



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: April 18, 2008

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 9:00 – 10:00

Members Present:

Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, Speaker

Mr. William MacKenzie, Clerk of the House of Assembly

Hon. Tom Rideout, Government House Leader

Mr. Kelvin Parsons, Opposition House Leader

Ms. Beth Marshall, MHA (PC) Topsail

Ms. Yvonne Jones, MHA (L) Cartwright - L'Anse Au Clair

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

Other:

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy & Communications Officer

Regrets:

Hon. Trevor Taylor, MHA (PC) The Straits - White Bay North

CM 2008 - 022 The minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission Meeting held on April 11, 2008 were approved as read.

CM 2008 - 023 The Commission gave second approval, as required under paragraph 15(5)(c) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, to the proposed draft amendments to *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* as presented to the Management Commission on April 11, 2008 and which were tabled in the House of Assembly on April 14, 2008 as follows, subject to final drafting by the Office of Legislative Counsel:

1. Respecting Temporary Accommodations:

Subparagraphs 31(1)(b)(i), 33(b)(i), 35(b)(i) and Paragraph 38(2)(b) are repealed and the following is substituted:

“the actual cost of temporary standard room accommodations, with receipts, for every night the accommodations are actually occupied by the member”

Subparagraphs 32(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(i) and 37(b)(i) are repealed and the following substituted:

“the actual cost of temporary standard room accommodations in the constituency for every night actually spent in the constituency ”

2. Respecting Private Accommodations:

Subparagraphs 31(1)(b)(ii), 32(2)(b)(ii), 33(b)(ii), 35(b)(ii), 36(2)(b)(ii), 37(b)(ii) and paragraph 38 (2)(b) are amended by deleting the amount of “\$25” and substituting the amounts and words “\$53 on the island and \$71 in Labrador”.

3. Respecting Maximum number of nights allowable when the House is not in session:

Paragraphs 35(b), 36(2)(b) and 37(b) are amended by deleting the number “35” and substituting the number “50”.

4. Respecting Meal per diems while traveling to/from the Capital Region:

Subsection 31(2) is amended by deleting the word, brackets and letter “or (c)”.

- CM 2008 - 024** The Commission approved the proposed guidelines, dated April 2008, for hiring replacement Constituency Assistants with the added provision that replacements would sign the political support staff contract.
- CM 2008 – 025** The Commission directed that a Member or staff person may travel on behalf of those who are covered under the Ministerial Expense Reimbursement Policies, with these policies to be applied to the expense claim, and costs to be charged to the appropriate allocation.
- CM 2008 – 026** The Commission directed that the House of Assembly Service and all Statutory Offices be categorized as Category 2 entities for the purpose of reporting requirements under the Transparency and Accountability Act. Statutory Officers and the Clerk of the House of Assembly may request further discussion with the Commission to provide rationale for a categorization other than Category 2 as directed by the Commission.
- CM 2008 – 027** The Commission approved the proposed guidelines, dated April 2008, for providing shared secretarial assistance, pursuant to Rule 23(2) of the *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules*.
- CM 2008 – 028** The Commission confirmed the appointment of the Auditor General as auditor of the accounts of the House of Assembly and Statutory Offices, as recommended by the Audit Committee.
- CM 2008 – 029** The Commission approved the Level 2 per diem for eligible members of the Audit Committee of \$240 for a normal working day and \$120 for half a day or less.

CM 2008 – 030 The Commission approved the payment of invoices for advertising during the 2007 Christmas season which did not include contact information and confirmed the requirement to include Member contact information in all future advertising.

CM 2008 – 031 The Commission directed the Clerk to review the Rules and policies respecting advertising by Members and to prepare draft Rule Amendments and/or policies which provide Members with greater clarity respecting advertising practices.

Adjournment: 10:00
Hon. Roger Fitzgerald, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Wm. MacKenzie
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission