

OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

News Release

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Senate Ethics Officer's Second Annual Report Tabled in the Senate

Ottawa, June 7, 2007 – The second Annual Report of the Senate Ethics Officer (SEO), Jean T. Fournier, was tabled in the Senate today. It covers the period from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 and provides an overview of the activities of the office for this year. The SEO provided over three hundred opinions and advice to senators, both formal and informal, of varying degrees of complexity. “The sheer volume of requests for advice illustrates that senators are availing themselves of the advisory services that the office provides and seeking counsel where there are any doubts regarding the best course of action,” said Mr. Fournier.

The Senate Ethics Officer is an independent Officer of the Senate whose primary responsibility is to administer, interpret and apply the *Conflict of Interest Code for Senators*. The interpretation and application of the Code as it relates to individual senators are his sole responsibility.

“My approach, since my appointment, has been to encourage senators to request my advice as often as possible, especially in cases of doubt, prior to taking action,” said Mr. Fournier. “I believe that this results in prevention – and prevention is not only in the interest of senators, but it is also in the public interest. When it concerns conflicts of interest, prevention is indeed the best medicine.”

Mr. Fournier commented, “This year, as was the case last year, the cooperation received from senators and their offices was greatly appreciated, particularly their responsiveness throughout the annual disclosure process.” All senators submitted their confidential disclosure statements within the deadline set for this year. Their public disclosure summaries are available for consultation in the Public Registry located at the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer, 90 Sparks Street, Room 526, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B4 (tel.: (613) 947-3566); (fax: (613) 947-3577).

The 2006-2007 Annual Report is available on the SEO's website at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/seo-cse>. Printed copies can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Senate Ethics Officer.

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