

Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

2016 Annual Report

January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016





Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

Office of the Speaker
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

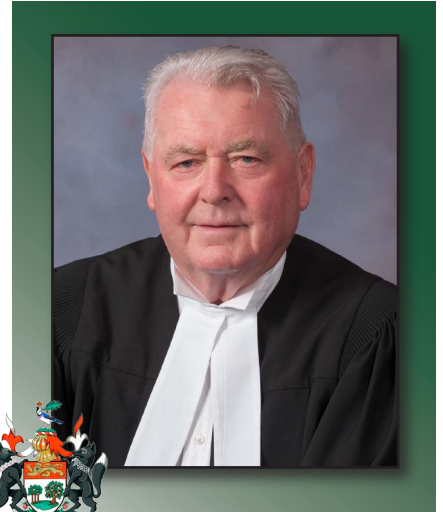
Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Assemblée législative

Bureau du président
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

August 31, 2017

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of
Prince Edward Island,
Charlottetown

I am pleased to present the *2016 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island*, including the 2016 report of the P.E.I. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.



This report encompasses the first two sittings of the Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly: the spring sitting opened on April 5, 2016, with the Speech from the Throne and adjourned to the call of the Speaker May 13, 2016; the fall sitting opened November 15, 2016, and continued the business of the legislature until adjournment on December 15, 2016.

I encourage Islanders to drop in and see the interim Legislative Assembly Chamber in the Honourable George Coles Building (Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm, 175 Richmond Street, Charlottetown), and invite everyone to take a seat in the public gallery and watch the debates when the legislature is in session.

I acknowledge and thank all staff for their contributions and their continued commitment to supporting the work of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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Our Values and Ethics

Democratic Values

Helping parliamentarians, under law, to serve the public interest.

Professional Values

Serving with competence, excellence, efficiency, objectivity, and impartiality.

Ethical Values

Acting at all times to uphold the public trust.

People Values

Demonstrating respect, fairness, and courtesy in our relations with the public, colleagues, and fellow public servants.



Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

Office of the Clerk
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Assemblée législative

Bureau du greffier
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

August 31, 2017

Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
197 Richmond Street, Charlottetown

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure of presenting the 2016 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This report highlights Assembly achievements for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

This past year was a very busy one for the employees of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island. In 2016, a strategic reorganization process for the Office of the Legislative Assembly was completed. This process presented the Assembly with an excellent opportunity to reflect on, and to examine, possible new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services at the House in planning for the future and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our clients.

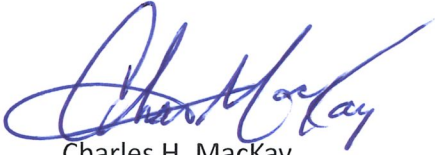
As many may have noticed, there has already been change in operations and service delivery at the Assembly in the areas of social media, sessional operations at the Coles Building, and distribution policies, etc. These changes have been received very favourably and we will continue to explore other operational areas that would benefit from a fresh approach as well.

This past year we had the privilege of hosting three conferences. In June, we hosted the Atlantic Parliamentary Conference in July, the Canadian Sergeant-at-Arms Conference and in September, the Parliamentary Visitor Services Conference.

In September 2016, the Assembly staff, along with support from audio visual services, expanded the website so visitors can now access the audio of Assembly committee proceedings. This service is available on computers and mobile devices. These types of communication initiatives ensure that we continue to increase the awareness of our online presence for all Islanders.

As you review this Annual Report, I think you will agree that it demonstrates our commitment to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with the professional services, infrastructure and advice needed to carry out their work as legislators and representatives in the Chamber, in committees, in caucus, and in their offices.

Respectfully yours,



Charles H. MacKay

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and

Secretary, PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Our History

How It All Started

Prince Edward Island's government was not always led by one House of elected representatives; for roughly the first 120 years of Island governance, there were two legislative bodies, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. A two-body Legislature is known as a bicameral Legislature. PEI's first Governor, Walter Patterson, was instructed to establish a House of Assembly in which representatives were popularly elected (unlike Council members, who were appointed). The combination of a Council and House was a requirement for the enactment of legislation under British law. Though Patterson became Governor in 1769, the first House of Assembly was not elected until 1773. Early sessions of the Assembly met in private homes and taverns. A Sergeant-at-Arms of the time commented that this made for a "damn queer parliament".

By 1825, the House of Assembly was working on establishing its rights and privileges, particularly in terms of self regulation and authority. It followed the example of the British Parliament in seeking to secure

"...freedom from arrest (save in indictable offences) during the session and for periods of forty days before and after the session, freedom of speech during debate, power to discipline members and non-members who gave insult or injury to the House or its members, the right to determine disputed elections, [and] the right to receive petitions." (MacKinnon, Frank. *The Government of Prince Edward Island*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1951, p. 48)

The House also established committees charged with the discussion and analysis of particular matters, which took some of the workload off the main body of the House. Committees remain an important part of today's Legislative Assembly.

PEI's early Legislature often remained in office for an indefinite time, until the Lieutenant Governor saw fit to dissolve it. In 1833, the term was set to four years, with exceptions for dissolution by the Lieutenant Governor or upon the death of the King or Queen. Today, the term of the Legislative Assembly may last for up to five years from the day of the return of the writs for a general election. Otherwise, it may be dissolved earlier by the Lieutenant Governor with the advice of Executive Council. It is no longer automatically dissolved upon the death of a sovereign.

Responsible Government

The existence of an elected House of Assembly was key to PEI's attainment of responsible government (self government) in 1851. The Members of the House of Assembly were largely in favour of responsible government, while the Members of the Legislative Council largely were not. The Council Members' resistance was likely because they were appointed, opposed to reform and enjoyed freedom from responsibility to the House of Assembly. In fact, the Council was often an obstacle to the House in terms of membership and policy. But in 1839, the Legislative Council was separated into a Legislative Council and an Executive Council, and some Members of the House of Assembly were placed on Executive Council; this had the effect of reducing the Legislative Council's power. In 1840, the House of Assembly requested that the Queen grant responsible government

to PEI. It was granted in 1851, and was augmented with an 1862 Act that required the Legislative Council to be elected rather than appointed. From this point onward, the Council's influence gradually diminished compared to that of the House.

Creating the Legislative Assembly

In 1893, the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council were combined to form the Legislative Assembly. From 1893 to 1966, PEI's Legislative Assembly was made up of 30 Members, half of which were elected as Assemblymen, half as Councillors. There were five electoral districts in each of the three counties, and each district elected an Assemblyman and a Councillor. This double-representative system was unique in Canadian politics, as all other provinces had abolished their second chambers. In 1966 the riding of 6th Queens was created, which brought the total membership in the Assembly to 32. In 1994 the Election Act and Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended a shift to single member representation for all 30 districts. MLA Ross Young later introduced a Private Member's Bill which redrew electoral boundaries according to a 27-riding system. The bill received Royal Assent on May 19, 1994, and survived provincial and federal Supreme Court challenges by the City of Charlottetown and other urban centres. The 1996 election was the first time the Legislative Assembly was elected based on one Member for each of 27 ridings, a system it continues to follow today.

Our Services

The Office of the Legislative Assembly provides non-partisan procedural, administrative, communications, educational and outreach services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and the public.

In 2016, a strategic reorganization process for the Office of the Legislative Assembly was completed. This process presented the Assembly with an excellent opportunity to reflect on, and to examine, possible new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services at the House in planning for the future and to ensure that our programs and services are meeting the needs of clients.

Office of the Speaker

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly, and is responsible for:

- presiding over the proceedings of the Assembly, maintaining order, and regulating debate in accordance with the rules and practices of the House;
- ensuring all viewpoints have the opportunity of a hearing in debate;
- casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie;
- guarding the privileges of the Assembly and protecting the rights of its Members;
- representing the Legislative Assembly outside of the Chamber and embodying the authority and prestige of the House; and
- chairing the Standing Committee on Legislative Management.

Office of the Clerk

Members are supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered by the Clerk, the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities, and oversees the delivery of nonpartisan services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk's responsibilities include:

- safekeeping of the records and documents of the House;
- maintaining the official record of the House and publishing the Journal of the Legislative Assembly;
- serving as secretary to the Standing Committee on Legislative Management;
- advising the Speaker and Members on parliamentary procedure, traditions and precedents;
- administering the Oath of Allegiance to all duly elected Members at the beginning of a parliament; and
- presiding over the election of a Speaker.

Standing Committee on Legislative Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management deals with the administration of the House and the provision of all services and facilities to Members. Chaired by the Speaker, its mandate and membership are specified in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*.

Independent Offices of the Legislative Assembly

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner assists Members and Ministers in reconciling their private and public interests to enhance public confidence in the Legislative Assembly.
- Elections PEI administers all elections in Prince Edward Island.
- The Information and Privacy Commissioner accepts appeals from applicants, or third parties, who are not satisfied with the response they receive from public bodies as a result of an access to information request. The Commissioner also investigates privacy complaints.
- The Indemnities and Allowances Commission reviews and determines salaries and benefits to

be provided to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Sessional Administration

During the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, additional administrative support is required. The Sessional Administration Office supports the Clerk with regards to the production, dissemination and safekeeping of documents. Its responsibilities include:

- archiving a copy of everything tabled in the House;
- producing and distributing physical copies of House proceedings and debates to Clerks, Members, and the media, as well as posting digital copies to the Legislative Assembly website;
- undertaking daily mailings to various provincial and federal libraries and government offices; and
- providing training, support and scheduling for Legislative Pages.

Committees

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island enjoys the flexibility available through its standing committees to carry out detailed consideration of the annual reports of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, examination of the public accounts of the province, recruiting for positions on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, and matters of interest to the people of the province.

Committee work provides topical information to Members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

In 2016, the standing and special committees completed a busy and productive schedule of 80 meetings, submitting a total of 11 reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Hansard

Hansard first started transcribing the daily debates of the Legislative Assembly in February, 1996. On December 15, 2016, the 885th issue of the daily debates was published.

In 2006, Hansard took over the responsibility for transcribing committee proceedings.

Since 2007, Hansard has produced detailed indexes to both the daily debates and committee meetings.

In 2015, Hansard resumed cataloguing various papers connected to the Legislative Assembly, including typescripts of portions of House and committee debates, as well as reports, speeches and other items. The time period covered is from 1961 to 1995. Once the catalogue is developed, the Legislative Assembly, working with other partners, can decide what should be scanned and added to the PEI Legislative Documents Online website.

Security

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act*. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition; with the Sergeant-At-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges, and carry out various functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms/Director of Security is responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly. This is achieved by providing a safe and secure environment for MLAs, staff of the Assembly, and the visiting public.

The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in the Hon. George Coles Building, Saint Paul's Rectory, and the J. Angus MacLean Building. As of 2010, security services for the Legislative Assembly have been supplied by the Legislative Assembly Security Force, which consists of three full-time and seven part-time members, under the direction of the Sergeant-At-

Arms. Additional responsibilities include:

- monitoring and maintaining electronic surveillance equipment;
- issuing and controlling the card access system;
- training of security personnel;
- liaising with the Charlottetown Police as required;
- creating contingency plans for bomb threats and fire evacuations; and
- serving as contact for assistance with public demonstrations and conducting threat and risk assessments.

Human Resources, Finance and Administration

This office supports the work of the Speaker, Members and Office of the Clerk by assisting with financial, administrative and human resource management services. Responsibilities include:

- administering payroll and benefits for staff and Members;
- advising employees with regard to benefits;
- providing information to both the Government and Opposition House Leaders on staffing budgets;
- preparing the budget and quarterly forecasts to ensure operations stay within the approved budget;
- administering the day-to-day finances of Legislative Services, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner;
- responding to information technology, telecommunications, and general maintenance requests;
- participating in the planning and attending of special events;
- conducting the recruitment and orientation process for Legislative Pages; and
- participating in the orientation of Members.

Library and Research

The Legislative Library and Research Service is a nonpartisan and confidential source of information, news, and reference services to Members of the Legislative Assembly, their caucus staff, standing committees, and staff of the Legislature. The Legislative Library and Research Service is responsible for:

- completing research briefs;
- responding to information requests from other Canadian jurisdictions;
- obtaining information on legislation, regulations, and policies of other jurisdictions for comparison to Prince Edward Island;
- developing interpretive and informational content for distribution to visitors to Province House; and
- updating and maintaining the website and social media for the Legislative Assembly.

Multimedia Services

Multimedia Services is responsible for producing the television broadcast and webcast of the spring and fall sittings of the Legislature. Additional responsibilities of Multimedia Services include:

- archiving all streaming sessions of the Legislature on the Legislative Assembly website;
- providing audio and video support to Information Technology Support Services;
- providing technical support for Members of the Legislative Assembly, the media and presenters to the standing committees;
- producing audio recordings of standing committee and Legislative Assembly proceedings; and
- repairing and maintaining all audio and visual equipment at Province House and the Coles Building.

Communications and External Relations

This position directs the development and implementation of policies and programs related to interparliamentary relations, protocol, external relations, communications, and special project planning on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of PEI. The primary responsibilities of this position include:

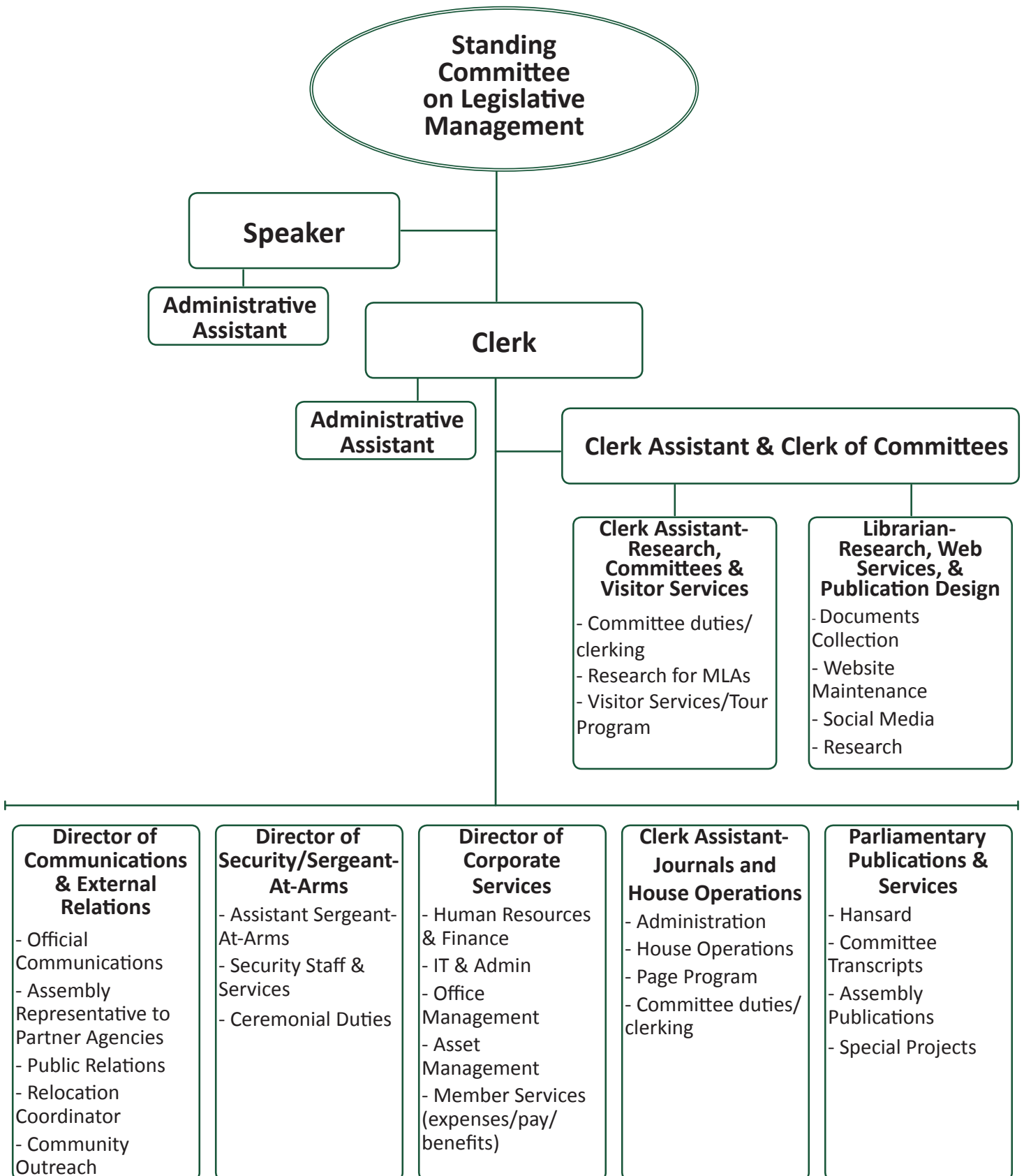
- identifying issues and monitoring media relations to maximize media opportunities;
- organizing all conferences being hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island;
- liaising with the province to coordinate and communicate the Office of the Legislative Assembly interests in moving back to Province House after the conservation project;
- analyzing the website, identifying and developing outreach opportunities/partnerships (external and internal) for both the relocation and other key Assembly messages; and

- leading and providing strategic planning for current and long-range goals and objectives of the Assembly for changing situations (Business Continuity Plan/ Strategic Plan).



Legislative Assembly Security Officers for 2016 (L to R): Don MacGregor; Tony Halvorson; Trevor Darrach; Don LeBlanc; Al McDonald, Sergeant-at-Arms and Director of Security; Chuch Bachmanek; Ted Marsh; Barry Sherren; Brian Weldon, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms; Paul Gormley

Our Team: The Offices of the Legislative Assembly



Events

Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island Hosts Three Conferences

Security

2016 was a busy year with the spring and fall sittings of the Legislative Assembly with changes in security. Staffing changes included the appointment of security officer Brian Weldon to the position of Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, the retirement of security officer Tony Halvorson after eight years of service, and the hiring of security officer Amy Unwin.

The Legislative Assembly also hosted the 31st Annual Sergeant-At-Arms Conference from July 10-15, 2016. Twenty-two Sergeants, Deputy Sergeants, Directors of Security and Gentlemen Ushers of the Black Rod, from Canada, USA, and Great Britain attended, along with their partners.

The Sergeant-At-Arms conference is held at a different location each year. The 2017 Conference will be held in Ottawa. We look forward to future meetings and discussions on how we can make the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly a safer and more secure place to work.

Topics covered during the conference included: active shooter, hazardous devices, history of the Black Rod, security at Parliament (Ottawa), Briefing on the Charleston Massacre, national security, the role of the sergeant in the commonwealth, changes to security in London, England, and other security issues.

A great deal was learned from the conference, enabling the members to return and implement changes to security at their respective legislatures allowing for a safer and more secure work place.



Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference

Over 24 delegates and guests attended the 32nd Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from June 14 - 17, 2016. The delegates stayed at The Holman Grand Hotel and all business sessions were held in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor of the Honourable George Coles Building.

Some of the topics included: digital advertising, cyber security, order and decorum, *Regulatory*



Accountability and Reporting Act, democratic renewal, harassment policy, and discipline of members.

Those in attendance were treated to a traditional lobster supper at the Tracadie Community Centre and a hosted dinner at Government House, residence of Their Honours, the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and Mrs. Dorothy Lewis.

Parliamentary Visitor Services Association Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Legislative Assembly hosted the 27th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Parliamentary Visitor Services Association (PVSA) from September 12-16, 2016. The PVSA consists of personnel responsible for public education, outreach and services to visitors in Canadian legislatures and parliaments.

The conference agenda featured jurisdictional presentations from across the country, a presentation on the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal and the 2016 plebiscite on electoral reform, the annual general meeting, and discussions on matters such as the impact of security measures on visitor services and programming for English as an Additional Language students. Delegates also took in educational programming at local sites such as Orwell Corner Historic Village and Confederation Centre of the Arts, and enjoyed a lunch with Their Honours, the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and Mrs. Dorothy Lewis.



PVSA delegates and Their Honours, the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and Mrs. Dorothy Lewis. Photo by Brian Simpson

Swearing-in of New Member in the Legislative Assembly Chamber

On Monday, November 7, 2016, The Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island and the Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, attended a swearing-in ceremony for new member Chris Palmer, MLA for District 21: Summerside–Wilmot, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Honourable George Coles Building, Charlottetown. Chris Palmer was elected to the Prince Edward Island Legislature in a by-election held on October 17, 2016.

Prior to assuming a designated seat on the floor of the House, all Members must swear, or solemnly affirm, the Oath of Allegiance as required in the Constitution Acts 1867 to 1982, Section 128. Pursuant to direction received from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, this Oath was administered by the Clerk and Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly. The new Member swore that he would be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors according to law.



Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

The official opening of the Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the Prince Edward Island Legislature occurred at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in the Legislative Chamber on the first floor of the Honourable George Coles Building.

His Honour, Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis delivered the Speech from the Throne. The regular sitting day schedule, including oral question period, began on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.



Parliamentary Partnership: Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the Parliament of the Turks and Caicos Islands

On July 20, 2016 a parliamentary partnership agreement was signed between the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the Parliament of Turks and Caicos Islands. The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, was pleased to sign a Parliamentary Partnership Agreement with the Honourable Robert S. Hall, Speaker of the Parliament of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The signing ceremony took place in Newfoundland during the Canadian Parliamentary Association Regional Conference. Other PEI delegates included: Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Third Party, and the Honourable Jamie Fox, Leader of the Official Opposition.

Speaker Watts stated, "This Parliamentary Partnership Agreement aims to promote collaboration, cooperation and understanding between the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the House of Assembly of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the mutual benefit of both parliaments. I look forward to future cooperation with the Turks and Caicos Islands and to share information in order to strengthen our parliaments together."

By signing the agreement, all participants commit to work towards developing the friendly relations between the two parliaments. There are currently no scheduled visits between the two signatories, however there have been discussions about possible future projects.



Seated, left to right: The Honourable Yasmine Ratanski, MP from Don Valley East, Ontario; The Honourable Robert S. Hall, Speaker of the Parliament of Turks and Caicos Islands; The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island; and, The Honourable Elizabeth "Libbe" Hubley, Senator, Prince Edward Island.

Opening Day of the Fall 2016 Sitting

The Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly resumed on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., in the Legislative Chamber, Coles Building, Charlottetown. Regular business was conducted per the Ordinary Daily Routine (including Oral Question Period).

New Broadcasting Policy and Guidelines

In October 2016, the Standing Committee on Legislative Management approved new a Broadcast Policy for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

As of September 1, 2016, this policy stipulates that the audio portion of committee meetings held in public shall be recorded and made publicly available. A transcript of the proceedings shall continue to be produced. The recording is done by staff of AudioVisual Services, commencing with the Chair calling the meeting to order and ending with the adoption of the motion for adjournment. Recording is not permitted during recesses.

The permitted use of recordings of proceedings are as follows:

(A) The use of video and audio recordings of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly is permitted for use in schools and for other purposes such as private study, research, review or newspaper summary.

(B) Broadcasts of the proceedings may be shown by network and cable television stations. The broadcasting must be done without purposeful distortion.

(C) Media organizations may make use of excerpts of proceedings in their news or public affairs programs for the purpose of fair and accurate reporting of events.

(D) Members of the Legislative Assembly may make use of recorded excerpts of proceedings but may not use the extracts such that they could mislead or misinform an audience or viewer, or do not present a balanced portrayal of the proceedings as a whole. Members may request, from staff of AudioVisual Services, the excerpts which are then uploaded and accessed from a private YouTube channel of the Legislative Assembly.

(E) The use of video and audio recordings of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees is not permitted during provincial election campaigns (including by-elections), or any public event of a politically-partisan nature. For greater certainty, any recording must not be used for advertising for or by political parties, electioneering or commercial advertising.

(F) Extracts or excerpts of the video and audio recordings that are subsequently rebroadcast or published may not be protected by parliamentary privilege if they do not constitute a fair and accurate report of proceedings.

Recordings of proceedings are the property of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Wintertide

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island once again partnered with the City of Charlottetown to host the Wintertide Holiday Festival Opening on November 18, 2016.

The public gathered at Province House National Historic Site of Canada to collect battery-operated flameless tea light candles. Father Christmas and a selected Children's Wish Foundation child led the parade of approximately 1,000 people in Christmas carols as they walked along Grafton Street to the Confederation Centre of the Arts Upper Plaza, where

they were greeted by the voices of the Confederation Centre Children's Youth Chorus and an additional crowd of eager celebrants.

Following the tree illumination, hot chocolate and cookies were served and all enjoyed the tree and lights in the surrounding area. Christmas carols were played in the background to maintain the festival atmosphere.



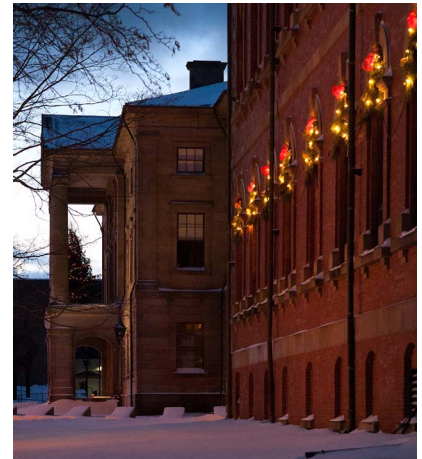
The event had approximately 1,500 persons in attendance, with Charlottetown City Police assisting in controlling traffic flow on Grafton Street prior to and during the event. The event itself is presented by the City of Charlottetown in partnership with the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Children's Wish Foundation, and media partners: The Guardian and NewCap Radio.

The evening was once again a great success and served as the official launch of the holiday season in the capital city.

Order of Prince Edward Island

First conferred in 1996, the Order of Prince Edward Island is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the province. It is awarded annually following a public nomination process with not more than three recipients being selected by the independent Advisory Council.

The Order of Prince Edward Island has been established as a way of encouraging and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individual citizens of the province. It is a special act of appreciation to nominate someone believed to be deserving of such an honour. The Order of PEI Advisory Council reviews nominations and recommends the names of honour recipients.



2016 Recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island

Dr. Dagny Dryer

In 2012, Dr. Dagny Dryer was honoured by the Canadian Cancer Society's National Award for Excellence in Medicine and Health in recognition of her "outstanding contribution to advancing the Canadian Cancer Society's mission of reducing the burden of cancer in Canada." This prestigious award is given to only one person in Canada each year. Dr. Dryer has transformed cancer care and treatment in Prince Edward Island over the past 30 years with humanity and humility.

Dr. Dagny Dryer came to Prince Edward Island in 1981 as the province's first medical oncologist and is highly respected in her field well beyond our borders. Her primary focus has been in the management of cancer patients through the whole spectrum of diagnosis and treatment, including palliative care. Dr. Dryer's drive and dedication has seen cancer care go from one receptionist and herself as a department within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, to the fully equipped PEI Cancer Treatment Centre.

Under Dr. Dryer's leadership and administration, the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre has led the country in having weekly multidisciplinary rounds. There is a dietician, a spiritual care worker, a social worker and a patient navigator who now assists and guides cancer patients through their cancer journey.

Through excellence in her profession, passion and personal conviction, Dr. Dagny Dryer has helped to build the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre into the reputable institution it is today. Care of patients and their families is of paramount concern for Dr. Dryer, consistently demonstrating sensitive respect for her patients at one of the most vulnerable times imaginable. Dr. Dryer has unselfishly served the people of Prince Edward Island and, as a result, is a most deserving inductee to the Order of Prince Edward Island.



