Legislative Assembly of *Prince Edward Island*
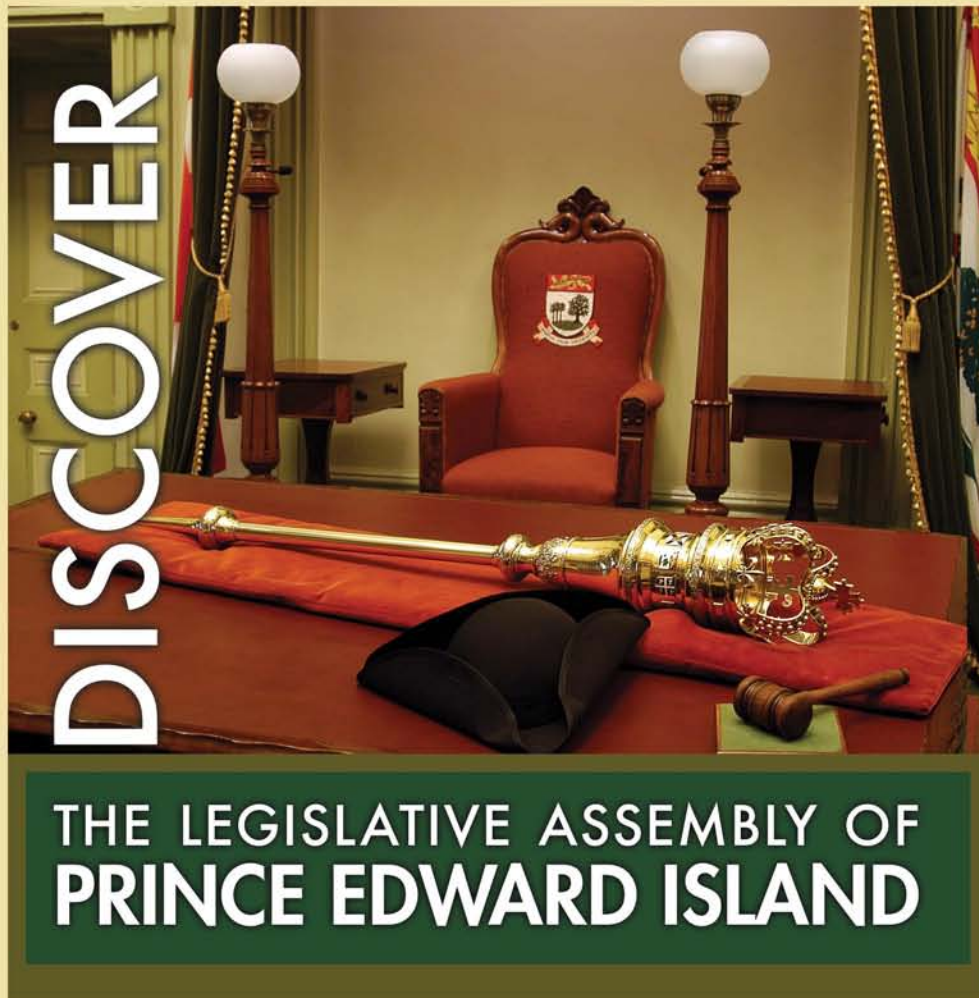

DISCOVER

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Photo of the cover of the Legislative Assembly's Educational CD

Fifth Annual Report
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Legislative Assembly
of
Prince Edward Island

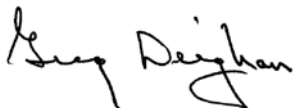# 5th Annual Report
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

April 7, 2007

To Members of the Legislative Assembly
of
Prince Edward Island

I am pleased to hereby submit the 5th Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly for their commitment to the institution of parliament on Prince Edward Island and for the conscientious and professional manner in which they conduct their responsibilities.

Respectfully,

Hon. Greg Deighan, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

April 3, 2007

Honourable Gregory J. Deighan, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province House
Charlottetown, PE

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to present the 5th Annual Report of the Legislative
Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Branch of
the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This report will highlight the
various activities of the Office of the Clerk and Office of the Legislative
Assembly for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
and
Secretary, PEI Branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

5th Annual Report
of the
Office of the Clerk, Office of the Legislative Assembly

PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

(January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006)

Table of Contents

The Speaker
Hon. Gregory Deighan, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Since 1997, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has been elected by all Members of the House by secret ballot. Any elected Member who is not the Leader of a political party in the House or a Cabinet Minister is eligible to allow his or her name to stand for secret ballot election as Speaker. As stated in the *Legislative Assembly Act*, RSPEI 1988, Cap. L-7, this election must take place within 30 days after declaration day after every general election or when a vacancy in the office occurs. To be elected, those wishing to offer for the speakership must notify the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly two days in advance of the vote of their intention to let their name stand. Support of the majority of votes cast must be attained before a candidate may be declared elected as Speaker.

The Speaker is responsible to preside over the debates in the House, to make sure the rules, customs and practices of the Assembly are followed and to ensure that the services required for Members to do their jobs are made available. In conducting these responsibilities, it is important that the Speaker be as impartial and politically neutral manner as possible in an effort to maintain the confidence of the House and to represent the interests of all Members, regardless of political affiliation. This is important as the Speaker's first duty is to claim, on behalf of all Members, the "ancient and accustomed parliamentary rights and privileges", the most important of which is freedom of speech in debate. Without these privileges, for which the Speaker is the guardian, our system of parliamentary democracy could easily be jeopardized.

On Prince Edward Island, the Speaker's role is changing. There is an ever increasing demand that the Speaker conduct his or her responsibilities in a non-partisan manner in ensuring that all MLAs are treated fairly and have the services required to do their jobs. Balancing the right of the majority to conduct business with the right of the minority to be heard is one of the Speaker's most difficult tasks.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Speaker chairs the Standing Committee on Legislative Management (see page 14) and the Standing Committee on Legislative Audit. The Speaker also serves as President of the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and, as such, represents the Legislative Assembly at regional, national and international meetings of CPA.

Office of the Clerk
and
Office of the Legislative Assembly

The non-partisan Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly offers procedural, operational and administrative support for the operations of the House and its Members. Pursuant to the Rules, the Clerk must ensure that the records of the House are maintained, and that the Speaker and Members of the House have access to independent advice on legislative proceedings. This is important and necessary to enable Members to conduct their responsibilities effectively in the House.
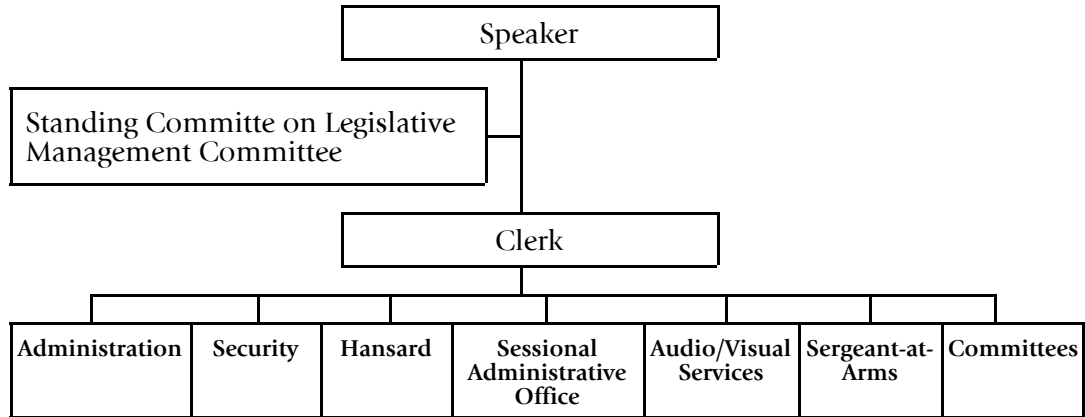
The Office of the Legislative Assembly is not a branch of Executive Government and Legislative Assembly employees are not Civil Servants as defined under the *Civil Service Act*. The employing authority is the Standing Committee on Legislative Management which represents the Legislative Assembly in these matters and ensures that there remains an "arms length" relationship between the operations of the House and the operations of the Executive.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly has two main roles. The first is to support the Speaker and Members in the administration and provision of services to MLAs so that they can perform their legislative responsibilities. Further, the Office administers the payroll and benefits programs for all Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly produces certain House documents and maintains the official record of the House.

Staff of the Office of the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly continue to demonstrate their commitment to the institution. This quiet commitment and professionalism in supporting the work of the House and its' Members should not be understated or taken for granted. While the number of House staff is small, all Islanders can be proud of the high quality of work conducted at the Assembly. While excuses like limited resources, strange hours or hectic and unpredictable schedules may well apply, all decide instead to work more creatively and efficiently in delivering an ever increasing array of services to Members and the public. Staff of the Assembly should be proud of their accomplishments and achievements throughout 2006 and I look forward to working with this group of professionals toward the objective of making the Assembly an even more relevant and deliberative parliamentary institution.

Below is an unofficial organizational chart to help illustrate the present structure of the Office of the Legislative Assembly:

Office of the Legislative Assembly

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│ Management Committee          │    │
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Report on Sessional Activities

Since 1997, there have been two distinct sittings of the Legislative Assembly in each calendar year, resulting in increased House activity. This increased activity is not only with the House itself but also with Committees. With the House usually adjourning in mid-December and resuming in late March, the House continues to be in session for a much longer period of time (even if the House is not actually meeting). The Rules of the Legislative Assembly permit Committees to meet when the House is in session thereby resulting in greater Committee activity (see the report of the Clerk of Committees - page 15).

Below is a comparison of sitting days over the past 10 years;

Year	Number of Sitting Days
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006	50
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005	54
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2004	46
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2003*	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002	45
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2000*	35
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1999	58
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1998	63
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1997	68

*Indicates a General Election year.

The 3rd Session of the 62nd General Assembly commenced on November 16, 2005, adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 15, 2005 and resumed on March 30, 2006 with the presentation of the Budget by the Honourable Mitch Murphy, Provincial Treasurer. The session was once again adjourned to the call of the Speaker on May 24 and resumed for an additional two sitting days (June 27 & 28) to deal with the question of electoral boundaries for Prince Edward Island. After 50 sitting days, the 3rd Session was prorogued on June 28, 2006.

The 4th Session of the 62nd General Assembly opened on November 16, 2006 with the Hon. Barbara A. Hagerman reading her first Speech from the Throne since being installed as Prince Edward Island's new Lieutenant Governor on July 31, 2006. The Session adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 15, 2006 after 18 sitting days.

During the 3rd Session of the 62nd General Assembly, 56 Notices of Motion were filed at the Table; 29 of which were Private Members Motions and 27 were Government Motions.

- Forty-seven Government Bills were introduced;
- Five Private Members Bills were introduced;
- No Private Bills were introduced during the session;
- There were 80 Written Questions tabled; 68 of which were answered.
- The Estimates of Revenue & Expenditure were Tabled and a Budget of $1,178,183,800 was considered and approved by the House.
- The Capital Estimates were introduced for the second time during the Fall sitting of the House with more than $41 million in capital spending approved for FY 2007-2008.

Administration

During 2006, refurbishing of the Committee meeting rooms was completed. Work included:

- installation of in-floor wiring for the audio system;
- new chairs to replace the 25 year-old chairs that no longer met occupational health and safety standards;
- refinishing of existing tables to repair damage resulting from considerable use;
- installation of an overhead LCD projector and overhead remote screen for powerpoint/data presentations;
- new paint and blinds.

Hansard continues as a professional and reliable parliamentary publication with the Hansard Editor assuming responsibility for editing committee transcripts during the year (see Hansard Office Report - page 34). Audio proceedings and video proceedings of the House continue to be broadcast live on the Internet and also available in an archived format.

Security measures continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis (see Security Officer Report, page 32). With ongoing world events, security continues to be a priority to ensure that legislators, general public and staff at Province House may conduct its parliamentary business in a safe and accessible environment.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly also continues to provide human resource services to the various operations of the House. Included are the Legislative Assembly Office, Sessional Offices, Opposition Members and Government Members Offices, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Elections P.E.I. and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Throughout 2006, the Office of the Legislative Assembly continued to support such initiatives as the Prince Edward Island Page Programme, the Rotary Youth Parliament, co-management of Province House (in cooperation with Parks Canada). The Office is also active in pursuing renovations to Queens Square to ensure that the grounds of Province House continue to be a source of pride for all Islanders and Canadians for years to come.

The year also saw the election of a new Member in the District of Morell - Fortune Bay as a result of a by-election due to the resignation of Mr. Kevin MacAdam on February 17, 2006. Ms. Olive Crane was elected in the by-election on March 20, 2006 and took her seat on the floor of the House for a first time on April 5, 2006.

One special project of note that was completed in 2006 is an educational CD on the Legislative Assembly entitled "Discover the Legislative Assembly". All informational material was supplied by the Office of the Legislative Assembly with technical, design and layout support and direction provided by Audio Visual Services of the Provincial Treasury. Honourable Speaker Deighan officially launched the CD on April 27th with many Members, staff and media in attendance. Reviews have been favourable, with Members and staff utilizing the resource in an effort to provide accurate and factual information on the role of the Assembly and the work that is done at the House.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank all of those in the Government Service who provide assistance and support to the Legislative Assembly. Without the competent and professional assistance of these dedicated public servants, the Office of the Assembly would not be in a position to deliver high quality services to Members and the public. Specifically, special thanks are extended to Audio Visual Services (Provincial Treasury), Fiscal Management (Provincial Treasury), Queen's Printer (Provincial Treasury), Financial Information System support, Information Technology Management Group, Department of Transportation and Public Works, Provincial Archives (Department of Community and Cultural Affairs) and Federal Parks Canada.

Standing Committee on Legislative Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, pursuant to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, is comprised of the Speaker (as Chair), the Leader of the Official Opposition (or designate), Leader of the Third Party (or designate), Government House Leader (or designate), Government Caucus Chair (or designate), Opposition Caucus Chair (or designate) and the Deputy Speaker.

The Committee is charged with matters as follows:

(a) policies for the administration of the Legislative Assembly,

(b) the provision of security, facilities, and services, including allocation to party caucuses and individual Members,

(c) the appointment, supervision, and management of the staff of the Legislative Assembly, other than the staff of party caucus offices and the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

(d) review of estimates of expenditure for the Legislative Assembly, including the forecasts and analysis of expenditures and financial commitments of the Assembly,

(e) other matters necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly.

During 2006, the Committee was active in dealing with such matters as staffing changes resulting from resignations, budget for the Legislative Assembly, support levels provided to the Opposition and Government Members Offices, management of Province House and Queens Square, operation of the offices of the Legislative Assembly and many other administrative matters, issues and initiatives respecting the operation of the House. Specifically, some of the matters considered by the Committee include;

- 2006/2007 Budget for the Legislative Assembly,
- Caucus Office grants,
- Budget for the Offices of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Elections PEI,
- Support for the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie,
- The absence of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and recruitment of an acting Commissioner,
- Work of Elections PEI on the PEI Electoral map,
- Refurbishment of period chairs in the Legislative Assembly Chamber,
- Security considerations at Province House.

Committee Activity
Annual Report (January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006)

Summary of Activity during the Year

The standing and special committees of the Legislative Assembly maintained an active and productive schedule during the year. In total, 38 meetings were held during 2006 to complete the work mandated to the various committees. The following chart presents information regarding committee membership, number of meetings, and number and dates of their reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Summary of Committee Activity January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006				
Committee Name	Chairman	Committee Members	Number of Meetings	Number of Reports and Date(s) of Report(s)
Committee on Committees	Cletus Dunn	Hon. Robert Ghiz Hon. Mitch Murphy Richard Brown David McKenna	1	1 Nov. 29, 2006
Special Committee on PEI's Electoral Boundaries (December 8, 2005 - May 4, 2006)	Hon. Jim Bagnall	Cletus Dunn Helen MacDonald Hon. Elmer MacFadyen	6	1 May 4, 2006
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment	Wilbur MacDonald	Wilfred Arsenault Richard Brown Ron MacKinley Fred McCardle Andy Mooney Hon. Mitch Murphy Eva Rodgerson	4	0
Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development	Wilfred Arsenault	Hon. Jamie Ballem Carolyn Bertram Hon. Philip Brown Richard Brown Helen MacDonald Fred McCardle Eva Rodgerson	2	1 May 19, 2006
Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada	Hon. Pat Binns	Wilfred Arsenault Carolyn Bertram Hon. Robert Ghiz Hon. Chester Gillan David McKenna Hon. Mitch Murphy Eva Rodgerson	0	0

Summary of Committee Activity January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006				
Committee Name	Chairman	Committee Members	Number of Meetings	Number of Reports/ Dates of Reports
Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation	Wes MacAleer	Hon. Philip Brown Hon. Mike Currie Cletus Dunn Hon. Robert Ghiz Ron MacKinley Fred McCardle Andy Mooney	11	1 Nov. 21, 2006
Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills	Helen MacDonald	Hon. Jim Bagnall *(as of May 9, 2006)* Carolyn Bertram Richard Brown Hon. Mildred Dover Hon. Kevin MacAdam *(until February 17, 2006)* Wes MacAleer Hon. Elmer MacFadyen Hon. Gail Shea	2	3 May 10, 2006 May 19, 2006 Dec. 1, 2006
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	Ron MacKinley	Hon. Jim Bagnall *(until March 27, 2006)* Wayne Collins Olive Crane *(as of May 9, 2006)* Cletus Dunn Hon. Robert Ghiz Wes MacAleer Wilbur MacDonald David McKenna	4	2 May 19, 2006 Dec. 1, 2006
Standing Committee on Social Development	Wayne Collins	Carolyn Bertram Olive Crane *(as of May 9, 2006)* Hon. Robert Ghiz Hon. Kevin MacAdam *(until February 17, 2006)* Wilbur MacDonald Hon. Elmer MacFadyen Beth MacKenzie David McKenna	8	4 April 7, 2006 April 11, 2006 May 10, 2006 Nov. 30, 2006

Highlights of Committee Activity

Committee on Committees
Before committees can organize themselves or undertake any business, the membership of each committee must be established. Rule 82(a) and Guidelines 3(1) and 3(2) provide for the establishment of a striking committee, called the Committee on Committees, which is charged with the selection of Members for all the Standing Committees (with the exception of the Standing Committee on Legislative Management). The Committee on Committees is guided in its work by Rule 82(b) which limits the number of Members on a Standing Committee to ten; Rule 84 which prohibits Ministers from appointment to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; and Guideline 4 which specifies that membership of the committees be, generally, in the same proportion as that of the recognized political parties in the House. In no case shall the official opposition have fewer than two members on any committee, unless there are fewer than two members of the official opposition.

The Committee on Committees was formed, by motion, on November 16, 2006, and reported to the Legislative Assembly on November 29, 2006. As is the case with all Special Committees, the Committee on Committee ceased to exist upon adoption of its final report.

Special Committee on PEI's Electoral Boundaries
The Special Committee on Prince Edward Island's Electoral Boundaries met six times during March and April 2006 to conduct consultations and receive opinion concerning recommendations made by the PEI Electoral Boundaries Commission in its final report, dated October 5, 2004. In addition, the Committee solicited public input on the desirability of establishing fixed dates for provincial general elections.

The Committee made a total of 13 recommendations specific to the consultations conducted regarding the *Report of the PEI Electoral Boundaries Commission*, as directed by the Legislative Assembly; and presented four recommendations directed toward the question of fixed-date provincial elections. The main recommendation concerning electoral boundaries, and possibly the most controversial of the report, was that Elections PEI re-draft the province's electoral map. The map, as proposed by the PEI Electoral Boundaries Commission, was rejected.

In its report, the Committee gave the direction to Elections PEI that current boundaries were to be preserved wherever possible and limited the deviation in absolute parity in the number of electors in each of the 27 electoral districts to plus or minus 15% as compared to the electoral quotient (that is, the total number of electors in the province divided by 27), with the exception of the district of Evangeline-Miscouche where the deviation is permitted to be greater to accommodate the cultural diversity of that area.

Further, the Committee recommended that government present the recommended changes to the *Electoral Boundaries Act* including the schedule describing the electoral divisions, as re-drafted by Elections PEI, in the form of a Bill for the consideration of all Members of the Legislative Assembly within the current session, that is, the Third Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly. As regards fixed date elections, the Committee made the recommendation that a referendum on the question be conducted in conjunction with the next provincial general election.

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment
In addition to its meeting to elect a chairman, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment met three times in 2006: on January 10, January 19 and January 26, 2006. At its planning meeting of January 10th, the Committee agreed to invite representatives of the provincial department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as the federal department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to be briefed on several topics.

On January 19, Mr. Murray Miles of Agriculture Policy and Regulatory Services Section of the provincial Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, made a presentation to the Committee concerning a planned review of the *Natural Products Marketing Act*. He further explained the process underway to identify changes to the Act designed to improve the tools available to primary producers to organize and manage the production and marketing of their primary product; allow the marketing council to take quick and decisive action against a board that does not comply with its marketing plan or is not properly accountable to its members, and to streamline the Act and make it more responsive and reflective of current terminology and practice.

The Committee met again on January 26 to hear from two witnesses from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Ms. Manon Proulx, Research Manager, Crops and Livestock Research Centre, and Dr. Christiane Deslauriers, Science Director for Bio-based Products and Processes. Their presentation focused on research on crop kinds and cultivars, pest management, nutrient management and soil and water conservation. The challenges of keeping pace with changes in the industry, world markets, environmental conditions and many other variables were emphasized. Dr. Deslauriers spoke about concern for the long-term viability of the industry and the prosperity of the industry. The Committee learned about the role of agriculture in producing ingredients that go into pharmaceuticals, and in a renewable energy strategy for the province.

Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development
The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development met on May 18, 2006, to consider a request from a group of concerned citizens regarding the effects of Bill No. 24, *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, which received Royal Assent on December 15, 2005. The Committee did not bring forward a recommendation for legislative change to the *Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act* in this regard.

Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation
On December 13, 2005, a motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island referring the matter of proposed changes to the *Off-highway Vehicle Act* regulations to the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation. The Committee was specifically directed to consult with interested Islanders to gauge public opinion upon the proposed draft amendments and report back to the Assembly.

The deliberations by the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation on the proposed amendments to the *Off-highway Vehicle Act* regulations were extensive. The Committee met in six different locations across the province; and heard from a total of 73 individuals, appearing on their own behalf and on behalf of various groups and organizations.

Advertisements were placed in the newspapers across the province to request public opinion on the issue. In conjunction with this effort, comprehensive information concerning the work of the Committee and additional resource information was posted on the website of the Legislative Assembly (www.assembly.pe.ca). The public was invited to give personal testimony, written comment, telephone opinion, or email responses to the issue. As well, for the first time, feedback was solicited by way of an easy-to-use response form on the Legislative Assembly website.

The Committee heard from a wide variety of people interested in this issue, including physicians, people concerned with injury prevention initiatives and healthcare, parents of young people involved in off-road sports, various representatives of the all-terrain vehicle industry, safety instructors, user groups from both the two-wheeled and four-wheeled sectors of the sport, those who make use of the Confederation Trail, the Forest Council, the provincial government, and young people participating in off-road vehicle use.

As a result of its consultations and study, the Committee presented a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

In brief, these measures would restrict operation of all-terrain vehicles to those persons aged 14 years and over. In addition, the Committee proposed the implementation of a new all-terrain vehicle license available to drivers between the ages of the 14 and 18 years which would require the operator to have successfully completed a certified safety training program. The Committee recommended that drivers between the ages of 14 and 16 years of age be supervised by an adult, and be restricted to operating all-terrain vehicles that have an appropriate engine size for the age and size of the driver.

For all ATV drivers, the Committee recommended that personal protective equipment be mandatory. Finally, the Committee suggested efforts continue towards the development of off-highway vehicles routes and emphasized registration of off-highway vehicles. Additional recommendations addressed landowner liability, as well as penalties for non-compliance with the regulations.

Although not a formal recommendation, the Committee advised that all adult drivers, both novice and experienced, would benefit from safety training.

In the case of dirt bikes, the Committee recommended a structured approach for younger children, with fewer restrictions as the age of the rider increases. Those riders under the age of 14 must be riding for competition, or preparation for competition, be under an adult's supervision, have completed a certified safety training course, be wearing personal protective equipment and be riding an appropriate size of machine for their age and size. Riders who are between the ages of 14 and 16 years must have completed a certified safety training course, be wearing personal protective equipment, and be on a bike that is appropriate for their age and size. For those riders 16 years and older, the Committee recommended safety training and personal protective equipment.

There was no doubt that, at times, it was difficult to achieve a consensus of what directions were advisable and achievable. After carefully weighing the information as presented, current research and data, the Committee sought recommendations which would strike a balance, allowing responsible parents and youth to mitigate the risks associated with off-highway vehicles, while still enjoying the pleasures of nature, sport, skill-building and family bonding that they can provide.

Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills
The Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills made three reports to the Legislative Assembly during the year. In its report of May 10, 2006, the Committee made recommendations concerning improved accessibility of House documents. It also proposed that the current procedure for the review of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure remain unchanged and that the current sitting hours of the House not be changed. On May 19, 2006, the Committee put forward its report concerning the requirement for unanimous consent of the House for the admittance of strangers to the floor of the House during Committee of the Whole House.

It was of the opinion that the majority of Members should be in a position to determine such admittance. Therefore, the Committee recommended a change to Rule 17 as follows:

1. By renumbering Rule 17 as 17(1) and inserting the following words before the word "If":

   Subject to sub-rule 17(2),

   and

2. By the insertion of the following as 17(2):

   During Committee of the Whole House consideration of estimates or clause by clause consideration of legislation, a stranger, or strangers, may, on motion put which shall neither require notice nor be debated, be admitted to the floor of the House to assist the promoter of a bill or a Minister.

The report was adopted and the wording change incorporated into the Rule Book prior to the opening of the Fourth Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly in November 2006.

The Committee made a progress report on a more general revision of the Rule Book in its report of December 1, 2006, making the following recommendations:

1. THAT the Committee Guidelines be incorporated into the full body text of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This will enable the production of one document for ease of reference and provide for the elimination of inconsistencies between the Rules for the House and the Guidelines for Committees.

2. THAT work commence on the annotation of the Rules (where required) to provide a brief explanation of certain Rules in an effort to provide for greater clarity and interpretation. Implementation of this recommendation will provide Members with a valuable reference document and facilitate a better understanding of the origin of certain rules and why continued application of certain provisions is in the best interest of the House.

3. THAT the Rules be updated with respect to appearance presentation and layout in an effort to improve the usefulness of the Rule Book for Members, Assembly staff and others.

