



Newfoundland & Labrador

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

### DIRECTIVE

Directive Number 2022-001

<b>Effective Date:</b> February 1, 2022	<b>Commission Minutes:</b> CM 2022-012, CM 2022-013, CM 2022-014 and CM 2022-015
<b>Subject:</b> Provisions for Caucus Funding	<b>Reference:</b> Management Commission Meeting – January 26, 2022
<b>Issued To:</b> Members of the House of Assembly; Comptroller General; Directors of Government Accounting, Professional Services and Internal Audit, Financial Systems Control, and Corporate Services; Office of the Auditor General; Office Managers of Government Caucus, Official Opposition Caucus, NDP Caucus; Deputy Clerk, Executive Council; Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier.	<b>Contact:</b> Wanda Lee Mercer Chief Financial Officer <a href="mailto:wandaleemercer@gov.nl.ca">wandaleemercer@gov.nl.ca</a> 709-729-2923

### BACKGROUND

At meetings on October 15 and November 18, 2008, the Management Commission provided direction on provisions for caucus funding, following an independent review of caucus resources and corresponding recommendations by Metrics EFG (CM 2008-085 and CM 2008-093 refer). These provisions were subsequently amended by CM 2011-010, CM 2012-002 and CM 2016-013.

An inconsistency between the application of the caucus funding provisions and the definition of caucus in the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act (HOAALAA)* was identified in May 2019 when considering the impacts of the election of the 49<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. It was realized that based on the current wording of the policy provisions, there was no authority to provide funding to a registered political party with one Member elected, as it did not fit either the definition of a caucus or a non-affiliated member.

The Management Commission considered this issue at its meeting on January 26, 2022 and issued the following direction.

**DIRECTIVE**

The Commission directed that funding for a third registered political party with one elected Member be allocated in accordance with funding provisions for a third registered political party with two or more Members.

The Commission directed that funding for fourth and subsequent registered political parties with one elected Member be allocated in accordance with funding provisions for unaffiliated Members.

The Commission approved the policy document (Caucus Funding Policy), collating caucus funding provisions established by the Commission.

The Commission directed authority to House officials to update Section 9 of the Caucus Funding Policy as necessary in accordance with the established adjustment formula, without further reference to the Commission.

The Caucus Funding Policy is attached.



Sandra Barnes  
Clerk of the House of Assembly



**House of Assembly**

**Caucus Funding Policy**

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## 1.0 Purpose

Under the authority of subparagraph 20(6)(b)(ii) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, this policy provides a summary of funding provisions as directed by the Management Commission to:

- caucuses (as defined in the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*);
- registered political parties comprising one member; and
- unaffiliated members.

## 2.0 Authorities

All Management Commission decisions pertaining to this policy are recorded in chronological order in Appendix A.

## 3.0 Definitions

The following definitions apply:

"caucus" means a group of 2 or more members who belong to the same registered political party (subsection 2(d) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*);

"registered political party" means an organization formed for the purpose of contesting an election of members to the House of Assembly and which is registered in the register of political parties under section 278 of the *Elections Act, 1991* (subsection 2(o) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*);

"Private Member" means a Member who is not the Speaker or a Member of the Executive Council (CM 2008-085)

"Unaffiliated Member" means an independent member not affiliated with a registered political party.

## 4.0 Caucus Funding Allocations

### 4.1 Base Funding

Base funding for the purposes of research and administration is allocated in accordance with CM 2008-085 and as amended by CM 2012-002 as follows:

Government: \$100,000/fiscal year  
Official Opposition: \$250,000/fiscal year  
Third Party: \$100,000/fiscal year

These initial amounts are adjusted in accordance with the adjustment formula outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided under this component is included in Section 9.0.

### 4.2 Variable (Per private Member) Funding

Variable (per private Member) funding for the purposes of research and administration is allocated in accordance with CM2008-085 as \$18,000/fiscal year for each private Member

This initial amount is adjusted in accordance with the adjustment formula outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided under this component is included in Section 9.0.

### 4.3 Allocation to Party Leaders

Funding is provided to the Leader of the Official Opposition and Leader of the Third Party in accordance with CM2008-085 as follows:

Official Opposition: Leader shall be entitled to \$253,600 per fiscal year for core staff support.

Third Party: Leader of the Third Party shall be entitled to 50% of the amount allocated to the Leader of the Official Opposition for core staff support.

These initial amounts are adjusted in accordance with the adjustment formula outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided under this component is included in Section 9.0.

#### **4.4 Assistants to House Leaders**

In accordance with CM 2008-085, funding is provided for an assistant to the Government House Leader and an assistant to the Official Opposition House Leader, each to be compensated on the PS-05 salary scale.

The current level of funding provided under this component is included in Section 9.0.

#### **4.5 Operational Funding**

Operational funding for the purpose of miscellaneous operational purchases in accordance with the Caucus Operational Funding Grant Policy is allocated as prescribed by CM 2008-085 as follows:

Caucuses: \$100/month for each Member of that caucus (\$800/month minimum)  
Office of the Speaker: \$100/month

These initial amounts are adjusted in accordance with the adjustment formula outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided under this component is included in Section 9.0.

#### **4.6 Adjustment Formula**

The adjustment formula is prescribed by CM 2008-085 as follows:

Base Funding:

Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, each allocation is adjusted to reflect any salary adjustments made to the Management Pay Plan of the Executive Branch.

Variable (per private member) Funding:

Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the variable allocation is adjusted to reflect any salary adjustments made to the Management Pay Plan of the Executive Branch.

#### Allocation to Party Leaders:

Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the allocation to Party Leaders is adjusted to reflect any salary adjustments made to the Management Pay Plan of the Executive Branch.

#### Operational Funding:

Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, this allocation shall be adjusted based on the provincial Consumer Price Index for the prior calendar year.

### **4.7 Changes to Caucus Composition**

In accordance with CM 2016-013 when a caucus changes in composition, the related changes to funding allocations shall be effective immediately.

### **4.8 Caucus Management**

In accordance with CM 2008-085, each caucus will designate an administrative staff person to liaise with the Office of the Clerk and Corporate and Members' Services Division on financial and human resource management matters.

### **5.0 Fourth and Subsequent Caucuses**

In accordance with CM 2008-093, caucuses of additional registered political parties shall be allocated funding in accordance with provisions provided for the Third Party caucus.

### **6.0 Registered Political Parties Represented by One Member**

In accordance with CM 2022-012, funding for a third registered political party with one elected Member is allocated in accordance with funding provisions for a third registered political party with two or more Members.

In accordance with CM 2022-013, funding for fourth and subsequent registered political parties with one elected Member is allocated in accordance with funding provisions for unaffiliated Members.



## **7.0 Unaffiliated Members**

In accordance with CM 2008-093, Members not affiliated with a registered political party shall be entitled to the following:

- a) Variable (per Private member) funding of \$18,000/fiscal year for the purpose of research and administration, subject to the adjustment formula as outlined in Section 4.6.
- b) Operational Funding of \$100/month for miscellaneous operational purposes, subject to the adjustment formula as outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided to unaffiliated members is included in Section 9.0.

## **8.0 Speaker**

In accordance with CM2008-085, the Speaker is entitled to Operational Funding of \$100/month for miscellaneous operational purposes, subject to the adjustment formula as outlined in Section 4.6.

The current level of funding provided to the Speaker is included in Section 9.0.

## 9.0 Current Caucus Funding Allocations

The following table provides the funding allocations as of **January 1, 2022**.

As prescribed in CM 2022-015, this table is updated as required in accordance with the established adjustment formula in Section 4.6.

<b>Caucus/ Member</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Operational Funding Grant</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Government</b>	\$132,789/ fiscal year	\$23,902/ fiscal year for each private Member	\$129.71/month for each Member (with a monthly minimum based on 8 Members)	Assistant to Government House Leader (paid on the PS- 05 salary scale)
<b>Official Opposition</b>	\$296,745/ fiscal year	\$23,902/ fiscal year for each private Member	\$129.71/month for each Member (with a monthly minimum based on 8 Members)	\$336,752/fiscal year (core staff support for Leader)  Assistant to Opposition House Leader (paid on the PS-05 salary scale)
<b>Third Party</b>	\$132,789/ fiscal year	\$23,902/ fiscal year for each private Member	\$129.71/month for each Member (with a monthly minimum based on 8 Members)	50% of the amount allocated to the Leader of the Official Opposition (core staff support for Leader)
<b>Independent/ Unaffiliated Member</b>	\$0	\$23,902/ fiscal year	\$129.71/month	N/A
<b>Speaker</b>	\$0	\$0	\$129.71/month	N/A