Left to right: Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of PEI; Dr. Dagny Dryer, 2016 OPEI recipient; Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of PEI

Carolyn Bateman

Carolyn Bateman is an outstanding contributor for the improvement of her Island community and an exceptional leader and advocate for hundreds of Island families.

For more than two decades, Carolyn Bateman has been raising awareness and advocating for the treatment and education of children with autism. Her dedication to this cause stems from a very personal connection with the disorder. Her son was diagnosed with autism in 1986, at the age of four. He is now a young man and is successfully working toward a business certificate at UPEI and coping positively with severe autism. While Ms. Bateman has tirelessly sought the best treatments and education for her non-verbal son, she has also focused her attention on helping other families impacted by autism in her community and beyond.

Carolyn Bateman is co-founder and past president of the Autism Society of Prince Edward Island. In 2002, she also co-founded the Stars for Life Foundation for Young Adults with Autism, where she continues to serve as President. Thanks to her leadership and dedication, the Foundation has raised \$1.2 million to build the first home and resource centre for autism on PEI in 2011.



Left to right: Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of PEI; Carolyn Bateman, 2016 OPEI recipient; Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of PEI

Ms. Bateman's extensive efforts have earned her numerous awards including: Volunteer of the Year Award, the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award, first recipient of the Joan TeRaa Memorial Award, Humanitarian Award from the Red Cross, and in 2012, she was presented with Diamond Jubilee Medal for her tremendous efforts to help Islanders affected by autism. The impact of Carolyn Bateman's efforts will continue to expand for many years to come. She clearly embodies the ideals for which the Order of Prince Edward Island was established to acknowledge.

Keptin John Joseph Sark, L.L.D., was appointed to the Order of Prince Edward Island on September 27, 2016, and resigned from the Order effective May 11, 2017.

Members of the Order of Prince Edward Island

A

Angèle Arsenault, O.C.
Reverend Éloi Arsenault
Georges Arsenault

B

Leone Bagnall, C.M.
Chief Darlene Bernard
Honourable J.Léonce Bernard
Reverend Dr. F.W.P. Bolger, C.M.
Emily Bryant
Marlene Bryenton
Garnet Rankin Buell
Marie Burge

C

William Callbeck
Dr. Sheldon Cameron
Alexander Bradshaw Campbell
Bill Campbell
Reverend Charles Cheverie
Honourable Gilbert R. Clements
Sibyl Cutcliffe

D

Eleanor Davies
Donald M. Deacon, O.C., M.C.
Sister Mary Deighan
Dr. George Dewar, C.M.
Vera Elizabeth Dewar
Gerald Sheldon Dixon
Anna Duffy
Regis Duffy, C.M.

E

Edith Eldershaw
Dr. Kent Ellis

G

J. Henri Gaudet, C.M.
Allan Graham
Diane Griffin

H

Honourable Barbara Hagerman
H. Wayne Hambly, C.M.
Wilma Hambly
Nancy Ann Hamill
James Hogan
Arthur Hudson

I

Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings

K

Derek Key, Q.C.

L

Frank Ledwell
Dorothy Lewis
Honourable H. Frank Lewis
Charles Linkletter, C.M.

M

Elmer MacDonald
H. Wade MacLauchlan
William MacLean
Helen Stewart MacRae
Dr. Joyce Madigane
Dr. John H. Maloney
Maylea Manning
Shirley McGinn
Barbara McNeill
Heather Leanne Moyse
Ray Murphy

O

Dr. Hubert O’Hanley

P

Ulric Poirier

R

Honourable Marion Reid, C.M.
Antoine Richard, C.M.
Helen Robbins

S

Paul H. Schurman, C.M.
Father Brady Smith

T

Dr. Charles St. Clair Trainor

W

Kay Wall
Elmer Williams
Noel Wilson
Dr. David Wong

Z

Frank Zakem



Visit www.assembly.pe.ca/opei for full biographies of all recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island.

Community Engagement

Legislative Internship

The Legislative Internship Program is run in partnership with the Department of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. Each year, a third or fourth year student majoring in history and/or political science is selected by their faculty for a paid internship at the Legislative Assembly in each of the fall and winter semesters. The Internship promotes a deeper understanding of the functions and processes of the Legislative Assembly within the university faculties and provides students with an opportunity to work in their field of study while gaining real-world, practical knowledge of the provincial institution that governs the Island. Students are also encouraged to pursue projects within their areas of academic interest while they put their research skills and political studies knowledge to use.

Since its inception in 2008, the program has been well received by both partner institutions, and provided work placement for 17 students. In 2016, Connor Mycroft and Caleb Daley worked at the legislature, and both students proved to be valuable additions to the staff during their work terms.

Visitor Services

In previous summers, the Legislative Assembly hired postsecondary students to work as Visitor Guides to provide tours of Province House and interpret its historical and modern significance as a provincial legislature. With the Legislative Assembly temporarily relocating its Chamber to the Honourable George Coles Building, the summer of 2016 presented an opportunity to adapt the Visitor Guide program to a new interpretive space. Guide duties also expanded to include research and other tasks similar to those performed by Legislative Interns. In 2016, Visitor Guide Connor Mycroft greeted and interacted with several hundred visitors over the July-August period.

Legislatures across Canada offer various forms of visitor services and public education, and the professionals involved participate in the Parliamentary Visitor Services Association. The Association holds an annual general meeting and conference, which was hosted in Charlottetown in September, 2016, by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. The conference provides an opportunity for Association members to share creative ideas and best practices on visitor services as well as take in the educational programs of external organizations in the host jurisdiction.

Legislative Pages for 2016

Legislative Pages are Grade 11 and Grade 12 honours students, who have shown an interest in the Legislative Assembly and public affairs. They are active members of their schools and communities, participating in different activities, including sports, music, writing, volunteering, 4-H, Rotary Youth Parliament and student council. The Legislative Page Program provides them with another unique experience, giving them the opportunity to see first-hand the work of the Legislature. Pages are responsible for delivering documents, making photocopies, serving refreshments to Members, and other general responsibilities as assigned by the Speaker and Clerks. Their work term follows the academic year, commencing with the fall sitting in November, and ending with the close of the spring sitting.

In 2016, 22 students served as pages at the Legislative Assembly.



During the Spring Sitting (L to R, front row): Alex Phillips, *Kinkora Regional High School*; Abbey Turnbull, *École François-Buote*; Lilly Hickox, *Charlottetown Rural High School*; Rachel Hamilton, *Grace Christian School*; Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, *Speaker*; Samantha Clark, *Colonel Gray Senior High School*; Janette Kerry, *Kensington Intermediate-Senior High School*; Annie Compton, *Bluefield High School*.

L to R, back row: Matthew LeClair, *Westisle Composite High School*; John Ployer, *Montague Regional High School*; Ethan Craig, *Morell Regional High School*; Robert Larsen, *Three Oaks Senior High School*.



