



2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER

February 7, 2014

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Hon. Carolyn Bertram, Speaker
Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Madam Speaker:

It is my honour and duty to submit to you the 2013 Annual Report of the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

This report is submitted pursuant to section 3(1) of the *Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C. 17-1.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Robinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Robinson
Commissioner

2013 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER

This is the 2013 Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner covering the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Annual Disclosure Requirements

The Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C.17.1 imposes responsibilities on the Members of the Legislative Assembly to not only update their disclosure statements throughout the year but also to amend and renew their individual disclosure obligations on an annual basis. It is the statutory obligation of each Member to insure that his or her Public Disclosure Statement is accurate and complete.

All Members must complete and file with the Commissioner a Private Disclosure Statement disclosing all assets, income, liabilities and financial interests held by the Member, the Member's spouse and the Member's dependants. Such disclosure enables the Commissioner to assess any potential conflict of interest on the part of Members in carrying out their legislative or Executive Council responsibilities.

Where a potential conflict of interest is identified, a Member must end or reorganize those private interests or relationships that might impair their judgement in the discharge of their public duties. Such a reorganization may involve divestiture of certain assets or, in the case of Ministers, putting the assets in a "blind trust" as provided in the legislation.

Every year, each Member must meet with the Commissioner to review the Member's Private Disclosure Statement to ensure that the Member continues to be making full disclosure as required.

Annually, the Commissioner prepares a Public Disclosure Statement for each Member which is filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and is accessible by the public.

In addition, on a semi-annual basis each year, the Commissioner reminds each Member of their statutory requirement to report any material change in their circumstances or the receipt of any gift or personal benefit. Each Member is required to file a Statement of Gift Or Personal Benefit or a Statement of Material Change where warranted.

During the subject year the Commissioner met with each Member as required and prepared the Public Disclosure Statements for each MLA which are filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and available for public review.

Investigations

The statute provides that any Member may request that the Commissioner give an opinion as to whether another Member has contravened the Conflict of Interest Act or a Parliamentary Convention of Prince Edward Island.

The Act also provides that by resolution, the Legislative Assembly may request that the Commissioner render an opinion as to whether a Member has contravened the Act or any Parliamentary Convention.

Further, either the Premier or the Executive Council may ask the Commissioner for an opinion about whether a Member of the Executive Council has violated the Act or Parliamentary Convention of Prince Edward Island.

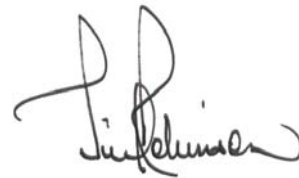
I am pleased to advise that there were no complaints laid against any Member during the past year.

Conclusion

As has been the case in previous years, I wish to express to the Legislative Assembly how pleased I am with the cooperation displayed by our elected representatives. Members, from time to time, request advice concerning situations that might give rise to the application of the Act. Without exception, each Member and former Member has followed the advice or instructions provided by this Office.

In closing, I wish to again express my gratitude to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Charles MacKay, and Ms. Barb O'Donnell, Administrative Assistant, for providing timely and welcome administrative support and advice.

February 7, 2014



Neil Robinson
Commissioner