4. THAT Table Officers begin work on the above recommendations and submit the results to this Committee for its consideration and review before the Spring 2007 sitting of the House.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The major activity undertaken by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in 2006 was the hosting of the annual conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees, held jointly with the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors, from September 10 to12, 2006, in Charlottetown. Further details about the event can be found under the section entitled "Conference Activity" of this report.

Two changes were made to the Committee's permanent membership in 2006. Pursuant to Rule 84, which states, "Ministers of the Crown are not eligible for appointment to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and may not attend its meetings other than as witnesses before the Committee," Hon. Jim Bagnall, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, was no longer eligible for membership upon his appointment to Executive Council on March 27, 2006. Olive Crane (District 2, Morel-Fortune Bay) was appointed by the Premier to the Committee on May 6, 2006.

In late 2005, the Auditor General was asked to provide supporting documents for the July 10, 2003, decision of Executive Council to issue the $14 million loan guarantee (in regard to Polar Foods International Inc.). He complied and supplied this information to the Committee, along with responses to a number of other questions, on January 13, 2006. Included in the information was a copy of an Executive Council memo.

There was some commentary in the media about the fact that a cabinet document became public. However, the Committee reiterated its authority, derived from Rule 83(2) of the Legislative Assembly and the *Legislative Assembly Act* RSPEI 1988, Cap L-7, to send for persons, papers and records. The Committee also clarified its own procedures for requesting information from the Auditor General, and determined it would do so, in the future, by way of a formal motion.

Standing Committee on Social Development

The Standing Committee on Social Development undertook a number of studies and made recommendations concerning a variety of issues during 2006: cyberbullying, appointments to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, and support of entrepreneurial skills and positive development in Island youth.

The Standing Committee on Social Development was directed by the Legislative Assembly in November 2005 to solicit public input on the topic of cyberbullying and violence prevention initiatives among youth. During the public consultations, held in early 2006, the Committee was told about the concerns and ideas of Prince Edward Islanders on the issue of cyberbullying, which is emerging as one of the more challenging issues facing educators and parents as young people embrace the Internet and other mobile communications technologies. It is a concern that must be addressed in the context of preparing our youth for citizenship in the global, wired world.

The Committee made a number of specific recommendations designed to strengthen and support efforts to raise awareness and educate our students, parents and educators about the serious issue of cyberbullying, among them that government support the initiatives that are in place regarding peaceful schools, and that parents become involved and aware of their children's use of the Internet, information and communication technologies.

The Standing Committee on Social Development considered the matter of recommending persons to serve on the Human Rights Commission at its meetings of January 12, March 9, and April 6, 2006. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee was pleased to recommend to the Legislative Assembly the appointment of Mr. Richard Montigny as chairperson of the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission. Further, the Committee recommended the re-appointment of Ms. Ann Sherman for a term to expire May 19, 2009. Following the adoption of the recommendations contained in this report by the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission consisted of:

> Mr. Richard Montigny, Chairperson (term expiring May 19, 2007)
> Ms. Anne Nicholson, Commissioner (term expiring May 19, 2007)
> Mr. Gerry O'Connell, Commissioner (term expiring April 11, 2008)
> Mr. Maurice Rio, Commissioner (term expiring April 11, 2009)
> Ms. Ann Sherman, Commissioner (term expiring May 19, 2009)
> Ms. Lou Ann Thomson, Commissioner (term expiring April 11, 2008)

The Standing Committee on Social Development extended its thanks to Mr. George Kells for his service to the people of Prince Edward Island as chairperson of the Human Rights Commission. In this role, he demonstrated a strong commitment to the elimination of discrimination in society, and provided leadership in the administration of the province's *Human Rights Act*, as well as promoted and advanced the cause of human rights.

On November 24, 2005, the Committee was directed by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, to consult with interested parties, such as non-profit and volunteer groups including recreational, cultural, service, social, business and educational organizations, to explore opportunities to further support entrepreneurial skills and positive development in Island youth.

During 2006, the Committee met on three occasions in regard to this matter: on October 24, November 7 and November 20, 2006.

At its meeting of October 24, 2006, the Committee agreed to place an advertisement in the daily and weekly newspapers throughout the province to call for public input on the issue.

On November 4, 2006, the English language version of the advertisement appeared in *The Guardian*, and the *Journal-Pioneer*; and on November 7, 2006, in the *West Prince Graphic* and the *Eastern Graphic*. A French language advertisement appeared in *La voix acadienne* on November 7, 2006. In addition, the advertisements, along with additional background information, were posted on the Committees' section of the website of the Legislative Assembly (www.assembly.pe.ca).

On November 7, 2006, the Committee heard presentations from Mr. Bill Martin, CEED PEI; Mr. Jacob Jadis, a small-business owner; Hon. Michael Currie, Minister of Development and Technology; Ms. Jo-Ann Campbell-Boutilier, Ms. Margaret Wilton, Ms. Kim Griffin and Mr. Patrick Crossman, representing the Junior Achievement organization on Prince Edward Island; Mr. Michael O'Grady and Ms. Pat MacAulay, representing Holland College; Mr. Douglas Coles and Mr. Stephen Dowling, representing the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Mike Cassidy, an entrepreneur and instructor from the University of Prince Edward Island School of Business.

The Committee met next on November 20, 2006. At this meeting, presentations were made by Mr. Bill Drost, accompanied by Ms. Rachel McDearmid and Ms. Shauna MacNeil, representing the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA); Mr. Horace Carver, appearing as a private citizen, Ms. Georgina Lebedev, an aspiring entrepreneur; Mr. David Daughton of MYDAS (Mobilizing Youth to Deliver Advisory Services), Mr. Keith Tompkins, edTech Labour and Consulting Services; and Ms. Louise Comeau and Ms. Ann Arsenault representing SDBA, La Société de developpement de la Baie acadienne.

At the conclusion of the public portion of this meeting, the Committee met *in camera* to begin discussions of its report to the Legislative Assembly. Although very pleased with the response to the call for public input, the Committee was not satisfied that it has obtained a complete picture of the issues and concerns surrounding entrepreneurship for youth. Therefore, it was decided to re-advertise in January 2007, with a view to targeting more young people who are currently in business, and those interested in pursuing self-employment as a career.

Committee Travel
From time to time, committees travel outside the parliamentary precinct to hear evidence, hold consultations or visit locations in connection with their studies. The same process is followed whether the meetings take place in Charlottetown or in another location in the province. The evidence and proceedings are recorded and made public, the committee retains all the powers conferred on it by the House, and Members and witnesses are protected by parliamentary privilege.

During 2006, two committees traveled throughout Prince Edward Island in connection with their work. In February, the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation met in Kensington, Ellerslie, Elmsdale, Fortune and Murray River. The following month, the Special Committee on PEI's Electoral Boundaries held public hearings in Elmsdale, Summerside, Hunter River, and Poole's Corner, Prince Edward Island.

Staff member Myra LeClair prepares for a meeting in Kensington, PEI

Conference Activity
The Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from September 10 to12, 2006.

The Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) is a national association that meets annually to discuss topics of mutual interest. Its members represent the parliamentary public accounts committees, or similar committees, of all 14 parliaments within Canada - the federal House, the ten provincial assemblies and three territorial legislatures.

The aims of the association are to facilitate the exchange of information, opinion and experience relating to public accounts committees and to discuss matters of interest to the membership; to improve the quality and performance of public accounts committees in Canada to ensure that taxpayers are getting value for money; to work with auditors general so as to improve the effectiveness of both the auditors and the public accounts committees; to work with individuals and organizations knowledgeable about matters of concern to public accounts committees; and to educate the elected members, the media and the general public as to the purposes and activities of public accounts committees.

In support of this mandate, the members of CCPAC meet once a year to discuss issues of concern to public accounts committees. This annual conference offers a forum for Canadian legislators serving on public accounts committees to exchange information and ideas. It provides them with the opportunity to keep up to date with important developments, changing standards and best practices. Learning how public accounts committees in other jurisdictions have tackled problems is also of great value to the delegates.

Beginning in 1979, the CCPAC has met at the same time and in the same place as the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA). Both organizations arrange a joint business session and hold social functions together, which enable delegates to meet with legislative auditors. As well, the groups hold their own individual conference proceedings.

This year's conference, held in Charlottetown from September 10 to 12, 2006, was very well-received. There was a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the delegates not only in response to the informative business sessions, but also concerning the hospitality and warm welcome they experienced here in Prince Edward Island.   In total, more than 150 legislators, auditors general, senior staff, and committee clerks representing all 14 jurisdictions in Canada were in attendance at the joint CCPAC-CCOLA Conference. The first business session, the John J. Kelly Forum, featured an overview of recent research into the effectiveness of public accounts committees. Other sessions focusing on the work of public accounts committees covered the topics of warranting of cabinet documents in Nova Scotia and the changing role of the select standing committee on public accounts in British Columbia. As well, each jurisdiction had the opportunity to present an overview of its activities over the past year.

A highlight of the conference was a tour of the facilities located on the campus of the University of Prince Edward Island–the National Research Council Institute for Nutrisciences and Health, the Atlantic Veterinary College and the Food Technology Centre. In addition, there were a number of organized social events enjoyed by the participants which allowed for an informal exchange of ideas and information.

Official Photograph of the
Delegates to the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Conference

The annual CCPAC-CCOLA joint conference represents a serious
commitment for a small jurisdiction to host. A successful event depends on
participation and cooperation from everyone involved, and the Standing
Committee on Public Accounts was pleased to report that it received this
support. In addition, the Committee enjoyed a productive working
relationship with the Auditor General and his staff in planning and carrying
out the joint business sessions and social activities.

Professional Development
Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, attended the
annual Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-
the-Table in Canada, held in Whitehorse, Yukon, from July 31 to August 4,
2006.

Library Acquisition
The Standing Committee on Public Accounts added the latest research report
from CCAF-FCVI to its library of reference materials. The report is entitled
*Parliamentary Oversight - Committees and Relationships - a Guide to Strengthening
Public Accounts Committees* and examines the relationships among public
accounts committees, auditors and government managers. It is based on
extensive original research, including interviews with Committee Members
from Prince Edward Island, and contains unique information about
Canadian and international public accounts committees.

Renovation of the Pope Room, Coles Building
This year, the Pope Room received a general freshening of its appearance with
paint, new window coverings, and replacement or refurbishment of much of
its outdated furniture. As well, there were technological enhancements with
the addition of a built-in screen for showing speaker support materials, and
power and internet connections added to the committee tables. The result is
a more polished and professional setting for the work of the various Standing
Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Sergeant-at-Arms
and
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod
Sergeant Curtis H. Adamson

The Sergeant-at-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act*, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition. The office originated in the early years of the British Parliament, when mace-bearing members of the Royal bodyguard were assigned to attend the Speaker at sittings of the House of Commons. With the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges and the various parliamentary functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-at-Arms on Prince Edward Island is responsible for bearing the Mace during the daily procession into the House, ensuring the safekeeping of the Mace, and carrying out such other duties as may be assigned by the Speaker or the Clerk.

On November 12, 2003, the Legislative Assembly unanimously appointed Sergeant Curtis H. Adamson of Charlottetown as Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Adamson replaced Mr. Ivan Kerry, FO, DFC who had served as Sergeant-at-Arms since January 3, 1997.

Prior to being appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Adamson served with the Security Services for the Legislative Assembly and with the Canadian Corp of Commissionaires.

Prince Edward Island's Mace

On February 24, 1966, with the following words, appreciation was extended to the Canadian Area Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the gift of a Mace to accompany the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Moved by Hon. Walter R. Shaw, Premier, Seconded by Mr. Alexander. B. Campbell, Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, as follows;

> *THAT this House accepts, with sincere thanks, the generous gift of a Mace from the Canadian Area Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as graciously presented on their behalf by the Honourable Alan MacNaughton. This beautiful emblem will serve in this Legislature not only as a symbol of the Speaker's authority but also as a symbol of those bonds of goodwill which exist between the Provinces of Canada and the Countries of the Commonwealth. It will further serve as a constant reminder of those high ideals of Parliamentary Government which we cherish.*

The Mace was designed by Canadian manufacturer Henry Birks and Sons Ltd. It incorporates the seals of the ten Canadian provinces and the Coat of Arms of Canada. Originally serving as a symbol of the authority of the Crown, it is now widely accepted as a symbol of the authority of parliament and the Speaker - with the Speaker's authority being inseparable from the House itself. In use, for example, the secret ballot election of Speaker cannot proceed unless the Mace is present. During these proceedings, the Mace lies in the lower stand in front of the Table, indicating that the House is without a voice until it has elected one from among its numbers to be Speaker. As soon as the House has elected a Speaker, the Mace is placed on the Table indicating that the House is now properly constituted and may now conduct business. During everyday business of the House, when the Speaker is in the Chair, the Mace is on the Table. When the Speaker is not in the Chair, the Mace is placed in the stand in front of the Table.

At the beginning of each sitting day the Sergeant-at-Arms, with the Mace resting on his right shoulder, leads the Speaker's Procession into the Chamber. It is then placed on the Table, with the Prince Edward Island Shield of Arms facing upward, and is present in the Chamber at all times when House business is being conducted.

Black Rod

In addition to serving as Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Adamson also serves in the historic capacity of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod during ceremonial occasions. Responsibilities of this position are to serve as an escort to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor when entering the Legislative Chamber at the beginning of a Session for the reading of the Speech from the Throne and for the granting of Royal Assent, usually at the end of a session or before a lengthy adjournment.

In parliamentary proceedings, symbols such as the Black Rod are important as they serve to remind us of historic struggles of people against the arbitrary rule of monarchs. They also serve to signify the serious responsibilities of people in elected office. Early use of the Black Rod in 1348 suggest that it was used to deny admission of unauthorized persons to various festivals and events at Windsor Castle. Later, its symbolism and history reflect an occurrence in the British House of Commons in 1642 when King Charles I stormed the Chamber to arrest five Members who opposed him, but the Speaker of the day refused to turn them over.

Current practice has the Sergeant knocking on the doors of the Chamber with the Black Rod seeking permission for the Lieutenant Governor to enter. This symbolic act was incorporated into the opening ceremony on Prince Edward Island in 2000 and serves to emphasize that the people, and their elected Assembly, are supreme and not the Crown.

Prince Edward Island has a relatively new, and unique, Black Rod. It is made of Island Red Oak, Prince Edward Island's official tree. It has a gold band at the top representing the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, a silver band representing the Speaker, red, white and blue signifying the Clerk, Clerk Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms, four white rings for the pages and large and small dark green rings representing the Province and the three counties respectively.

Two Island pennies have been mounted. These are the only Island coins ever minted for P.E.I. and show on the face "Victoria Queen 1871" and on the reverse the Provincial Oak trees. Below this are the 27 grooves representing the 27 electoral districts in Island rust representing our uniquely coloured soil.

*Lloyd Kerry's Woodworking of Charlottetown crafted the redesigned Black Rod with the assistance of Ivan Kerry, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly (1997 - 2003). Island historian Doug Morton presented as a gift the two 1871 coins mounted in the base of the Rod.

Security
Al McDonald
Security Officer

The Security Officer is responsible for the implementation and day-to-day operations of security policies for the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in Province House and the Coles Building. At present, assisting the Security Officer in the delivery of security services are seven Members of the Canadian Corp of Commissionaires (one full-time and six part-time).

Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment, additional training of security personnel, liaison with Charlottetown City Police as required, creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, contact for assistance with public demonstrations, etc.

Security policies include the following:

1. There are 2 security personnel covering the parking lot.
    [a] only allow authorized parking,
    [b] time sheets are maintained for persons arriving and departing,
    [c] radio contact is maintained with the Security Office in Province House,
    [d] regular foot patrols and reporting of suspicious activity.

2. Province House
    [a] Physical security consists of:
        [1] Head of Security
        [2] 4 Commissionaires - Provincial,
        [3] 1 Commissionaire - Federal,
    [b] entire building is searched twice a day,
    [c] check sheets are completed and retained on file.

3. Visitors
    [a] visitors are required to sign a visitor book.
        [1] name written and printed,
        [2] date and time,
        [3] book kept on file.

4. Meetings
    [a] meetings for security personnel are held on a daily basis.

5. Badge system
    [a] badges are colour coded for easy recognition,
    [b] changed and upgraded every session.

6. Control
   [a] brief cases, kit bags and other such bags, camera cases and other media equipment are searched upon coming into the building.
   [b] visitors with articles that are not allowed beyond the 1st floor are secured by the Commissionaire and are given back to the owners when they are leaving.
   [c] articles are controlled by numbered tags.

7. Policy and Procedures
   [a] policy and procedures are in place to cover movements of persons within the building,
   [b] call tracing has been put on all government telephone lines and it is checked before each sitting of the legislature,
   [c] policy is amended and revised as required,
   [d] personnel are advised of the amendments.

8. Alarm system/CCTV
   [a] Province House is alarmed for the following:
       [1] intrusion - tested frequently,
       [2] glass break - tested frequently,
       [3] panic alarms - strategically located, on a need to know basis,
       [4] all movements inside/outside are covered by cameras and taped,
       [5] taping covers 24 hours, 7 days a week.
   [b] Two metal detectors are used as deemed advisable and necessary.

9. General
   [a] The tunnel connecting Province House to the Coles Building is secured by "Unican" pushbutton lockset. The combination is changed before each session.
   [b] The building is equipped with emergency lighting and a fire alarm system. They are tested periodically.

10. Contingency Plans
    [a] There are contingency plans in place to cover the following.
        [1] fire,
        [2] demonstrations,
        [3] bomb threats,
        [4] radio contact with the Charlottetown Police.

Mr. Wayne Collicott retired as Security Officer on October 31, 2006 and Mr. Al McDonald, a long-time member of the Corps of Commissionaires serving at Province House, was appointed Security Officer effective 1 November, 2006.

Report of Hansard Office for 2006

Jeff Bursey
Manager of Hansard

Hansard PEI was created at the commencement of the 4th Session of the 59th General Assembly in 1996. Since 2003 both the Hansard document and the division itself have advanced steadily in terms of layout of debates, professionalism and breadth of operations.

In the spring of 2003 Hansard PEI joined the Hansard Association of Canada, which has proven to be of great value when, on certain occasions, the assistance of other jurisdictions has been needed on, e.g., procedural matters. In turn, Hansard PEI has rendered assistance to other jurisdictions. It has had a visible and noted presence at the HAC conferences in 2004 (Halifax), 2005 (Edmonton) and 2006 (Winnipeg). In 2005 the HAC conference took place during the Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association. Through these conferences, Hansard PEI has represented the Legislature on the national and international stages.

At the 2006 conference, Hansard PEI led a roundtable on the complicated topic of personnel titles. This presentation, the first in Hansard PEI's history, was well received. At the AGM, Hansard PEI was invited to host the conference in 2010. This invitation was taken up in October. The conference will mark the first time that the HAC has taken place in Prince Edward Island. Delegates will come from the fifteen Hansard jurisdictions in Canada and, if past history is a good barometer, from Ireland, Scotland and the United Kingdom. It will be a significant event in Hansard PEI's history.

This year the responsibilities of Hansard expanded. In the winter of 2006 a trial was carried out to determine if there was a benefit to editing the transcripts of various standing committees. The trial period was from mid-January to late March, when the House re-opened. In the fall this new responsibility of Hansard was deemed useful and of benefit to the members, and it was resumed at that time. Late in the year Hansard also edited the proceedings of the 27th Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees. As well, in the fall of 2006 and January 2007 the Manager of Hansard assisted the Clerk Assistant in the first stages of the revision of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

There has been no change to the recording and issuance of the daily proceedings of the House. The daily Hansard, and Question Period, have been distributed on a consistent, reliable and efficient basis since the installation of the printer in Province House in the fall of 2004, and are posted on the Internet. The Preliminary Proceedings of Question Period is transcribed by the end of each sitting day. This means that Tuesday's Question Period appears in print, with Statements by Members, for Wednesday's sitting, and so on. This task is the responsibility of one transcriber.

