



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: May 13, 2009

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 5:30 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. Yvonne Jones, MHA (L) Cartwright - L'Anse Au Clair

Ms. Beth Marshall, MHA (PC) Topsail

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

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

Other:

Mr. Tom Osborne, Deputy Speaker

Ms. Marlene Lambe, Chief Financial Officer

Regrets:

None

CM 2009-024 The Commission confirmed that the Estimates for the Legislature for fiscal year 2009-10 as published in the Estimates 2009 document provide the details for the budget approved by **CM 2009-009**.

The Speaker reported authorizations for travel under extenuating circumstances as provided for in Section 43 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*. The Speaker approved meals and accommodations for Ms. Patty Pottle on April 8, 2009 at a total cost of \$134.47. Flight Schedules required Ms. Pottle to overnight in Goose Bay en route to her home in Hopedale.

CM 2009-025 The Commission endorsed the introduction of a resolution in the House of Assembly to appoint a retired Supreme Court Justice to conduct an independent and impartial review into the circumstances of Fraser March's removal from office, which review will include the opportunity for Fraser March to be heard.

CM 2009-026 The Commission considered the additional information regarding the process and costs involved to recreate financial information for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 fiscal years and deferred a decision to the next meeting of the Commission.

CM 2009-027 The Commission adopted, effective May 19, 2009, the Cellular and Landline Phone Services Policy for Members of the House of Assembly and Constituency Assistants, with the addition of the following sentence to Section 4.5 Landline Phones:

“Each user is responsible for reimbursing the cost of personal long distance calls to the Newfoundland Exchequer Account through the Central Cashier's Office.”

CM 2009-028 The Commission considered a Member's request for amendments to Section 43 (Travel under Special Circumstances) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* and directed that amendments to Section 31 and/or 43 be drafted for its future consideration, which address: (1) an alternative means of approval for travel costs caused by flight schedule delays or weather conditions; and, (2) an alternative to the restriction of Section 31 on overnight accommodations.

CM 2009-029 The Commission approved the adoption of the Audit Committee Handbook, Version 3.0 October 2008.

CM 2009-030 The Commission approved the adoption of the Advertising Policy for Members of the House of Assembly, June 2009, with the following amendments:

1. Section 4.1.1

The words “to be used for recurring messages” are added after the word “form”.

2. Section 5.3 – To read:

“Non – allowable

- Name or logo of political party
- Statements of a partisan nature
- Advertising which advocates a particular position or attempts to influence public opinion on a matter before the House of Assembly
- Thank you to the constituents for voting for, or electing, the Member
- Advertising to solicit funds
- Content that disparages any political position or Member
- References to programs within a department, government agency or commission
- Advertising on articles of clothing”

The Commission approved the adoption of the policy for all existing advertising contracts effective as of the expiry date and for all new advertising as of June 1, 2009.

The Commission rescinded **Directive 2007-006**.

Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.

Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Wm. MacKenzie
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission