



**From:** Clerk of the House of Assembly

**Date:** March 7, 2017

**Subject:** Notice of Rule Amendments

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At its February 27, 2017 meeting, the House of Assembly Management Commission approved several amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) as a result of adopting various recommendations of the 2016 Members' Compensation Review Committee (CM 2017-013 refers).

Under subsection 15(5) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* (the Act), when amending or adding to the level of expense amounts permitted under the Rules, proposed amendments must be:

- a) given first approval at a Commission meeting;
- b) tabled by the Speaker in the House if in session;
- c) distributed to each Member if the House is not in session;
- d) posted on the House of Assembly website; and
- e) voted on at a subsequent meeting of the Commission.

Once the amending process is complete, the approved amendments are forwarded to the Office of Legislative Counsel in preparation for publication in the NL Gazette. The rule amendments will become effective on the date they are Gazetted.

The attached draft amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* were given first approval by the Commission at the February 27, 2017 meeting, and tabled in the House on March 7, 2017. This notice serves to address the requirement of subsection 15(5) regarding appropriate notice of rule amendments.

The text of all amendments is subject to final drafting of the subordinate legislation by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Paragraph 24(i) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

*(i) advertising in the form and with the content outlined in the policies of the commission,*

Paragraph 24(j) of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules is repealed.

Paragraph 28(e) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

*(e) "private accommodation" means accommodation maintained by a person other than the member or the member's spouse and which may be used by the member when traveling;*

Section 29 of the Rules is amended by adding immediately after subsection (5) the following:

*(5.1) Notwithstanding subsection 29(1), paragraphs 30(a), (b) and (d), 31(1)(a), 32(2)(a), 33(a), subsection 33.1(1), paragraphs 35(a), 36(2)(a) and section 37.2 a Member shall not claim reimbursement for travel to and from the capital region within commuting distance of the Confederation Building Complex.*

Section 30 of the Rules is amended by adding immediately after paragraph (c) the following:

*(c.1) between his or her constituency and another constituency to attend to constituency business;*

Section 38 of the Rules is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following:

*(2.1) Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a), a member who represents the district of Corner Brook or a district in the capital region may elect to receive the sum of \$200 per month for an entire fiscal year in lieu of receiving the cost of transportation referred to in that paragraph provided that*

*(a) the election must be made before April 1 of the fiscal year to which the election applies; and*

*(b) the \$200 per month shall be a taxable benefit to the member.*

Subsection 39(1) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

*Extra constituency travel allowance*

*39(1) A member may be reimbursed in accordance with this section for reasonable travel, accommodation and meal expenses incurred with respect to circumstances referred to in paragraphs 30(c.1), (d), (e) (f) and (g).*

Section 45 of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

*Committee expenses*

*45(1) A member who is a member of a standing or select committee of the House of Assembly, the commission or a committee of the commission may claim for reasonable expenses related to attendance at a committee or commission meeting when the House is not in session.*

*(2) Reasonable expenses claimed under subsection (1) shall be*

*(a) in accordance with the travel and allowance rates permitted under these rules; and*

*(b) approved by the speaker before being reimbursed to the member.*

Paragraph 46(3)(a) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

*(a) the purchase of food, non-alcoholic beverages and other supplies for meetings with constituents or other members of the public in relation to constituency business and food and non-alcoholic beverages for other constituency related events provided that the member or his or her constituency assistant is in attendance at those events;*

Paragraph 46(4)(g) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

*(g) meal expenses from restaurants, pubs, delicatessens and similar establishments for constituents, their family members and other guests and hospitality food and beverages except as provided for in paragraph (3)(a);*