During the Fall Sitting (L to R): Jasmin Howatt, Kinkora Regional High School; Chelsea Perry, Three Oaks Senior High School; Yun Huang, Charlottetown Rural High School; Brandon O'Brien, Souris Regional High School; Sebastien Arsenault, École François-Buote; Nathan Kerley, Bluefield High School; **Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts**, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; Chandler Gard, Westisle Composite High School; Olivia Corrigan, Colonel Gray Senior High School; Lindsay Sanderson, Morell Regional High School; Carleigh Macleod, Kensington Intermediate High School; Paige Miller, Montague Regional High School

Speaker and Sergeant-At-Arms Visit Whisperwood Villa



The residents of Whisperwood Villa had some special visitors in May. Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts explained his role as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Al McDonald, Sergeant-At-Arms, also described his role and gave an explanation of the Mace, which some of the residents had the opportunity to hold.

Rotary Youth Parliament

The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island hosted students from across the Island at the 29th Annual Rotary Youth Parliament on Friday, November 25, 2016. The Speech from the Throne was delivered by His Honour H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

This long-running project is a partnership among the Rotary Clubs across Prince Edward Island, the Speaker's and Clerk's offices, the Department of Education, District School Boards, and volunteer teacher advisors.

In preparation for the mock assembly, participants meet with fellow students from all over the Island to prepare their platform and organize their debate. While it does require a time commitment from participating students, it is a unique opportunity for them to present their ideas for the future of Prince Edward Island, and perhaps influence current MLAs. Students from all High Schools on P.E.I. represented Government and Opposition members and debated Acts and Resolutions on current issues on P.E.I.



Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts with participants of the 29th Annual Rotary Youth Parliament outside the Honourable George Coles Building.

Youth Parliament is an annual event, sponsored by all PEI Rotary clubs and headed up by the Rotary Club of Hillsborough.

Speaker Watts Congratulates Speaker Chris Collins on Charity Bike Ride

The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, along with other Members of the Legislative Assembly, greeted the Honourable Chris Collins, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at the Sears Department Store parking lot, Charlottetown.

Speaker Collins was part of the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride which rode into the Maritimes as part of a cross-Canada cycling tour during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The volunteer national riders set out from Vancouver on September 7, and various stage riders joined them along the way, including Speaker Collins, who cycled from Winnipeg to Halifax.

The aim of the ride was to raise funds that will support the families of children with cancer, and raise awareness of the challenges the disease poses.

To that end, Speaker Collins enlisted the help of the Speakers of all provincial and territorial legislatures, as well as the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada to help spread awareness among hundreds of political leaders.

Children's cancer is not a rare disease. More than 1,500 Canadian children are diagnosed each year, and the disease takes more lives than all other children's illnesses combined. Despite these terrible statistics, only three per cent of cancer research funding in Canada is directed toward children's cancer.



The Sears National Kids Cancer Ride is one of the biggest and most ambitious charity cycling events on behalf of childhood cancer in the world. Riding in relay style, the selected national riders each cycle approximately 150 km and 220 kms per day, joined along the way by thousands of other caring cyclists who cycle shorter, “stage ride” distances in major cities across Canada. At the start and end of each day they participate in community events and visit many of Canada’s 17 pediatric oncology centers and hospitals where the cancer community shares inspiring stories of strength and hope with cyclists and the media. Together, the cyclists raised millions of dollars on behalf of charities that improve the quality of life for children, and their families, living with and beyond cancer.

Standing, L to R: Hal Perry, MLA for District 27: Tignish-Palmer Road; Pat Murphy, MLA for District 26: Alberton-Roseville; Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Third Party and MLA for District 17: Kellys Cross-Cumberland; Honourable Buck (Francis) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of PEI **Front:** Honourable Chris Collins, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

UPEI Political Science Society

On March 30, 2016, the Legislative Assembly was pleased to host a “Meet and Greet” with the University of Prince Edward Island Political Science Society. Over a dozen students attended the event to learn more about the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island.

The students held a question and answer session with Charles MacKay, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (at right).

It was great to host the next generation of leaders!

Many thanks to Emily Doiron, Clerk Assistant-Journals, Committees and House Operations (front row, left), and Connor Mycroft, Legislative Intern (second from right), for organizing this event.



Special Committee on Democratic Renewal - A New Approach to Engaging Islanders

The Special Committee on Democratic Renewal embarked on a second series of public consultations across the province in February and March, 2016 as a follow up to presenting its interim report to the Legislative Assembly on November 27, 2015. Information on five electoral options was presented for public response and comment. These were the current first-past-the-post system with the addition of seats for leaders of political parties which receive a certain threshold in the popular vote; the preferential ballot as a method of selecting members of the Legislative Assembly; mixed member proportional representation; dual member proportional representation; and the current first-past-the-post system.

The goal of these consultations was two-fold: to solicit opinion as to the format of a plebiscite question and to

determine which electoral systems would appear on a plebiscite ballot for the consideration of voters.

The committee incorporated suggestions received at the first round of community meetings, held in the fall of 2015, to make the events as welcoming and inclusive as possible. At each community consultation, the chairs were arranged in a circle, with committee members seated among others in attendance. The chair offered a brief introduction to the work of the committee, following which a video was shown a high-level overview of the options under consideration for inclusion on a plebiscite ballot. The remainder of the meeting was informal comments, questions and responses on a variety of topics related to electoral systems and plebiscites. Participants were asked to complete a short survey on the four options for a plebiscite question, and asked for other comments they might wish to put forward.

There were no formal presentations, and pre-registering was not required. Feedback from members of the public on this arrangement was very positive.

The committee hosted a series of community meetings across Prince Edward Island in February and March 2016. These community consultations, along with one more formal meeting, provided a forum for dialogue, debate and deliberation among those interested in democratic renewal. As well, additional written briefs, letters, comments and survey responses from interested and concerned residents of Prince Edward Island, and beyond, were received during this time frame. Many people exhibited a high degree of commitment, attending multiple consultations and communicating with the committee throughout the process.

The public engagement and consultation of the Special Committee efforts were unique and innovative for consulting on an electoral system for Prince Edward Island. The committee presented a number of potential formats for the plebiscite question at these consultations and on its website. Participants were surveyed as to their preferences, and additional comments were collected.

At the beginning of the consultation phase of its work, the committee launched a comprehensive communications plan to ensure it gained the broadest possible public input to fulfill its mandate. These efforts continued throughout the second phase of the committee's work in the first quarter of 2016, and utilized a balance of traditional and social media to maximize exposure and opportunities for the public to become engaged in the process.



