



**MANITOBA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

To All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

I have the privilege of presenting for your information, the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Whitham".

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and
Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly
Management Commission

Composition of the Commission

Members as at March 31, 2011

Honourable George Hickes, MLA
Speaker and Chairperson

Honourable Jennifer Howard, MLA
Government House Leader

Ms. Mavis Taillieu, MLA
Official Opposition House Leader

Ms. Erna Braun, MLA

Mr. Ralph Eichler, MLA

Mr. Kelvin Goertzen, MLA

Mr. Gerard Jennissen, MLA

Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA

Secretary to the Commission

Ms. Patricia Chaychuk
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

COMMISSION PROCESS

This is the annual report to the Legislative Assembly of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission (the Commission) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011.

The Commission is comprised of the Speaker as Chairperson, four MLAs appointed by the government caucus and three from the official opposition caucus. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is the Secretary.

During the 2010/2011 fiscal year the Commission held meetings on the following dates to consider various matters:

April 27, 2010
March 3, 2011

The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act assigns the following duties and responsibilities to the Commission:

- carrying out those Rules of the Assembly and those provisions of *The Legislative Assembly Act* which relate to the financial management of the Assembly;
- reviewing the estimates of expenditure and the establishment of positions for staff required for the proper conduct of the business operation of the Assembly and for the Assembly offices and for the Auditor General, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Children's Advocate and the Ombudsman and their respective offices;
- in cooperation with the government, providing facilities and services required by the Members of the Assembly, by the caucuses of the various parties to the Assembly and by the leaders of the parties in opposition;
- formulating administrative policies in respect of the Clerk and the offices required for the administration of the Assembly, *The Legislative Assembly Act* and *The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act*;
- maintaining a proper system of security for the Chamber and the Assembly Offices, subject to the administrative authority of the department of the executive government of the province charged with the responsibility for such security; and
- advising and giving directions respecting the efficient and effective operations and management of the Assembly.

Meetings are held in camera, however Officers of the Assembly and staff required to be present may attend. Members of the Assembly who are not Commission members may attend Commission meetings if so invited by the Commission.

As of November 2009, the minutes of Commission meetings, and the Annual Report of the Commission are posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

This report provides an overview of the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission.

2010/2011

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

2011/2012 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES

The Commission met on March 3, 2011 to consider and approve the 2011/2012 estimates for the Legislative Assembly and for the offices of the Independent Officers.

ALLOWANCES COMMISSIONER

One of the measures adopted by the Legislative Assembly following from the November 2009 Report of the Auditor General on Audits of Government Operations was the passage in December 2009 of *Bill 2 – The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act*, which contained provisions to enhance the accountability and transparency of MLA expense spending. This legislation provided for the appointment of an Allowances Commissioner to review the Auditor's report and make appropriate and applicable regulatory changes concerning Members' Allowances. The Commission appointed Michael Werier as the Allowances Commissioner.

Commissioner Werier released his report on September 2, 2010. His report made decisions in a number of areas including:

- transparency and accountability
- adequacy of supporting documentation/proof of payment
- bank accounts
- year end cut-off of Members' claims
- capital assets
- capital carry-over
- communication charges
- donations to charitable and non-profit organizations
- other donations/gifts
- event tickets
- sponsorship
- token souvenir items
- flowers (wreaths, poinsettias), plaques
- scholarships and bursaries
- books
- meals
- expenses for food, refreshment and product for fundraising activities
- community events
- parades
- supplies for office hospitality
- private vehicle mileage
- taxi/parking

- travel outside of the Member's constituency
- airfare claims
- living allowances/living expenses
- printing allowance
- appeal process
- advertising
- three different representation limits
- constituency assistants allowance

The full text of the report and recommendations can be accessed at:

<http://www.reviewcommissioner.mb.ca/report.html>

One of the Commissioner's decisions dealt with the process for consideration of appeals that were disallowed by the Members' Allowances Office. Previously, such appeals were considered by the Commission, however in the interest of ensuring transparency and accountability, the Commissioner determined the appeals should be made to an independent third party and should also be binding. In accordance with this decision, the Commission appointed Michael Werier as the Commissioner to consider all appeals concerning Members' expense claims disallowed by the Members' Allowances Office. All decisions made by the Appeals Commissioner are to be binding.

VISITOR TOUR OFFICE

In 2005, when the Visitor Tour Office for the Legislative Building was transferred from the responsibility of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism to the Legislative Assembly, staff hired to work in the Visitor Tourism Office were included under the non-partisan hiring criteria applicable to all non-political offices of the Legislative Assembly on a go-forward basis.

Upon further review, the Commission decided that staff of the Visitor Tour Office will no longer be required to fulfil the non-partisan criteria when hired, however it will be incumbent on Visitor Tour staff to perform their work duties in a non-partisan manner.