



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RULE AMENDMENT (SECTION 38) – INTRA-CONSTITUENCY TRAVEL (HELICOPTER)

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| Effective Date: April 26, 2013 | Commission Minute: CM 2013-042 |
| Subject: Intra-constituency Travel (Helicopter) | Reference: HoaMC Meeting – March 20, 2013 ➤ Agenda Item # 4 HoaMC Meeting – April 23, 2013 ➤ Agenda Item # 4 |
| Issued To: All Members of the House of Assembly; Comptroller General; Directors of Government Accounting, Professional Services and Internal Audit, OMSP, and Corporate Services; Office of the Auditor General; Office Managers of Government Caucus, Official Opposition Caucus, NDP Caucus; Assistant Deputy Clerk, Executive Council; Director of Operations, Office of the Premier. | Contact: Marlene Lambe Chief Financial Officer 729-2923 |

BACKGROUND

Section 38 of the *Members' Resources and Allowances Rules* (the Rules) outlines provisions for Members with respect to travel within their constituency including acceptable modes of transportation. One of the modes permitted under paragraph 38(2)(a) is travel by helicopter. The Schedule to the Rules outlines the intra-constituency travel cost estimates for all 48 electoral Districts. Only the Districts of Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair, Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune and Torngat Mountains were allocated extra funds in their estimates to accommodate travel by helicopter because of the unique challenges associated with travel to remote parts of those Districts.

The 2012 Members' Compensation Review Committee (MCRC) conducted a review of allowance provisions for Members, including intra-constituency travel by helicopter. In its report, the MCRC recommended that the District of Burgeo-LaPoile be granted reasonable access to helicopter travel and that helicopter travel for all Districts be budgeted for separately. In addition, MCRC also recommended that helicopter travel be availed of only when less expensive travel is not available and with the prior approval of the Speaker. The Commission adopted these recommendations at its February 27, 2013 meeting.

As a result of adopting the recommendations with respect to helicopter travel, amendments were required to Section 38 of the Rules, and a new Schedule to the Rules outlining helicopter travel estimates was required.

Appropriate approvals for the required amendments to Section 38 have been received from the House of Assembly Management Commission and by resolution of the House of Assembly as required under the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*.

The Rules are amended by adding immediately after Section 38 the following:

38.1 (1) Where less expensive travel is not available, a member from a district listed in Schedule B may, with the prior approval of the Speaker, be reimbursed for the cost of helicopter travel while acting on constituency business within his or her constituency.

(2) The maximum amount which a member may claim in a fiscal year for intra-constituency travel under this section is the amount set out in Schedule B.

The Rules are amended by adding Schedule B as follows:

**Schedule B
Helicopter Allocation**

| Electoral District | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Burgeo-LaPoile | \$21,000 |
| Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair | 21,000 |
| Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune | 24,600 |
| Torngat Mountains | 10,500 |

The amendment to Section 38 and the new Schedule B came into force on April 26, 2013, the date of publication in the NL Gazette.



Sandra Barnes
Clerk of the House of Assembly