Parliamentary Matters

Unparliamentary Language

The *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island* prohibit disrespectful language in debate (Rule 34(2)). In addition, personal attacks, insults, obscene language, or words that question a member's integrity, honesty or character are not permitted. While it is not possible to produce a definitive list of unparliamentary words and expressions, in 2016 the Speaker intervened to caution members regarding use of the following language in debate:

- puppets
- BS
- sly
- creative accounting
- smoke and mirrors
- rosy up [the deficit figure]
- skew
- weak association to the truth
- quack, quack
- a pig in a poke
- hypocrisy
- gyped
- frigged
- bold-faced lie
- mislead Islanders
- hell

Committee Activities

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island enjoys the flexibility available through its standing committees to carry out detailed consideration of the annual reports of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, an examination of the public accounts of the province, recruiting for positions on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, and matters of interest to the people of the province.

Committee work provides topical information to members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

An important segment of the Legislative Assembly, both historically and currently, is that of the committee. There are three types of committee: standing committees, special committees and Committee of the Whole House. Committee work provides topical information to members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

Currently, several standing committees exist for every session of the Assembly, along with occasional special committees struck for a particular purpose and for a limited period of time. Standing and special committees are sub-groups of Members of all parties according to their proportion within the Legislative Assembly. These committees hold hearings and receive written submissions and in-person presentations from the public according to their committee mandates. The current active standing committees are organized into the following subject areas: Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries; Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment; Standing Committee on Education and Economic Development; Standing Committee on Health and Wellness; Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy; Standing Committee on Public

Accounts; and Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges.

There is also the Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker, but its role relates to the administration and staffing of the Assembly and it is not normally a public committee.

The standing and special committees completed a busy and productive schedule of 80 meetings, submitting a total of 11 reports to the Legislative Assembly.

The following table contains information about the special and standing committees of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, including their membership, meeting activity and reports for 2016.

Summary of Committee Activity First Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly and Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016				
Committee Name	Chair	Committee Members	Dates of Meetings	Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)
Agriculture and Fisheries	Robert Henderson <i>(until January 22, 2016)</i> Pat Murphy <i>(as of January 29, 2016)</i>	Peter Bevan-Baker Bush Dumville Hon. Jamie Fox <i>(until Feb. 4, 2016)</i> Sonny Gallant <i>(as of Jan. 22, 2016)</i> Robert Henderson <i>(until Jan. 22, 2016)</i> Colin LaVie Tina Mundy <i>(until Jan. 22, 2016)</i> Pat Murphy Hal Perry <i>(as of Jan. 22, 2016)</i> Brad Trivers <i>(as of Feb. 4, 2016)</i>	January 29 February 10 March 4 March 18 July 15 August 2 <i>Tour of Atlantic Beef Products -</i> Oct 4 December 1	<i>Committee Activities</i> (Dec. 7)

Committee Name	Chair	Committee Members	Dates of Meetings	Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)
Communities, Land and Environment	Kathleen Casey	Peter Bevan-Baker Kathleen Casey Sonny Gallant Robert Henderson (until Jan. 22, 2016) Sidney MacEwen Tina Mundy (until Jan. 22, 2016) Pat Murphy (as of Jan. 22, 2016) Hal Perry (as of Jan. 22, 2016) Janice Sherry (until July 31, 2016) Brad Trivers	February 10 March 9 April 14 September 8 September 29 October 12 October 20 October 26 November 8 December 1	<i>Committee Activities (Apr. 20)</i> <i>Committee Activities (Dec. 7)</i>
Democratic Renewal, Special Committee on	Jordan Brown	Peter Bevan-Baker Hon. Paula Biggar Jordan Brown Sidney MacEwen Janice Sherry (until August 1, 2016)	January 12 February 9 February 11 February 23 February 25 February 27 March 1 (aft) March 1 (eve) March 15 March 24 March 29 April 7 April 12 May 31 July 5 August 30 October 18	<i>Recommendations in Response to the White Paper on Democratic Renewal - A Plebiscite Question (Apr. 15)</i>

Committee Name	Chair	Committee Members	Dates of Meetings	Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)
Education and Economic Development	Tina Mundy (<i>until Jan. 14, 2016</i>) Bush Dumville (<i>as of Jan. 14, 2016</i>)	Peter Bevan-Baker Jordan Brown Kathleen Casey Bush Dumville (<i>as of Jan. 14, 2016</i>) Sonny Gallant Matthew MacKay Tina Mundy (<i>until Jan. 14, 2016</i>) Steven Myers Chris Palmer (<i>as of Nov. 8, 2016</i>)	January 14 February 4 March 3 March 17 April 21 September 1 September 15 September 22 October 6 October 13 October 27 December 7	<i>Committee Activities (Apr. 27)</i>
Health and Wellness	Janice Sherry (<i>until August 1, 2016</i>) Jordan Brown (<i>as of August 16, 2016</i>)	James Aylward Peter Bevan-Baker Jordan Brown (<i>as of August 8, 2016</i>) Kathleen Casey Darlene Compton Bush Dumville Pat Murphy Janice Sherry (<i>until August 1, 2016</i>)	January 12 February 17 February 23 March 8 March 15 May 3 August 16 October 7 October 11 November 1	<i>Committee Activities (May 12)</i> <i>Committee Activities (Dec. 13)</i>

Committee Name	Chair	Committee Members	Dates of Meetings	Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)
Infrastructure and Energy	Sonny Gallant	Peter Bevan-Baker Bush Dumville Hon. Jamie Fox Sonny Gallant Sidney MacEwen Tina Mundy (<i>until Jan. 22, 2016</i>) Pat Murphy Hal Perry (<i>as of Jan. 22, 2016</i>)	January 14 February 18 February 25 March 24 May 5 August 5 September 15 September 22 October 6 October 27 November 3 December 13	<i>Committee Activities</i> (May 10) <i>Committee Activities</i> (Dec. 15)
Public Accounts	James Aylward Jordan Brown, Vice-chair	James Aylward Peter Bevan-Baker Jordan Brown Darlene Compton Bush Dumville Sonny Gallant Robert Henderson (<i>until Jan. 7, 2016</i>) Hal Perry (<i>as of February 22, 2016</i>) Janice Sherry (<i>until July 31, 2016</i>) Chris Palmer (<i>as of Nov. 8, 2016</i>)	February 24 March 16 September 21 (<i>in camera</i>) October 5 October 19 October 26 November 2 November 9 November 10 November 16 (<i>in camera</i>)	<i>Committee Activities and Review of Reports of the Auditor General</i> (Dec. 2)

Committee Name	Chair	Committee Members	Dates of Meetings	Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)
Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges	Kathleen Casey	James Aylward Peter Bevan-Baker Kathleen Casey Bush Dumville Hon. Jamie Fox (<i>as of Feb. 1, 2016</i>) Sonny Gallant Hon. Robert Henderson Hon. Tina Mundy Steven Myers (<i>until Feb. 1, 2016</i>)	March 3 April 22 May 6	<i>Private Bills 200, 201 and 202</i> (Apr. 27) <i>Committee Structure and Rule 105</i> (May 3, 2016) <i>Prima Facie base of Breach of Privilege and Leader of the Official Opposition's April 15, 2016, Letter</i> (May 10, 2016)
Total Number of Meetings:			80	
			Total Number of Reports:	11

Parliamentary Meetings

Conferences provide Members with an opportunity to have parliamentary exchanges and to discuss issues of mutual importance with colleagues (provincial, national and state parliaments as well as the legislatures of dependent territories).