It is edited the next day for inclusion in the complete Hansard document. The remaining three transcribers produce the rest of the day's sitting, which is then edited by the Manager. Usually the Legislature sits sixteen hours per week. The full Hansard document is produced as follows: Tuesday's Hansard is distributed on Thursday, Wednesday's Hansard is distributed on Friday, Thursday's Hansard is distributed on Tuesday, and Friday's Hansard is distributed on Wednesday.

As an example of the workload performed by the five employees in Hansard, the fall 2005-spring 2006 session totaled 1,764,206 words.

Changes were made to the form of the Hansard index. The first in-depth index was created in the summer of 2003, and this revamped index proved accessible and useful to Members and staff. An index is created immediately after the fall sitting and is made available in print to a list of recipients; this process is repeated once the House closes in the spring, after which the fall-spring index is published. The indexes from 2003 on are available on the web. Early in 2007 there was a renovation to the index with four new sections added: a speaker's index, a subject index, a list of questions taken as notice, and petitions. Hopefully these new sections will be of benefit to everyone.

In 2006 the Hansard staff consisted of transcribers Aubrey Bell (fall 2006 only), Judy Burgoyne, Kirsten Ferguson (up until fall 2006), Helen Gunter and Linda Henry. The Manager and Editor is Jeff Bursey.

At the conclusion of a session, the printed Hansard, with the complete index, is bound into volumes, which are distributed within the Legislative offices, to government and opposition offices, to libraries locally and nationally, as well as to individuals.

1996: 4th Session of the 59th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,238 pages)
1997-1998: 1st Session of the 60th General Assembly; 13 volumes (6,150 pages)
1998-1999: 2nd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,623 pages)
1999-2000: 3rd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,001 pages)
2000: 1st Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,054 pages)
2000-2001: 2nd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,100 pages)
2001-2002: 3rd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,417 pages)
2002-2003: 4th Session of the 61st General Assembly; 3 volumes (2,788 pages)
2003-2004: 1st Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,300 pages)
2004-2005: 2nd Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 4 volumes (3,762 pages)
2005-2006: 3rd Session of the 64th General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,466 pages)

It is hoped that 2006 will be seen as a year of progression and advancement for Hansard PEI, and indicate new areas of growth in the years to come.

Jeff Bursey
Manager of Hansard

Budget for the Legislative Assembly
for
Fiscal Years 2006/2007

Legislative Assembly

	ESTIMATE 2006-2007	FORECAST 2005-2006	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2005-2006
Legislative Services	$1,601,800	$1,512,600	$1,529,800
Members	$1,686,800	$1,671,300	$1,672,300
Commonwealth Parliamentary Assoc. Conference	$ 95,000	$ 42,000	$ 42,000
Conflict of Interest Commissioner	$ 29,300	$ 29,200	$ 28,200
Office of the Privacy Commissioner	$ 77,400	$ 82,200	$ 82,200
Elections	$ 133,900	$ 381,200	$ 188,900
Electoral Future Commission	$ 0	$ 261,000	$ 148,200
TOTAL	$3,624,200	$3,979,500	$3,691,600

Indemnities and Allowances Commission

The independent Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (pursuant to Section 46 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. L-7) and is charged with the responsibility of making binding decisions on remuneration and allowances to be paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier, Speaker, Ministers of the Crown, various House positions and Executive Council Committee positions.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed or for not more than five years.

The Commission conducts an annual review of remuneration and allowances and submits, on or before December 1 each year, a report determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the persons referred to in subsection 46(1) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

Members of the Commission as appointed by Hon. Greg Deighan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the 62nd General Assembly are:

- Mr. Keith Boswell, Chair (resigned)
- Mr. Mike O'Brien, Chair (appointment effective 3 November, 2006)
- Mr. Albert Ferris, Commissioner
- Mr. Michael Schurman, Commissioner

The Commission's last report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Speaker on December 1, 2006 at which time an extension was requested by the Commission to complete its work. The Office anticipates receipt of the 2006 Report sometime early in 2007.

Prince Edward Island Branch
of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Aims, Goals and Activities of the Association
The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Association is a charity registered under the laws of the United Kingdom. Its stated purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it.

CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament. Its role is endorsed by Commonwealth Parliaments and Heads of Government.

The CPA pursues these objectives by means of
- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably *The Parliamentarian*, *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications.

History
The CPA was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association and its affairs were administered by the United Kingdom Branch. The original member Branches were Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Evolving with the Commonwealth, the CPA in 1948 adopted its present name, changed its rules to enable all member Branches to participate in the Association's management, and established a separate Secretariat to manage its affairs.

Association Branches now exist in more than 165 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of over 14,000 Parliamentarians.

Today's resurgence of parliamentary democracy is evident in the growth of the CPA. In the 1990s, nearly 30 new Parliaments and Legislatures joined or rejoined the CPA: Cameroon; Fiji; new devolved Assemblies in Canada, India and the United Kingdom; Maldives; Mozambique; Nigeria; Seychelles; South Africa and its provinces; Uganda, and Zanzibar in Tanzania. Pakistan and its provinces were members until the 1999 coup.

The CPA in 1989 created the constitutional posts of Patron and Vice-Patron. Her Majesty The Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth consented to become Patron. The Vice-Patron is normally the Head of State or Government of the Branch hosting the coming plenary conference. The 2004 Vice-Patron is the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson.

Activities
In 2006 the Prince Edward Island Branch participated in the following activities of the Canadian Region of the CPA.

- 44rd Annual Canadian Regional Conference, Gatineau-Ottawa from July 8 - 14, 2006. PEI representatives were: Hon. Greg Deighan, David McKenna, Wes MacAleer, Wayne Collins and Richard Brown and Charles MacKay, Clerk

- Atlantic Parliamentary Conference, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador from June 22 - 25, 2006. PEI representatives were: Hon. Greg Deighan, Wilbur MacDonald, Eva Rodgerson, Fred McCardle, Ron MacKinley and Charles MacKay, Clerk.

- The Annual Canadian Regional Seminar, Victoria, British Columbia from October 12 -15, 2006. PEI representatives were Hon. Greg Deighan and Helen MacDonald.

- The 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Small Countries Conference was held from September 1 - 10, 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria. Prince Edward Island's representative was Hon. Greg Deighan, Speaker.

- At the request of the Canadian Region, and attending as the Canadian Regional Representative, the Hon. Greg Deighan attended the CPA Mid-Year Executive meetings in Isle of Man, UK from May 3 - 7, 2006.

- Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Yellowknife, NWT from January 19 - 22, 2006. Hon. Greg Deighan, Speaker and Andy Mooney, Deputy Speaker represented Prince Edward Island.

President of the P.E.I. Branch is the Honourable Greg Deighan, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Branch Secretary is Charles MacKay. Questions may be directed to the Office of the Clerk, Province House, Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8 (tel) 902-368-5970, (fax) 902-368-5175 or e-mail chmackay@gov.pe.ca.