

# Annual Report 2008-09

Commissioner for Legislative Standards



## Annual Report 2008-09

September 15, 2009

Honourable Roger Fitzgerald  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
Main Floor, East Block  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL

Dear Speaker:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. This is in compliance with section 35 of the House of Assembly Act (Part II – Conflict of Interest).

Copies of this report, and of reports from years past, are available at the Office of the Commissioner. Additionally, the report can be viewed through the Commissioner for Legislative Standards' website: [www.legislativestandardscomm.gov.nl.ca](http://www.legislativestandardscomm.gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



Paul Reynolds  
Commissioner for Legislative Standards

## **Annual Filing Requirement**

Following the introduction of fixed date elections, amendments were made to the House of Assembly Act (Part II – Conflict of Interest) in 2004 to better suit the filing requirement of members and ministers.

As outlined in legislation, each member is required to file within 60 days of his or her election and before the second April occurring after the date of his or her election. All members filed their initial disclosure statements following the October 9, 2007 General Election. Because of this initial filing, members were not required to file with the Commissioner for Legislative Standards during the 2008-09 fiscal year. The next filing will be reported in the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards.

## **Annual Disclosure Statements**

There were two by-elections held in August 2008. The Commissioner for Legislative Standards contacted both newly-elected members shortly after their election to advise them of their obligations under the House of Assembly Act (Part II – Conflict of Interest). Each member did complete the statement and returned it to the office within the appropriate timeframe.

## **Investigations**

During the period covered by this report, there were no formal requests or applications to investigate any possible contravention of the Act from any member, the Honorable Premier or the House of Assembly.

## **Compliance**

As previously stated, there were no filing requirements for April 1, 2008. All members are currently in good standing.

Two MHAs were appointed as Ministers in the 2008-09 year. One member fulfilled the requirement and filed with the Commissioner, while one was in a position which already required annual filing with the Commissioner. Therefore, a new disclosure was not needed.

## **Conferences**

Annual conferences provide Commissioners with the opportunity to exchange information on issues of common interest and review legislative and regulatory differences and trends.

Commissioners routinely maintain contact through correspondence and emails regarding investigations, legislative interpretation and jurisdictional changes.

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards attended the Annual Conference on Government Ethics Laws (COGEL) in Chicago in December 2008. There are plans in place to attend the next COGEL conference in Phoenix, Arizona, (December 6-9, 2009).