



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: October 7, 2009

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 9:00 a.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

Hon. Jerome Kennedy, MHA (PC) Carbonear – Harbour Grace

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

Other:

Mr. Tom Osborne, Deputy Speaker

Marlene Lambe, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy and Communications Officer

Regrets:

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

CM 2009-044

The Commission, at an *in camera* meeting on August 12, 2009, directed the Clerk to write the Child and Youth Advocate inquiring as to the status of ongoing investigations by her office.

CM 2009-045

The minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meetings held on June 24, 2009 were approved as read.

The Speaker gave an update on authorizations made under subsection 18(4) of the *Members Resources and Allowances Rules* for the period ending September 30, 2009. The amount of \$18,080.00 (HST excluded) was approved for office accommodations for the Member for Trinity North, Mr. Ross Wiseman. The public tender resulted in one acceptable bid. The amount of \$183.00 (HST excluded) was approved for a sign for the constituency office of the Member for Port de Grave, Mr. Roland Butler, as the office sign was not part of the original tender. The amount of \$8,878.80 (HST excluded) was approved for office accommodations for the Member for Grand Bank, Mr. Darin King, as it was the low bid on public tender for office accommodations.

The Speaker reported the following authorizations for travel by other modes as provided for in Section 40 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, for the period ending September 30, 2009:

1. Boat charter for Ms. Yvonne Jones, Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair, for a return trip from Mary’s Harbour to Battle Harbour on July 15, 2009 at a cost of \$120.00 for the Member to attend a function in her district.
2. Helicopter Charter for Ms. Yvonne Jones, Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair, for a return trip from Mary’s Harbour to Norman Bay and Black Tickle, Highway Const Site on July 16, 2009 at a cost of \$17,887.47 to allow the Member to travel to isolated communities in her district to hold meetings and community consultations.
3. Aircraft Charter for Ms. Tracey Perry, Fortune – Cape La Hune, for a return trip from Harbour Breton to St. John’s on July 24, 2009 at a cost of \$1,166.16. This method of travel realized cost savings for time and travel for the Member.
4. Boat Charter for Ms. Tracey Perry, Fortune – Cape La Hune, from Harbour Breton to Gaultois, on August 7, 2009 at a cost of \$158.20 The Member could not take the regular ferry due to meetings that morning. The boat charter was the quickest means of transportation for her to be present at the Gaultois Day celebrations.
5. Aircraft Charter for Ms. Yvonne Jones, Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair, for a return trip from Goose Bay to Charlottetown on August 21, 2009 at a cost of \$2,764.60 as the Member was delayed by weather in Torngate Mountains and needed to get to her District for meetings.
6. Aircraft Charter for Ms. Yvonne Jones, Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair, for a return trip from Goose Bay to Mary’s Harbour on September 4, 2009 at a cost of \$3,073.09 to allow the Member to attend an early meeting in her District.
7. Charter Aircraft for Ms. Yvonne Jones, Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair, from St. Anthony to Forteau on September 30, 2009 at a cost of \$650.00 as the Member was unable to get a regular flight in time to attend a district forum. This trip was **not** taken due to bad weather conditions.

The Quarterly Financial Reports for the April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 period were presented to the Commission for review.

- CM 2009-046** The Commission approved the transfer of funds of \$43,700 from the Allowances and Assistance Main Object in the Members' Resources Activity to the Professional Services Main Object in the Office of the Citizens' Representative Activity.
- CM 2009-047** The Commission approved the transfer of funds of \$26,500 from the Allowances and Assistance Main Object in the Members' Resources Activity to the Professional Services Main Object in the Administrative Support Activity.
- CM 2009-048** The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administrations Act*, approved the reimbursement of allowable expenses totaling \$2,051.03, as requested in the Member's correspondence of July 20, 2009, which was submitted by the Member for St. George's - Stephenville East later than the 60 day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.
- CM 2009-049** The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administrations Act*, approved allowable expenses totaling \$375.47, as detailed in the Member's correspondence of September 28 and September 30, 2009, which were submitted by the Member for Placentia-St. Mary's later than the 60 day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.
- CM 2009-050** The Commission deferred a decision on the request that legal counsel be engaged to provide an opinion respecting the application of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* and the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* to ministerial or other expense and reimbursement policies, in order to allow Mr. Kennedy in his capacity as Minister of Finance to review the Comptroller-General's decision not to provide the legal opinion previously requested by the Commission.

The Clerk reported on authorizations given for furniture and equipment purchases. The Clerk approved \$499.00 for an office chair and filing cabinet for the constituency office of Mr. Darryl Kelly, District of Humber Valley and \$238.87 for the purchase of a round table for the constituency office of Mr. Ross Wiseman, District of Trinity North.

Caucus Operational Funding Expenditure Reports for fiscal 2008-09 were provided to the Commission, for reporting purposes only, in keeping with **CM 2008-085** which requires each caucus to submit a report detailing expenditures on the use of this allocation within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

CM 2009-051 The Commission deferred a decision regarding potential recovery actions respecting possible discretionary allowance overpayments noted in the Forensic Audit Report.

Adjournment: 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Wm. MacKenzie
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission