



## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

### **RULE AMENDMENT – EXPENSES RELATED TO SPECIAL OCCASION GREETING CARDS (SECTION 24)**

<b>Effective Date:</b> July 14, 2023	<b>Commission Minutes:</b> CM 2023-031
<b>Subject:</b>  Expenses Related to Christmas Greetings in Special Occasion Cards	<b>Reference:</b>  Commission meeting: June 14, 2023
<b>Issued To:</b>  Members of the House of Assembly; Comptroller General; Directors of Government Accounting, Professional Services and Internal Audit, Financial Systems Control and Corporate Services; Office of the Auditor General; Contacts for Government caucus office, Official Opposition caucus office and Third Party caucus office; Deputy Clerk, Executive Council; Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier.	<b>Contact:</b>  Wanda Lee Mercer Chief Financial Officer wandaleemercer@gov.nl.ca 709-729-2923

#### **BACKGROUND**

Section 24 of the *Members' Resources and Allowance Rules* (the Rules) establishes the office operations, supplies and communications allocation (\$12,000 per year, HST incl.), which includes various expenses related to the operations of the constituency office, as well as communication expenses such as advertising, Member-created publications (e.g. newsletters, postcards, etc.) and special occasion cards.

Further to recommendations of the 2016 Members' Compensation Review Committee and an ad hoc committee appointed by the Management Commission, the Commission approved an amendment to section 24 of the Rules allowing special occasion cards for the occasions of birthday, anniversary and sympathy only, but prohibiting the reimbursement of Christmas and other seasonal cards (CM 2017-067 refers).

The provisions respecting Christmas greetings has caused confusion in that it allows reimbursement of Christmas and seasonal greetings in Member-created publications such as householders, but prohibits reimbursement of expenses from the same funding allocation for Christmas greetings in special occasion cards and advertising.

The Commission considered this issue at its June 14, 2023 meeting, and approved the following amendment to the Rules:

That subsection 24(2) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* be amended as follows:

"For the purpose of subsection (1), "special occasion cards" means anniversary, birthday, sympathy, Christmas or seasonal cards."

The amendment was Gazetted on July 14, 2023, and is effective (in force) as of that date.

  
Sandra Barnes  
Clerk of the House of Assembly