

Annual Report 2009-10

Commissioner for Legislative Standards



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September 24, 2010

Honourable Roger Fitzgerald
Speaker
House of Assembly
Main Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL

Dear Speaker:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. This is in compliance with section 35 of the *House of Assembly Act* (Part II – Conflict of Interest).

Copies of this report, and of reports from years past, are available at the Office of the Commissioner. Additionally, the report can be viewed through the Commissioner for Legislative Standards' website: www.legislativestandardscomm.gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



Paul Reynolds
Commissioner for Legislative Standards

Annual Filing Requirement

As outlined in legislation, each member is required to file within 60 days of his or her election and before the second April occurring after the date of his or her election. Additionally, each member is required to file annually before each April 1 (subsequent to filing the second April 1 after his or her election). Only one member has not met the annual filing requirement for 2009-2010 (district of Burgeo – La Poile). This member has kept open communication with the Commissioner about the required filing and the Commissioner is satisfied with these consultations.

Annual Disclosure Statements

Since the last Annual Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards, there have been three provincial by-elections: The Straits-White Bay North (October 27, 2009), Terra Nova (November 26, 2009) and Topsail (March 16, 2010). All three newly-elected members filed their initial disclosures in compliance with legislation and will not be required to file again until April 1, 2011.

Investigations

During the period covered by this report, there were no formal requests or applications to investigate any possible contravention of the Act from any current member, the Honourable Premier or the House of Assembly.

The Commissioner was, however, contacted to conduct four internal inquiries - all of which were unrelated to current Members of the House of Assembly, but which were related to other government departments and/or agencies.

Conferences

Annual conferences provide Commissioners with the opportunity to exchange information on issues of common interest and review legislative and regulatory differences and trends.

Commissioners routinely maintain contact through correspondence and emails regarding investigations, legislative interpretation and jurisdictional changes.

The Commissioner for Legislative Standards was unable to attend the Annual Conference on Government Ethics and Laws (COGEL) in Phoenix, Arizona, so he delegated the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer to attend in his place. The conference took place from December 6-9, 2009.