



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

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

Date: May 13, 2015

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Wade Verge, MHA, Lewisporte, Speaker

Ms. Sandra Barnes, Clerk of the House of Assembly

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

Hon. Keith Hutchings, MHA (PC) Ferryland

Hon. Darin King, Government House Leader

Mr. Andrew Parsons, MHA (L) Burgeo-LaPoile

Mr. Kevin Pollard, MHA (PC) Baie Verte - Springdale

Regrets:

Mr. Dwight Ball, MHA (L) Humber Valley

Other

Mr. Glen Littlejohn, MHA (PC), Port de Grave, Deputy Speaker

Ms. Marie Keefe, Policy & Communications Officer

CM 2015-018 The Commission, at an *in camera* meeting, approved the pre-commitment of funds up to \$185,400 for the 2016-2017 budget appropriations for the 54th Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

CM 2015-019 The Commission approved a guest program that is cost recoverable for the 54th Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

- CM 2015-020** The Commission, at an *in camera* meeting, approved the pre-commitment of funds up to \$49,700 for the 2016-2017 budget appropriations for the 2016 Hansard Association of Canada Annual Conference.
- CM 2015-021** The Commission approved a guest program that is cost recoverable for the 2016 Hansard Association of Canada Annual Conference.
- CM 2015-022** The Minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meeting held on February 24, 2015 were approved as read.
- CM 2015-023** The Minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meeting held on March 5, 2015 were approved as read.

The Speaker reported the following Rulings on Allowance Use to the Commission for the period ended May 6, 2015. These expenditures are permitted and are in compliance with all other provisions of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) but were rejected for payment as they were not submitted within 60-days of being made. The following rulings were reported:

- The amount of \$436.14 for the Member for the District of St. John's South;
- The amount of \$259.00 for the Member for the District of Terra Nova;
- The amounts of \$166.68 and \$237.59 for the Member for the District of Virginia Waters; The amount of \$169.50 for the Member for the District of Conception Bay East - Bell Island; and,
- The amounts of \$1972.11 and \$46.64 for the Member for the District of Lake Melville.

The Clerk reported the following authorizations given for furniture and equipment expenditures for the period ending May 6, 2015:

- The amount of \$464.96 was approved for a filing cabinet for the constituency office of Ms. Susan Sullivan, Member for the District of Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

- The amount of \$419.00 was approved for a table for the constituency office of Mr. Rex Hillier, Conception Bay South.
- The amount of \$268.95 was approved for a folding table; metal shelving unit; and surge protectors for the constituency office of Mr. Rex Hillier, Conception Bay South.

CM 2015-024 The Commission ratified the approval of the following transfer of funds:

Budget Transfer No. HOABT2015-0040 to transfer funds to Office of the Chief Electoral Officer – Grants and Subsidies to provide funds to process By-Election subsidy payments related to 2014/15 fiscal year.

A report of all Budget transfers processed during fiscal year 2014-15 was provided to the Commission for information purposes. No decision was required.

Adjournment: 5:58 p.m.

Wade Verge, MHA
Speaker and Chair

Sandra Barnes
Clerk and Secretary to the Commission

**House of Assembly Management Commission
Briefing Note**

Title: *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*

Issue: Consequential amendments required to *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*

Background:

- The *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) provide resources to Members to assist them in fulfilling their public duties and responsibilities as elected officials.
- The 2015 Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed in February 2015, with a mandate to reduce the number of seats in the Legislature from 48 to 40. The Commission's report with its recommendations must be submitted no later than June 9, 2015. In order to give effect to the new boundaries, the *House of Assembly Act* must be amended to reflect the proposed district changes.
- As a result of the district changes, a number of amendments will be required to the Rules, specifically:
 1. The concept of capital region is used throughout the Rules to determine Members' eligibility for certain expenses. The definition [paragraph 2(d)] must be amended to reflect the names of the proposed districts encompassed in the capital region.
 2. Members from districts within close proximity to the capital region have the option of claiming mileage to return to their permanent residence, as opposed to staying in the capital region, when the House is in session. This provision [subsection 33.1(3)] will need to reflect the new names of the eligible districts.
 3. Members representing districts furthest from the capital region may claim certain expenses while in transit. This provision [subsection 37.1(2)] must be amended to reflect the new names of the eligible districts.
 4. Schedule A of the Rules outlines the allocations of Intra-Constituency Costs for each district. Should the new electoral boundaries come into effect, Schedule A will need to be amended to reflect the names of the 40 districts and give authority to pay expenditures under this allocation.
- These amendments will need to be done as a consequential amendment within the bill that will be amending the HOA Act. The proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* are attached for the Commission's consideration (Attachment 1).

- The suggested Intra-Constituency allocations are, where possible, substantially based on current district allocations. Attachment 2 outlines the districts where adjustments to the current allocations are required.
- The proposed amendments are required interim measures to allow Members to carry out their duties from the beginning of the 48th General Assembly until such time as the Members' Compensation Review Committee is appointed to review compensation, benefits and allowances.
- Upon the issuance of the final boundary recommendations by the Electoral Boundaries Review Commission, changes may be required to the proposed amendments. Should this occur, the Commission will need to either meet to give final approval to any required changes to the amendments or delegate its authority to the Speaker for final approval of such changes.

Analysis:

Legal Consultation:

Law Clerk of the House of Assembly

Internal Consultation(s):

N/A

External Consultation(s):

N/A

Comparison to Government Policy:

N/A

Financial Impact:

Currently, \$445,100 must be appropriated annually for the Intra-Constituency allowance. The proposed Schedule A will require an annual appropriation of \$380,800.

Legislative Impact:

Amendments will be required to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

Options:

1. Approve the proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.
2. Do not approve the proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*.

Status:

- The provisions of the current *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* apply.

Action Required:

Pursuant to Section 64 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Commission hereby gives approval in principle to the attached proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*, subject to determination of the allocations upon issuance of the final electoral boundaries report and final wording by the Office of the Legislative Counsel and approval of the House of Assembly.

Prepared by: Marie Keefe

Approved by: Sandra Barnes

Date: May 6, 2015

Attachments:

1. Proposed amendments to the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*
2. Proposed allocations for Schedule A

**Consequential amendments to *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules*
resulting from Electoral Boundary change**

1(1) Paragraph 2(d) of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* is repealed and the following is substituted:

(d) "capital region" means

- (i) Cape St. Francis
- (ii) Conception Bay South
- (iii) Ferryland (North of Witless Bay Line)
- (iv) Mount Pearl-Southlands
- (v) Mount Pearl North
- (vi) Mount Scio
- (vii) Pippy Park
- (viii) Portugal Cove-Bell Island
- (ix) St. John's Centre
- (x) St. John's East-Quidi Vidi
- (xi) St. John's West
- (xii) Topsail-Paradise
- (xiii) Virginia Waters-Pleasantville, and
- (xiv) Waterford Valley

(2) Subsection 33.1(3) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

(3) This section shall apply only to members who represent the districts of

- (a) Ferryland (South of Witless Bay Line)
- (b) Harbour Grace-Port de Grave
- (c) Harbour Main
- (d) Placentia-St. Mary's
- (e) Placentia West-Bellevue; and
- (f) Trinity-Carbonear

(3) Subsection 37.1(2) of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

(2) The districts to which subsection (1) applies are:

- (a) BaieVerte-Green Bay
- (b) Burgeo-La Poile
- (c) Burin-Grand Bank
- (d) Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair
- (e) Corner Brook
- (f) Exploits
- (g) Fogo-Cape Freels
- (h) Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune
- (i) Grand-FallsWindsor
- (j) Gros Morne
- (k) Humber North
- (l) Humber South-St. George's
- (m) Labrador West
- (n) Lake Melville
- (o) Lewisporte-Twillingate
- (p) St. Barbe-White Bay
- (q) Stephenville-Port au Port; and
- (r) Torngat Mountains

(4) Schedule A of the Rules is repealed and the following is substituted:

Schedule A
House Operations
Estimates of Intra-constituency Costs

District No.	Electoral District	Total
1	Baie Verte-Green Bay	\$12,600
2	Bonavista	11,100
3	Burgeo-La Poile	12,000
4	Burin-Grand Bank	12,000
5	Cape St. Francis	7,200
6	Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair	25,600
7	Conception Bay South	6,100
8	Corner Brook	6,000
9	Exploits	11,500
10	Ferryland	10,100
11	Fogo-Cape Freels	12,600
12	Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune	16,300
13	Gander	7,700
14	Grand Falls-Windsor	6,000
15	Gros Morne	12,600
16	Harbour Grace-Port de Grave	7,700
17	Harbour Main	7,600
18	Humber North	9,600
19	Humber South-St. George's	7,700
20	Labrador West	6,600
21	Lake Melville	8,000
22	Lewisporte-Twillingate	9,200
23	Mount Pearl North	6,000
24	Mount Pearl – Southlands	6,000
25	Mount Scio	6,000
26	Pippy Park	6,000
27	Placentia-St. Mary's	12,200
28	Placentia West-BelleVue	13,800
29	Portugal Cove-Bell Island	7,700
30	St. Barbe-White Bay	11,800
31	St. John's Centre	6,000
32	St. John's East-QuidiVidi	6,000
33	St. John's West	6,000
34	Stephenville-Port au Port	6,800
35	Terra Nova	13,400
36	Topsail-Paradise	6,000
37	Torngat Mountains	20,700
38	Trinity-Carbonear	8,600
39	Virginia Waters-Pleasantville	6,000
40	Waterford Valley	6,000
	Total	\$380,800

2. Section 1 shall come into force the day immediately following the general election which occurs immediately after the coming into force of this Act.

Proposed Allocations for Schedule A

- Schedule A of the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules specifies the amount allocated to each district for Intra-Constituency Travel (commonly referred to as I&E)
- The method of developing the I&E amount for each district was established in ***Rebuilding Confidence: Report of the Review Commission on Constituency Allowances and Related Matters*** , Appendix 10.3 refers.
- Since the original I&E amounts were established, there have been several adjustments as a result of Members Compensation Review Committee (MCRC) recommendations and directives from the Management Commission. Specifically:
 - As a result of MCRC 2012 recommendations, the helicopter allocation was removed from the I&E and established as a separate allowance. Several districts were also provided an increase in the mileage allocation used to calculate the allowance.
 - In 2013, a 20% reduction was applied to each district's I&E allocation as a cost reduction measure.
 - In 2014, the allocation for eight districts changed as a result of redistributing the mileage allocation by reducing it in four districts and increasing it in four other districts to address shortfalls in those districts.
- To establish I&E allocations for the proposed new districts, the following approach was followed:
 - The template set out in Rebuilding Confidence was used with the amendments above incorporated into it.
 - The Economics and Statistics Branch of the Department of Finance provided estimates of the kms of roads in each of the current and proposed districts.
 - The proposed districts were compared with the size of existing districts based on the estimated kms of roads in each.
- For most of the proposed new districts, the I&E allocation for a current district that is substantially incorporated into a proposed districts is suggested as the allocation for the proposed districts. Where the size of the proposed district, exceeded the size of the current district used as the base, funding for additional mileage was allocated as follows:
 - Less than 100 km: No change in allocation
 - 100-200: An additional 2000 km added to allocation
 - 200-300: An additional 3000 km added to allocation
 - 300-400: An additional 4000 km added to allocation

- The following are the districts where additional mileage was allocated. In districts where there was no obvious comparison to an existing district, a district of comparable size was used to determine the allocation.

Proposed District	Rationale
Baie Verte – Green Bay	The proposed district includes the current Baie Verte-Springdale district as well as a portion of the current Grand Falls-Windsor-Green Bay South district. The size of the new district will be approximately 190 km larger than the current Baie Verte-Springdale. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current allocation for the Baie Verte-Springdale with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,600.
Bonavista	The proposed district includes the current Bonavista South district and a portion of the current Terra Nova and Trinity North districts. The proposed district will be approximately 250 km larger than the current Bonavista South district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current allocation for Bonavista South with funding for an additional 3,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$11,100.
Burgeon-LaPoile	The proposed district will be approximately 150 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,000.
Corner Brook	The proposed district is not comparable to any current district. It is confined within the municipal boundaries similar to the urban districts of the Northeast Avalon. It is suggested the district of Corner Brook be given funding for 7000 km with an allocation of \$6,000, which is the same as the existing urban districts.
Exploits	The proposed district is approximately 385 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 4000 km. The proposed allocation is \$11,500.
Fogo-Cape Freels	The proposed district encompasses a large portion of the current Bonavista North district, a portion of the Isles of Notre Dame district (Fogo and Change Islands) and a portion of the Lewisporte district. It is suggested the

Proposed District	Rationale
	allocation for the proposed district be based on the Bonavista North allocation with the addition of ferry travel from the Isles of Notre Dame. As it is approximately 210 km larger than the current Bonavista North district, funding for an additional 3000 km is suggested. The proposed allocation is \$12,600.
Grand Falls-Windsor	The proposed district is confined within the municipal boundaries similar to the urban districts of the Northeast Avalon (same as Corner Brook). It is suggested the district of Grand Falls-Windsor be given funding for 7000 km with an allocation of \$6,000, which is the same as the existing urban districts.
Gros Morne	The proposed district largely encompasses a portion of the current St. Barbe district and a portion of the Humber Valley district. The proposed district is approximately 125 km larger than the current district of St. Barbe. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current St. Barbe allocation with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,600.
Harbour Main	The proposed district is approximately 110 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$7,600.
Humber North	The most comparable in size to the proposed district of Humber North is the current Grand Falls-Windsor-Green Bay South district. It is suggested the allocation for Humber North be based on the current allocation for Grand Falls-Windsor-Green Bay South. The proposed allocation is \$9,600.
Placentia – St. Mary’s	The proposed district is approximately 100 km larger than the current district. It is proposed the allocation be based on the current allowance with funding for an additional 2000 km. The proposed allocation is \$12,200.
Placentia West-Bellevue	The proposed district is based substantially on the current district of Bellevue with portions of the current Burin-Placentia West and Placentia-St. Mary’s districts added. It

Proposed District	Rationale
	is approximately 160 km larger than the current Bellevue district. It is suggested the allocation be based on Bellevue with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$13,800.
St. Barbe – White Bay	The proposed district largely encompasses the Straits-White Bay North district with a portion of the current St. Barbe district. The proposed district is approximately 285 km larger than the current Straits-White Bay North district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current The Straits-White Bay North allocation with funding for an additional 3,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$11,800.
Terra Nova	The proposed district is based on the current districts of Terra Nova and Trinity North. It is almost 105 km larger than the current Terra Nova district. It is suggested the allocation be based on the current allowance for Terra Nova with funding for an additional 2,000 km. The proposed allocation is \$13,400.