000	16,300	10,000
02. Operating Accounts	15,200	56,900	15,200
09. Allowances and Assistance	2,360,900	1,130,900	2,360,900
10. Grants and Subsidies	1,800	2,600	3,500
Amount to be Voted	9,473,700	8,575,000	9,501,400
02. Revenue - Provincial	-	(75,000)	-
Total: Members' Resources	9,473,700	8,500,000	9,501,400



LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

	2026-27 Estimates \$	2025-26 Revised \$	Budget \$
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (Cont'd)			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
1.1.05. HOUSE OPERATIONS			
Appropriations provide for the costs associated with the Speaker's Office, the Operations of Committees of the House and the Management Commission.			
01. Salaries	220,200	180,200	220,200
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	5,900	-	5,900
Transportation and Communications	125,000	16,000	125,000
Supplies	16,500	11,500	14,500
Professional Services	3,900	1,500	3,900
Purchased Services	114,900	40,000	41,500
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	1,700	-	1,700
02. Operating Accounts	267,900	69,000	192,500
00. Grants and Subsidies	21,800	11,800	11,800
Amount to be Voted	509,900	261,000	424,500
02. Revenue - Provincial	(19,800)	(28,900)	-
Total: House Operations	490,100	232,100	424,500
1.1.06. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS CAUCUS			
Appropriations provide for the costs associated with the operations of the Government Members Caucus.			
01. Salaries	406,000	415,300	328,300
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	1,000	-	900
Transportation and Communications	14,600	15,900	21,300
Supplies	8,200	6,500	8,000
Purchased Services	7,100	6,800	6,800
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	2,000	1,700	1,700
02. Operating Accounts	32,900	30,900	38,700
00. Grants and Subsidies	37,000	34,600	36,600
Amount to be Voted	475,900	480,800	403,600
Total: Government Members Caucus	475,900	480,800	403,600



LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

	2026-27 Estimates \$	2025-26 Revised \$	Budget \$
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (Cont'd)			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
1.1.07. OFFICIAL OPPOSITION CAUCUS			
Appropriations provide for the costs associated with the Leader of the Official Opposition and operations of the Official Opposition Caucus.			
01. Salaries	1,240,700	1,440,900	1,214,900
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	3,000	1,600	3,000
Transportation and Communications	84,800	70,100	75,100
Supplies	24,300	17,000	25,000
Purchased Services	22,000	7,000	22,500
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	5,800	4,000	6,000
02. Operating Accounts	139,900	99,700	131,600
10. Grants and Subsidies	26,400	24,400	24,400
Amount to be Voted	1,407,000	1,565,000	1,370,900
Total: Official Opposition Caucus	1,407,000	1,565,000	1,370,900
1.1.08. THIRD PARTY CAUCUS			
Appropriations provide for the costs associated with the operations of the Third Party Caucus including the Leader of the Third Party, when required.			
01. Salaries	434,800	404,800	434,800
Operating Accounts:			
Employee Benefits	1,000	1,800	1,000
Transportation and Communications	21,600	15,100	24,300
Supplies	8,400	4,700	8,100
Purchased Services	7,900	8,900	7,500
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	1,900	1,100	2,100
02. Operating Accounts	40,800	31,600	43,000
10. Grants and Subsidies	14,100	13,500	14,000
Amount to be Voted	489,700	449,900	491,800
Total: Third Party Caucus	489,700	449,900	491,800
TOTAL: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY	16,888,900	15,638,400	16,613,000
TOTAL: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY	16,888,900	15,638,400	16,613,000