## **Appendix A – Management Commission Minutes Respecting Caucus Funding**

**CM 2008 – 085**

The Commission considered the recommendations of the Report on Caucus Resources and approved the following caucus resources:

### **1. Base Caucus Funding:**

Government Members' Caucus and the Third Party Caucus shall be entitled to base caucus funding of \$100,000 per fiscal year for the purpose of research and administration.

### **2. Variable (per private Member) Funding:**

Each caucus shall be entitled to \$18,000 per fiscal year for each private Member, for the purpose of research and administration. A private Member is defined as a Member who is not the Speaker or a Member of Executive Council.

### **3. Allocation to Party Leaders:**

The Leader of the Official Opposition shall be entitled to \$253,600 per fiscal year for core staff support. The Leader of the Third Party shall be entitled to 50% of the amount allocated to the Leader of the Official Opposition for that purpose.

### **4. Assistant to House Leaders:**

The Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader shall each be entitled to an assistant to be paid on the PS-05 salary scale.

### **5. Salary Adjustments:**

The allocations under items 1 to 4 above shall reflect any salary adjustments made to the Management Pay Plan of the Executive Branch, beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

### **6. Operational Funding:**

Each caucus shall be entitled to \$100 per month for each Member of that caucus, with a monthly minimum of \$800, to fund miscellaneous operational purchases. The Speaker shall be entitled to \$100 per month. Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year, this allocation shall be adjusted based on the provincial Consumer Price Index for the prior calendar year. Guidelines respecting eligible and ineligible purchases under this allocation shall be determined by the Commission. Each caucus shall submit a report detailing expenditures on the use of this allocation to the Commission within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

## 7. Funding Adjustments:

When a caucus increases in number and becomes entitled to additional amounts, that increase shall be effective immediately. When a caucus decreases in number, the calculated reduced amount shall not take effect until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

## 8. Caucus Management:

Each caucus will designate an administrative staff person to liaise with the Office of the Clerk and Corporate and Members' Services Division on financial and human resource management matters.

### CM 2008 – 093

The Commission considered recommendations 2, 14 and 16 of the Report on Caucus Resources and decided the following:

1. The Commission rejected recommendation 2 to provide base funding of \$250,000 to the Official Opposition.
2. The Commission decided that the caucuses of any registered parties will be treated the same as the Third Party.
3. The Commission decided that Independent Members not affiliated with a registered political party shall be entitled to the Variable (per Private member) funding of \$18,000 per fiscal year, subject to the approved salary adjustment formula, for the purpose of research and administration, and Operational Funding of \$100 per month for miscellaneous operational purposes, subject to the approved adjustment formula.

### CM 2011-010

The Commission directed that variable and operational caucus funding adjustments will continue in accordance with CM 2008-085 following by-elections, but adjustments will be effective immediately after each general election.

### CM 2012-002

The Commission adopted the 2008 Metrics EFG Report, "Review of Caucus Resources – House of Assembly".

### CM 2016-013

In order to give effect to budget decisions, the Commission, at an *in camera* budget meeting, directed that when a caucus increases in number and becomes entitled to additional funding amounts, that increase shall be effective immediately. When a caucus decreases in number, the calculated reduced amount shall be effective immediately.

- CM 2022-012** The Commission directed that funding for a third registered political party with one elected Member be allocated in accordance with funding provisions for a third registered political party with two or more Members.
- CM 2022-013** The Commission directed that funding for fourth and subsequent registered political parties with one elected Member be allocated in accordance with funding provisions for unaffiliated Members.
- CM 2022-014** The Commission approved the policy document (Caucus Funding Policy), collating caucus funding provisions established by the Commission.
- CM 2022-015** The Commission directed authority to House officials to update Section 9 of the Caucus Funding Policy as necessary in accordance with the established adjustment formula, without further reference to the Commission.