

**House of Assembly Management Commission  
Briefing Note**

**Title:** Membership of Public Accounts Committee

**Issue:** Proposed Amendment to Section 18 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*

**Background:**

- At the April 30 meeting, the Commission directed that a draft amendment to Section 18 be brought to the next Commission meeting for approval.
- Subsection 18(5) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* (the Act) states:
  - (5) A member of the commission shall not also serve concurrently as a member of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Assembly.
- The Public Accounts Committee, established under Standing Order 65, comprises seven members. The Committee traditionally has three members from the Opposition, one of whom chairs the Committee.
- The current composition of the House of Assembly has four Opposition members, three of whom sit on the House of Assembly Management Commission. As a result, only one opposition member is available to serve on, and act as chair of, the Public Accounts Committee.
- To allow for the effective functioning of the Public Accounts Committee, section 18 of the Act will need to be amended.

**Action Required:**

- The Commission hereby approves the proposed draft amendment to the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* as follows:

Section 18 of the Act is amended by adding immediately after subsection (5) the following:

“(5.1) Notwithstanding subsection (5), where the number of members sitting in the House of Assembly in opposition to the government is insufficient to allow the appointment of 3 of those members to the Public Accounts Committee and still comply with that

subsection, a member of the commission may serve concurrently as a member of the commission and of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Assembly.”

- It is recommended that the Government House Leader inform the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the Commission’s wish to have a Bill introduced during the current session to give effect to the proposed amendment.

Drafted by: Marie Keefe

Approved by: Wm. MacKenzie

Date: May 1, 2008

**House of Assembly Management Commission  
Briefing Note**

**Title:** Office Holder Remuneration

**Issue:** Proposed Amendment to *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*

**Background:**

- At the April 30 meeting of the Management Commission, the Commission raised the issue of remuneration for temporary office holders and asked that information be provided at the next meeting with suggested amendments to the Act.
- Subsection 12(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* (the Act) states:
  - 12(1) A member who also holds one of the following positions shall be paid an additional salary, effective July 1, 2007, as follows:
    - (a) speaker, \$52,497;
    - (b) deputy speaker and chair of committees, \$26,246;
    - (c) deputy chair of committees, \$13,123;
- Standing Order 5(2) states:
  - (2) The Member appointed as Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of Committees shall continue to act in that capacity until the end of the General Assembly for which he or she is appointed, and in the case of a vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise, the House shall proceed forthwith to appoint a successor.
- There are no provisions in the Act to provide remuneration for temporary replacements of office holders who are unable to carry out their responsibilities.
- As a result of illness, the Deputy Speaker/Chair of Committees is currently unavailable to perform that function. The Deputy Chair of Committees is currently filling the role of Deputy Speaker without remuneration as Deputy Speaker. A Private Member is also filling the role of Deputy Chair of Committees without remuneration.

- In order to provide remuneration to the temporary replacements without impacting the remuneration to the office holder, the Act will have to be amended.
- If the Commission approves an amendment to the Act, the amendment would have to go to Cabinet for approval to draft a Bill for presentation to the House of Assembly.

**Action Required:**

- The Commission hereby approves the proposed draft amendment to the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* as follows:

Section 12 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* is amended by adding immediately after subsection (4) the following:

(5) Where a member who holds a position referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(b) or (c) is, due to illness, absent and unable to carry out the duties of his or her position for a period of more than 10 consecutive sitting days of the House of Assembly,

(a) a member referred to in paragraph (1)(b) or (c) who carries out the duties of a member referred to in paragraph (1)(a) or (b); and

(b) another member appointed to carry out the duties of a member referred to in paragraph (1)(c),

is, after the expiration of those 10 days, and until the return to duties of the absent member or the appointment of a new member to the absent member's position, entitled to a salary referred to in subsection (1) for the position that he or she replaces without affecting the salary of the absent member.

- It is recommended that the Government House Leader inform the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the Commission's wish to have a Bill introduced during the current session to give effect to the proposed amendment.

Drafted by: Marie Keefe

Approved by: Wm. MacKenzie

Date: May 1, 2008