



*Tabled by the Member for Placentia-St. Mary's  
2008. 05. 13.  
J. Mack.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
Newfoundland and Labrador

REPORT  
OF  
THE PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
RESPECTING  
A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS  
OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MAY 13, 2008

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
RESPECTING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR  
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Forty-Sixth General Assembly was appointed on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Pursuant to subsection 35(1) of the *House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* (the *Act*) the Speaker referred to the Committee the responsibility of developing a Code of Conduct for Members for adoption by the House.

Your Committee held a series of meetings over a three- week period to consider the question. After reviewing various Codes of Conduct which have been adopted by other legislative assemblies in the Westminster parliamentary system, and discussing the comments of Mr. Justice Green in Chapter 5 of his report "Rebuilding Confidence" and considering the principles enumerated in Section 35 of the *Act*, your Committee agreed to recommend the following Code of Conduct for Members to the House of Assembly to be adopted by Resolution of the House:

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**Commitments:**

Members of this House of Assembly recognize that they are responsible to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and will responsibly execute their official duties in order to promote the human, environmental and economic welfare of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Members of this House of Assembly respect the law and the institution of the Legislature and acknowledge their need to maintain the public trust placed in them by performing their duties with accessibility, accountability, courtesy, honesty, and integrity.

**Principles:**

1. Members shall inform themselves of and shall conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions and spirit of the *Standing Orders of the House of Assembly*, the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*, the *Elections Act, 1991*, the *House of Assembly Act* and this *Code of Conduct* and shall ensure that their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or the House of Assembly into disrepute.

2. It is a fundamental objective of their holding public office that Members serve their fellow citizens with integrity in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the province
3. Members will reject political corruption and refuse to participate in unethical political practices which tend to undermine the democratic traditions of our province and its institutions.
4. Members will act lawfully and in a manner that withstands the closest public scrutiny. Neither the law nor this code is designed to be exhaustive and there will be occasions on which Members find it necessary to adopt more stringent norms of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.
5. Members will not engage in personal conduct that exploits for private reasons their positions or authorities or that would tend to bring discredit to their offices.
6. Members will carry out their official duties and arrange their private financial affairs in a manner that protects the public interest and enhances public confidence and trust in government and in high standards of ethical conduct in public office.
7. Members will base their conduct on a consideration of the public interest. They are individually responsible for preventing conflicts of interest and will endeavor to prevent them from arising. Members will take all reasonable steps to resolve any such conflicts quickly and in a manner which is in the best interests of the public.
8. In performing their official duties, Members will apply public resources prudently and only for the purposes for which they are intended.
9. Members will not use official information which is not in the public domain, or information obtained in confidence in the course of their official duties, for personal gain or the personal gain of others.
10. Relationships between Members and government employees will be professional and based upon mutual respect and Members will have regard for the duty of those employees to remain politically impartial when carrying out their duties.
11. Members will promote and support these principles by leadership and example.
12. This Code of Conduct has a continuing effect except as amended or rescinded by Resolution of the House of Assembly.

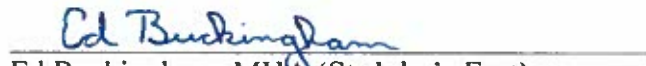
Respectfully submitted.



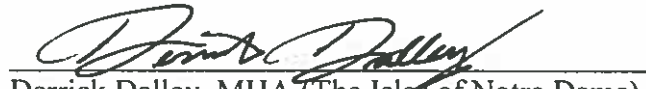
Felix Collins, MHA (Placentia - St. Mary's)  
Chair



Roland Butler, MHA, (Port de Grave)  
Vice Chair



Ed Buckingham, MHA (St. John's East)



Derrick Dalley, MHA (The Isles of Notre Dame)



Lorraine Michael, MHA (Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi)



Hon. Tom Rideout, MHA (Baie Verte - Springdale)