

Members' Attendance in the House of Assembly

Section 13 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* requires that a Member (excluding the Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of a Third Party) attend the House of Assembly when it is sitting, but outlines acceptable reasons for a Member's absence, such as:

- sickness of the Member;
- adoption, pregnancy or parental leave as established by directive;
- a serious illness related to the Member's family;
- bereavement;
- attendance at a meeting of a committee of the House of Assembly, the Commission or a committee of the Commission;
- attendance to duties as a Member of a caucus, attendance to constituency business, or attendance to ministerial duties; and
- other circumstances as approved by the Speaker.

By January 31 of each year, a Member is required to file with the Clerk a declaration under oath or affirmation of his or her attendance while the House of Assembly was sitting in the previous year. Dates of any absences and an explanation for those absences must be provided.

A deduction in the amount of \$200 is made from the Member's salary for each day the Member was absent from a sitting of the House of Assembly for a reason other than those provided for in the legislation.

In its report Review of MHA Salaries, Allowances, Severance Payments and Pensions, the Members' Compensation Review Committee recommended that a copy of each Member's Declaration of Attendance in the House of Assembly as required by subsection 13(5) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* should be posted on the House of Assembly website. The Committee subsequently agreed that a table summarizing Members' attendance would be an acceptable alternative.

In response to this recommendation, the House of Assembly Management Commission, at its March 24, 2010 meeting, amended the House of Assembly Publication Scheme to provide that an annual summary of Members' attendance in the House of Assembly be placed on the House of Assembly website.

The following table is the first such report to be posted in response to this recommendation. The report is a summary of all Members' attendance, including those who resigned or were elected during the reporting period January 1 to December 31, 2009. The House of Assembly had 43 sitting days during this period.

Summary of Members' Attendance for the Period January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Member	District	Approved Absences	Other Absences
Baker, Jim	Labrador West	0	0
Buckingham, Ed	St. John's East	0	0
Burke, Joan	St. George's - Stephenville East	0	0
Butler, Roland	Port de Grave	0	0
Collins, Felix	Placentia - St. Mary's	0	0
Collins, Sandy (<i>elected Nov. 26/09</i>)	Terra Nova	0	0

Member	District	Approved Absences	Other Absences
Cornect, Tony	Port au Port	1	0
Dalley, Derrick	The Isles of Notre Dame	1	0
Dean, Marshall <i>(elected Oct. 27/09)</i>	The Straits-White Bay North	0	0
Denine, Dave	Mount Pearl South	9	0
Dinn, John	Kilbride	1	0
Dunderdale, Kathy	Virginia Waters	0	0
Fitzgerald, Roger	Bonavista South	0	0
Forsey, Clayton	Exploits	1	0
French, Terry	Conception Bay South	0	0
Harding, Harry	Bonavista North	0	0
Hedderson, Tom	Harbour Main	4	0
Hickey, John	Lake Melville	8	0
Hunter, Ray	Grand Falls-Windsor-Green Bay South	0	0
Hutchings, Keith	Ferryland	0	0
Jackman, Clyde	Burin-Placentia West	3	0
Johnson, Charlene	Trinity-Bay de Verde	20	0
Jones, Yvonne	Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair	0	0
Kelly, Darryl	Humber Valley	0	0
Kennedy, Jerome	Carbonear-Harbour Grace	0	0
Kent, Steve	Mount Pearl North	1	2
King, Darin	Grand Bank	1	0
Loder, Terry	Bay of Islands	5	0
Marshall, Elizabeth	Topsail	0	0
Marshall, Tom	Humber East	1	0
Michael, Lorraine	Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi	4	0
O'Brien, Kevin	Gander	11	0
Oram, Paul <i>(resigned Oct. 7/09)</i>	Terra Nova	0	0
Osborne, Sheila	St. John's West	4	1
Osborne, Tom	St. John's South	0	0
Parsons, Kelvin	Burgeo-LaPoile	0	0
Parsons, Kevin	Cape St. Francis	0	0
Peach, Calvin	Bellevue	0	0
Perry, Tracey	Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune	1	0
Pollard, Kevin	Baie Verte-Springdale	0	0
Pottle, Patty	Torngat Mountains	9	0
Ridgley, Bob	St. John's North	1	0
Skinner, Shawn	St. John's Centre	2	0
Sullivan, Susan	Grand Falls-Windsor-Buchans	1	0
Taylor, Trevor <i>(resigned Sep. 24/09)</i>	The Straits-White Bay North	0	0
Verge, Wade	Lewisporte	2	0
Whalen, Dianne	Conception Bay East-Bell Island	12	0
Williams, Danny	Humber West	9	0
Wiseman, Ross	Trinity North	0	0
Young, Wallace	St. Barbe	8	0