Those conferences include:

33rd Presiding Officers' Conference - Fredericton, NB - January 28 - 31, 2016

Topics - The Speaker's Casting Vote; Democracy Renewal: An Islander's Perspective; Decorum in the House; Challenges and Opportunities of Being a New Deputy Speaker; The Speaker's Role Regarding the Independent Member; Policy on Preventing and Managing Situations Involving Harassment; and Speakers' Initiatives.

32nd Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference - Charlottetown, PEI - June 14 - 17, 2016

Topics - Digital Advertising; Cyber Security; Order and Decorum; Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act; Democratic Renewal; NS House of Assembly Harassment Policy; Laying Down the Law!; and Discipline of Members.

54th Canadian Regional CPA Conference - St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador – July 17 - 22, 2016

Topics - Parliamentarians with Disabilities: Sub-Committee with CPA; Social Media - Impact on the Legislative Process; Chair Occupants and Committees; Honouring Aboriginal Ancestry: Creating a Welcome in the BC Legislature; Parliamentary Security: Condition of the Premises since the Quebec Meeting; Twinning Arrangements between Canadian Legislatures and Caribbean Parliaments; New Parliaments - New Members: Expectations vs. Reality; and Strengthening Relations between the Legislature and the Community.

l'Assemblée regionale Amérique de l'APF – Ottawa, Ontario – July 25 - 28, 2016

Theme - Social Economy

There were presentations from many participating jurisdictions, as well as special invited guests with expertise on this topic.

56th Annual Meeting & Regional Policy - Forum - Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference - Québec City, Québec – August 7 - 10, 2016

This meeting is the largest assembly of state and provincial officials in eastern Canada and the eastern United States. The theme for the AGM was 'Global Challenges, Regional Solutions'.

37th Annual Canadian Council of Public Accounts – Yellowknife, Northwest Territories - August 21 to 23, 2016

Legislators and staff from federal, provincial and territorial public accounts committees across Canada meet each year simultaneously with the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to financial accountability.

38th CPA Canadian Regional Seminar - Québec City, Québec – November 10 - 12, 2016

Topics - Electoral Reform and Plebiscite in PEI; The Process of Building a Stronger NB Response to Climate Change; Transportation Electrification and the Act to increase the number of zero-emission motor vehicles in Quebec; Strength in Vulnerability, A Perspective from a Newly-Elected Member; Promoting Diversity in Parliament: The British Columbia Experience; and a Self-Initiated Order on Women's Place in Politics at the National Assembly of Quebec.

62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - London, UK – December 11-17, 2016

Theme - 'A Collaborative Commonwealth: Unity, Diversity and Common Challenges'

PEI delegates attended CPA Small Branches meeting to address the issues affecting small parliaments and legislatures across the Commonwealth.

Topics - The role of the Commonwealth in supporting the outcomes of the COP21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change; The role of parliament in the protection and safeguarding of children; and Eliminating barriers to women's leadership in politics in Small Branches.

Assemblée parlementaire francophonie

The Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie brings together parliamentarians from 77 parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations from 5 continents. Its actions strive principally to promote and defend democracy, the right to development, the respect of human rights, and international development of the French language and cultural diversity. The APF was created in 1967 and is the consultative body to the head of States of the Sommet de la Francophonie. Prince Edward Island is one of the members of the America's Regional Assembly of the APF. This assembly unites 14 parliaments across America: Alberta, British Columbia, Canada, Haiti, Louisiana, Maine, Manitoba, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The objectives of the Americas Regional Assembly are to highlight the French language, as well as defend and promote French culture in Francophone regions in the Americas. The Provincial Division of the organization is under the direction of the Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

2016 House Statistics

	2014	2015	2016
Number of sitting days	33	34	43
Government bills brought	45	47	59
Government bills passed	8	44	55
Private members' bills brought	4	2	0
Private members' bills passed	0	0	0
Private bills brought	0	2	3
Private bills passed	0	1	3
Oral Question Period			
Total number of questions	1,076	1,186	1,349
Longest question asked	1 min., 20 sec.	1 min., 39 sec.	1 min., 47 sec.
Longest answer given	2 min., 25 sec.	2 min., 56 sec.	1 min., 47 sec.
Shortest question asked	3 seconds	4 seconds	3 seconds
Shortest answer given	1 second	1 second	1 second
Ministerial Statements			
Total number of statements	123	81	132
Average length of statements	1 min., 52 sec.	2 min., 12 sec.	2 min., 30 sec.
Longest statement	4 min., 18 sec.	8 min., 8 sec.	5 min., 45 seconds
Shortest statement	1 minute	1 min., 7 sec.	1 min. 22 sec.
Motions			
Government	28	19	18
Other than Government	91	49	68
Introduced Jointly	3	2	1
Passed	29	21	18
Number of written questions submitted	177	79	1,092
Number of written answers submitted	153	54	1,032

Legislative Assembly Budget & Expenses

The information below has been taken from the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Volume II, for the year begun April 1, 2015, and ended March 31, 2016. The Public Accounts provide the most current information comparing actual expenditures (Expenses column) to the budgeted estimates (Estimates column).

	ESTIMATES \$	EXPENSES \$
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
Administration	147,100	116,800
Equipment	49,500	31,011
Materials, Supplies & Services	47,800	75,866
Professional & Contract Services	20,000	23,337
Salaries	1,980,700	1,976,946
Travel & Training	49,400	41,450
Grants		
Opposition Members Office	108,300	112,004
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	16,000	15,373
Government Members Office	120,400	93,846
Miscellaneous	23,000	7,980
Total Legislative Services	<u>2,562,200</u>	<u>2,494,613</u>
MEMBERS		
Administration	-	672
Salaries	2,149,000	2,119,808
Travel & Training	117,900	108,628
Total Members	<u>2,266,900</u>	<u>2,229,108</u>
OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER		
Salaries	44,000	47,357
Travel & Training	3,200	638
Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	<u>47,200</u>	<u>47,995</u>

	ESTIMATES \$	EXPENSES \$
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER		
Administration	4,900	2,844
Materials, Supplies & Services	1,600	169
Professional Services	1,000	--
Salaries	110,200	113,747
Travel & Training	<u>5,000</u>	<u>228</u>
Total Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner	<u>122,700</u>	<u>116,988</u>
 ELECTIONS P.E.I.		
Administration	1,205,000	241,268
Equipment	1,300	24,957
Materials, Supplies & Services	2,500	91,352
Professional Services	14,000	549,590
Salaries	197,000	496,043
Travel & Training	<u>4,000</u>	<u>18,255</u>
Total Elections P.E.I.	<u>1,423,800</u>	<u>1,421,465</u>
 TOTAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	<u>6,422,800</u>	<u>6,310,169</u>

PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it. CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament.



The CPA pursues these objectives by means of

- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably The Parliamentarian, Canadian Parliamentary Review and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications