



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: February 27, 2013

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Hon. Ross Wiseman, Speaker

Ms. Sandra Barnes, Clerk of the House of Assembly

Hon. Darin King, Government House Leader

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

Mr. Vaughn Granter, MHA (PC) Humber West

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

Hon. Joan Shea, MHA (PC) St. Georges – Stephenville

Mr. Dwight Ball, MHA (L) Humber Valley

Other

Mr. Glen Littlejohn, MHA (PC) Port de Grave, Deputy Chair of Committees

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy & Communications Officer, Clerk's Office

CM 2013-001

The Commission, at an *in camera* meeting, approved the creation of one permanent Systemic Advocacy Consultant position for the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

CM 2013-002

The Commission, at an *in camera* meeting, approved the abolition of one permanent Individual Advocacy Specialist position for the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

The Speaker tabled a letter to the Commission from the Hon. Jerome Kennedy, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, regarding the recommendations of the Members' Compensation Review Committee with respect to MHA salaries.

CM 2013-003 The Minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meeting held on December 4 and 5, 2012 were approved as read.

CM 2013-004 The Commission approved the audited financial information 2012-2013 for the House of Assembly and its Statutory Offices as recommended by the Audit Committee.

CM 2013-005 The Commission ratified the approval of Budget Transfer No. HOABT 2013-0004 to transfer funds to Members' Resources – Grants and Subsidies to provide operational funding for the Independent Member for the period September 13, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

CM 2013-006 The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved the payment of an expense claim totaling \$62.15 which was submitted by the Member for Burgeo-LaPoile, with the Speaker to determine the appropriate authority for payment in keeping with the provisions of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

CM 2013-007 The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved expense claims totaling \$153.79 for the Member for Burin-Placentia West which were submitted by the Member later than the 60-day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

CM 2013-008

The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved expense claims totaling \$1051.44 for the Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair which were submitted by the Member later than the 60-day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*. The Member abstained from voting.

CM 2013-009

The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved expense claims totaling \$1,558.96 for the Member for Humber East which were submitted by the Member later than the 60-day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

CM 2013-010

The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved expense claims totaling \$1,236.75 for the Member for Mount Pearl South which were submitted by the Member later than the 60-day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

CM 2013-011

The Commission, pursuant to subsection 24(9) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, approved expense claims totaling \$283.57 for the Member for St. George's-Stephenville East which were submitted by the Member later than the 60-day deadline as required under subsection 7(6) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*. The Member abstained from voting.

CM 2013-012

In response to recommendations 1-4 of Members' Compensation Review Committee (MCRC) 2012 with respect to salaries, the Commission directed that MHA salaries be frozen at current levels. Any increases in MHA salaries should only come about as a result of

any future recommendations by a Members' Compensation Review Committee appointed after the next provincial general election.

CM 2013-013

The Commission adopted recommendation 5 of MCRC 2012 which recommended that the current MHA pension plan remain unchanged.

CM 2013-014

The Commission endorsed the proposal outlined in recommendation 6 of MCRC 2012 that either the MHA pension plan be converted to a defined contribution plan or that the existing defined benefit plan be significantly modified. The Commission directed the Speaker to develop a strategy for undertaking a thorough review of the proposal. This proposed strategy is to be submitted to the Commission for review and approval at a future meeting of the Commission.

CM 2013-015

The Commission did not adopt recommendation 7 of MCRC 2012 and deferred the decision respecting the resources to be provided to the next Members' Compensation Review Committee to the Commission in place at the time of the appointment of the next MCRC.

CM 2013-016

The Commission did not adopt recommendation 8 of MCRC 2012 and deferred the decision respecting the composition of the next Members' Compensation Review Committee to the Commission in place at the time of the appointment of the next MCRC.

CM 2013-017

The Commission adopted recommendation 15 of MCRC 2012 that the MHA for Burgeo-La Poile be granted reasonable access to helicopter travel.

CM 2013-018

The Commission adopted recommendation 16 that helicopter travel should only be availed of if less expensive travel is not available.


- CM 2013-019** The Commission adopted recommendation 17 that helicopter travel not be included in intra-constituency allowance and will only be availed of with the specific permission of the Speaker upon representation by the MHA to justify such travel. It further directed that helicopter travel will be budgeted for separately. The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair abstained from voting.
- CM 2013-020** The Commission directed the Speaker to consult with the Members for Burgeo-LaPoile, Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair, Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune and Torngat Mountains to help determine specific helicopter allocations for those districts. The recommended allocations will be brought to a future meeting of the Commission for approval.
- CM 2013-021** The Commission adopted recommendation 21 of MCRC 2012 to increase the kilometers from 4,500 to 20,000 for the District of Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune. The dollar amount of the total allocation will be adjusted accordingly.
- CM 2013-022** The Commission adopted recommendation 23 of MCRC 2012 to add the amount of \$1,500 to the intra-constituency allowance estimate for the district of Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune for increased ferry travel.
- CM 2013-023** The Commission adopted recommendation 22 of MCRC 2012 and directed that the mileage estimate included in the intra-constituency cost estimate for the district of St. Barbe is to be increased from 15,000 to 20,000 kilometres. The dollar amount of the total allocation will be adjusted accordingly.
- CM 2013-024** The Commission did not adopt recommendation 25 of MCRC 2012 with respect to the procurement of short-term apartment type rental facilities for MHAs who are traveling to St. John's to attend at the House or to attend to constituency business. Current accommodation

provisions for travel to the Capital Region under paragraphs 31(b) and 35(b) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* remain unchanged.

CM 2013-025

The Commission adopted recommendation 26 of MCRC 2012 to amend Part VI of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* to allow for Members within reasonable driving distance of the Capital Region to be reimbursed for commuting to their district when the House is in Session instead of staying in temporary accommodations. The Commission further directed that the amendments would include a restriction that the provision would not apply to Members whose permanent residence is located within commuting distance of the Capital Region.

Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.
Hon. Ross Wiseman, MHA
Speaker and Chair


Sandra Barnes
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission