



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: July 3, 2008

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 9:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.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

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

Hon. Trevor Taylor, MHA (PC) The Straits - White Bay North

Regrets:

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

Other:

Ms. Marlene Lambe, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy & Communications Officer

CM 2008 – 061

The minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meetings held on May 28, 2008 and June 4, 2008 were approved as read.

CM 2008 – 062

The Commission gave first approval to the following amendment to the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules:

Section 45 of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

Committee allowance

- 45 (1) A member who is a member of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission may claim for reasonable expenses related to attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (2) A member who is a member of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission, other than a chair, may claim a daily amount of \$145 for attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (3) A member who is a chair of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission may claim a daily amount of \$190 for attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House of Assembly is not in session.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) shall not apply to a member who is a minister or who holds a position referred to in subsection 12(1) of the Act.
- (5) Reasonable expenses claimed under subsection (1) shall be
- (a) in accordance with the Travel and Allowance rates permitted under these Rules; and
 - (b) approved by the Speaker before being reimbursed to the member.

The amendment will be posted on the House of Assembly website and brought back to the next Commission meeting for second approval before being posted in the NL Gazette.

CM 2008 – 063

The Commission declined a request to use the Federal Government formula to reimburse Members for mileage when using a private vehicle, in keeping with the reimbursement policy for the Executive Branch of Government. The Commission directed the Clerk to write Public Service Secretariat to determine whether more frequent adjustments to the formula can be anticipated.

CM 2008 – 064

The Commission directed that the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules be amended to add property taxes to the list of eligible expenses under subsection 41(2) of the Rules.

CM 2008 – 065

The Commission declined a request to amend the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules to provide for a daily amount of \$53 for Members regardless of whether Members stay in private accommodation or secondary residence as the Commission felt it was outside its mandate and may be more appropriately considered by the Members' Compensation Review Committee

CM 2008 – 066

The Commission directed the Clerk to prepare a discussion paper for a subsequent Commission meeting on the implications and estimated costs of increasing the number of trips to/from the Capital Region when the House is in Session/Not in Session.

- CM 2008 – 067** The Commission directed the Clerk to invite input from all Members on the adequacy of their current constituency allocation to carry out their responsibilities.
- CM 2008 – 068** The Commission directed that section 42 of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules be amended as follows:
42. Where a member makes a claim pursuant to subsection 46 (3) relating to meal expenses, the member shall not claim that meal allowance under this Part in respect of the same day.
- CM 2008 – 069** The Commission directed that Dr. King, MHA, District of Grand Bank, be reimbursed for the cost of attending a function on behalf of his constituents.
- CM 2008 – 070** The Commission directed House staff to review and recommend additional eligible expenses that might be included under 46(3)(g) of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules.
(Note: The briefing note mistakenly referred to 46(3)(m) of the Rules.)
- CM 2008 – 071** The Commission approved the budget process dated May 13, 2008, for the preparation and approval of the annual budgets for the House of Assembly and Statutory Offices.
- CM 2008 – 072** The Commission considered an appeal from the Member for Baie Verte – Springdale for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by his Constituency Assistant, including telephone, fax and internet charges, and directed that the eligible expenses be reimbursed.
- CM 2008 – 073** The Commission directed that, where a district no longer has a Member, the Constituency Assistant may remain employed until such time as a Member is officially declared elected for the district and the required notice period has elapsed.
- CM 2008 – 074** The Commission upheld the appeal from Mr. Young, MHA, District of St. Barbe, respecting retroactive payment of parking fees and directed that the parking fees expenses be reimbursed.
- CM 2008 – 075** The Commission issued the following Directive respecting temporary accommodations:
- Effective April 25, 2008, in subparagraphs 31(1)(b)(i), 32(2)(b)(i), 33(b)(i), 35(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(i), 37(b)(i) and paragraph 38(2)(b) of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules, the phrase "temporary standard room accommodations" refers to the eligible expenses under paragraph 41(1)(a) – "room charges" – with the actual expenses of paragraphs 41(1) (b) to (e) to be eligible for reimbursement in addition to standard room accommodations expenses.

CM 2008 – 076 The Commission considered the issue of Member advertising and directed the Clerk to develop advertising guidelines to be brought back to a subsequent Commission meeting. The guidelines should identify permissible advertising with appropriate restrictions.

CM 2008 – 077 The Commission approved and adopted the Transfer of Funds Policy, April 2008, effective 1 April 2008 with the third paragraph of Section 5 of the policy amended to read as follows:

“If this is not practicable, Authority is delegated by the Commission to a quorum of four members (must include one member representing Government and one member representing a party in opposition to the Government) to approve the transfer of funds prior to processing of the transaction. The transfer of funds approval will be ratified at the next Commission meeting.”

CM 2008 – 078 The Commission ratified and approved the transfers of funds Nos. 200705 to 200714 and Nos. 200725 to 200740 which re-allocated funds within the vote of the Legislature for the fiscal year 2007-08 to facilitate payment of required expenditures.

The Clerk provided a status report to the Commission on the Management Certification Process for the House of Assembly Service.

The Clerk reported on an authorization of approval to purchase furniture for the office of Mr. Derrick Dalley, MHA , The Isles of Notre Dame.

Adjournment: 1: 20 p.m.
Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Wm. MacKenzie
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission