

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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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

January 3, 2024

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

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report of the
Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the P.E.I.
Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for
the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.



The spring 2023 sitting of the First Session of the 67th General Assembly began on May 12, 2023 with the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island and concluded on June 21, 2023. The fall sitting of the First Session of the 67th General Assembly began on November 7, 2023 and concluded November 29, 2023.

As the conservation project for Province House is still ongoing, we encourage the public of Prince Edward Island to visit our interim Assembly Chamber in the Honourable George Coles Building, Monday to Friday or take part when the Legislature is in session.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff for their contribution and commitment for their work in supporting the Members and operations of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Honourable Darlene Compton, MLA
MLA Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Who We Are

The legislative branch of our provincial government has the power and responsibility to debate, amend and make laws. The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, also referred to as "the House", is made up of one elected member or MLA from each of the 27 electoral districts across the province.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly is to create provincial laws. Proposed laws are put forward by members as bills. Bills that pass all stages and receive Royal Assent from the Lieutenant Governor become laws.

The Legislative Assembly also holds the government accountable for its actions and for departmental expenditures. This is a key function of the Legislative Assembly, ensuring the public - through its elected members - has a say in how public monies are spent.

Mandate

The Office of the Legislative Assembly's mandate is to support elected officials in their legislative duties. It is guided by the Legislative Assembly Act L-7.1, which sets out the composition, duration, abilities, responsibilities and rules of the parliament for the Province. This act further specifies roles and administrative processes that facilitate the business and operation of 'the House'.

The Legislative Assembly also administers the Provincial Emblems and Honours Act RSPEI 1987 Cap P-26.1 when facilitating the Order of Prince Edward Island merit award, the highest honour the province can bestow on its citizens.

Mission

- To provide professional, non-partisan and efficient services to facilitate and support the operation of the parliament of the province, and;
- to capture, maintain and provide access to the records of parliamentary business to the legislative members and the public in order to uphold our democratic process.
- To make the operation of parliament in our province accessible to all.

Our Values and Ethics

Democratic

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

Professional

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

Ethical

Acting at all times to uphold the public trust.

Respectful

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

Our Offices

Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management deals with the administration of the House and the provision of all services and facilities to Members. Chaired by the Speaker, an additional 6 MLAs complete its membership.

Office of the Speaker

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly, and is responsible for maintaining order and regulating debate in accordance with the rules and practices of the House. The Speaker plays a role ensuring all viewpoints have the opportunity of a hearing in debate and must cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. The Speaker also chairs the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly 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 advises the Speaker and Members on parliamentary procedure, traditions, and precedents and presides over the election of the Speaker. The Clerk also manages enquiries from the independent offices and the public.

The Office of the Clerk manages the following departments and functions:

- **Communications & External Relations** provide proactive strategic corporate, (internal and external), communications planning, implementation and advice for the Assembly. The position is responsible for the development and implementation of communications, marketing strategies, public engagement and special projects, (including Province House), and their compliance with Assembly priorities. This position also serves as Secretary to the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council.
- **Committees** provide topical information to the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provoke important public debate. Committee members are groups of MLAs who carry out detailed investigations which enable the Assembly to make informed decisions. They may consult the public and collect the views of individuals, communities, professionals, businesses, academics and other groups in the course of these investigations.

- **Corporate Services** supports the work of the Speaker, Members and independent offices by assisting with financial, administrative and human resource management services.
- **Hansard** transcribe the daily debates of the Legislative Assembly which provide interested parties, and the general public, details of what was said by whom on the issues discussed. Hansard also produce journals for these debates and transcribe committee meetings.
- **Library & Research** This service is a nonpartisan and confidential source of information, news and reference for Members of the Legislative Assembly, their caucus staff, standing committees, and staff of the Legislature. The librarian maintains the Assembly's website and assists with print publication design. The Director of Parliamentary Research manages research projects on legislation, policy and other current issues for Members.
- **Multimedia & Broadcast Services** is responsible for producing the television broadcast and webcast of parliamentary proceedings, as well as maintaining a video archive of all legislative proceedings. The team provides audio, video and technical support to Members of the Legislative Assembly, media and presenters to standing committees.
- **Order of Prince Edward Island** is the highest honour the Province can bestow on its citizens. It gives public recognition to individual Islanders whose efforts and accomplishments have been exemplary and have contributed to the social, economic or cultural life of the Island. The administrative duties of the Order's Advisory Council are provided through the Office of the Clerk.
- **Parliamentary Counsel** serves as the legal advisor and legislative drafter in the Office of the Clerk and provides legal and procedural advice to the Clerk of the House and to the Legislative Assembly as a whole in matters of parliamentary law, procedure and privilege.
- **Security Sergeant-At-Arms** is a position steeped in parliamentary tradition as defined in the Legislative Assembly Act, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7.1, which, with the Mace, enables the House to exercise its considerable rights and privileges and to carry out various functions assigned to it. The Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly with the objective of providing a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities.

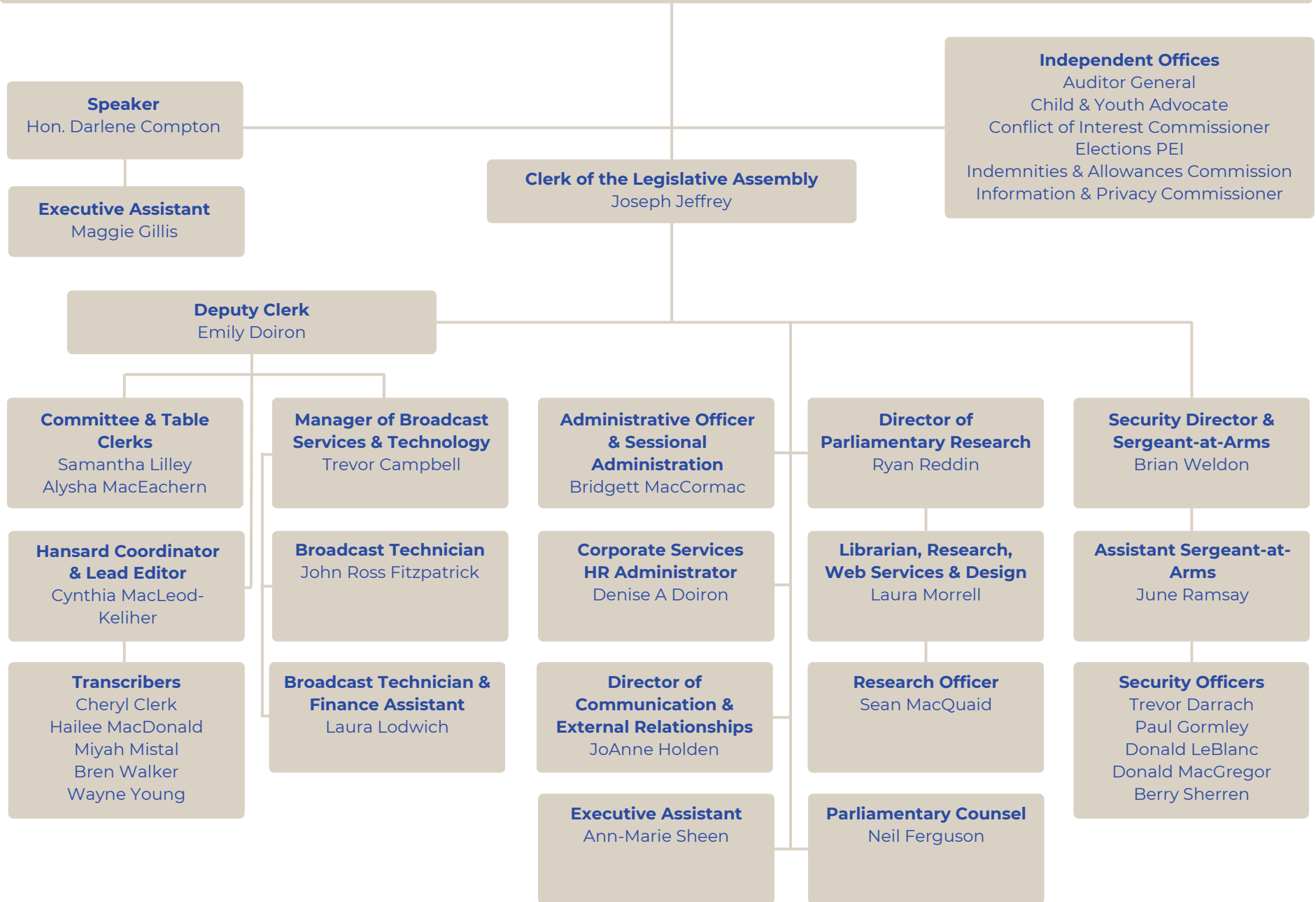
- **Sessional Administration** During the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, additional administrative support is required. Sessional Administration supports the Clerk with the production, dissemination and safekeeping of documents and organization of the Legislative Pages.

Buildings of the Legislative Assembly



	Province House 165 Richmond Street
	Hon. George Cole Building 175 Richmond Street
	J Angus McLean Building 94 Great George Street
	Office of the Speaker and Office of the Clerk 197 Richmond Street

Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management



Independent Offices

Established to inform and implement policy and to provide information to both the Legislative Assembly and the public, the independent offices of the Legislative Assembly are as follows;



The Auditor General conducts independent audits and examinations that provide objective information, advice, and assurance to the Legislative Assembly. The Office promotes accountability and best practices in government operations.



The Child and Youth Advocate promotes and protects the rights of children and youth and provides oversight of government funded programs and services to children and youth.



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's mandate is to administer Provincial General Elections, By-elections, Referendums and Plebiscites. Elections PEI assists with Municipal Elections as they are hired by four municipalities to administer their elections and by-elections along with the School Board Elections on PEI.



The Indemnities and Allowances Commission is a non-partisan body that reviews and establishes salaries and benefits for the Members of the Legislative Assembly.



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 Ombudsperson & Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner promotes fairness and transparency in the public sector to enhance good governance and public confidence in government. The office looks for fair resolutions and make recommendations to improve the practices of public agencies.



Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

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Canada C1A 7N8

May 12, 2023

The Honourable Darlene Compton
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
197 Richmond Street, Charlottetown

Dear Speaker

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Annual Report for the Legislative. This report highlights organizational accomplishments during the last year of the 66th Assembly and the beginning of the 67th General Assembly.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly supports Members working for the best interests of Islanders. As the most important government institution in our province, the Legislative Assembly promotes transparency and accountability in government.

On April 3, 2023, a general election was held resulting in 9 newly elected members. We delivered an orientation to help new members with their legislative duties and learn procedures. This was followed by their first session starting on May 12, 2023, with the election of the Honourable Darlene Compton as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the support of you and the Members of the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management in dealing with matters necessary for the efficient operation of the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,



Joseph Jeffrey
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and
Secretary, PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Tel/Tél.: 902 368 4310

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Fax/Télec.: 902 368 4473

History of the Legislative Assembly

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.

- 1770** The Mi'kmaq island of Epekwitk was renamed St John's Island by the British in 1758 after gaining control from French settlers who had named it Île St. Jean following their arrival in 1720.
The island's journey to self-governance begins with the arrival of Governor Patterson on the 19th of September.
- 1773** The first House of Assembly is elected. Only Protestant males could vote or hold office at this time and 18 Assemblymen gathered, passing 13 laws in 5 days.
- 1812** John Plaw completes a building in Queen's Square to house the legislature and courthouse. Before this time, the legislature had met in private homes and taverns.
- 1833** The term of members of the legislature is set to four years. Prior to this time, the term was determined solely according to the will of the Governor. Today, the term of an Assembly is a maximum of five years after the return of the writs for a general election. MLAs do not have a maximum term.
- 1839** The Legislative Council is separated into the Legislative Council and the Executive Council, and some members of the House of Assembly also serve on Executive Council.
- 1847** The legislature meets in the newly constructed Colonial Building for the first time. It later came to be known as Province House and remains the permanent seat of the legislature to this day.
- 1851** Responsible Government, (self-governance), is granted, largely due to the existence of an elected House of Assembly. George Coles, a strong supporter of the system, becomes the first Premier.
- 1862** A new Act requires that the Legislative Council no longer be appointed but elected.
- 1864** In September, Prince Edward Island hosts The Charlottetown Conference, which leads to Confederation and the birth of Canada as a nation.
- 1873** Prince Edward Island joins Confederation.
- 1893** The Legislative Council and House of Assembly are merged to form the Legislative Assembly, with 30 members. Each of the 15 electoral districts

elected an Assemblyman and a Councilor, a system that was unique in Canadian politics until its abolition in 1996.

- 1913** An Act is passed to require secret balloting for provincial elections.
- 1923** Under a new Election Act, women vote for the first time in a PEI election.
- 1966** The riding of 6th Queens is created, increasing the Legislative Assembly from 30 to 32 members.
- 1970** Jean Canfield becomes the first women elected to the island legislature.
- 1979** Marion Reid becomes the Legislative Assembly's first female Deputy Speaker.
- 1983** Marion Reid becomes the first female Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- 1990** Pat Mella becomes the first female leader of a provincial political party in PEI. Marion Reid becomes the Legislative Assembly's first Lieutenant Governor.
- 1993** Catherine Callbeck becomes the first female Premier of PEI and n all of Canada. Pat Mella held the Opposition seat in the House, Nancy Guptill was elected Speaker of the House, Libbe Hubley Deputy Speaker and with Marion Reid as Lieutenant Governor, the five most powerful executive and parliamentary roles in government were filled by women simultaneously for the first time in Canada's history, and are subsequently known as PEI's Famous Five.
- 1996** The 1996 general election was the first time an Assembly was elected under the Election Act and Electoral Boundaries Commission of 1994 which established single member representation for each of the 27 districts of the redrawn electoral map, a system still in use today.
- 2015** Province House closes for extensive structural repairs and restoration. The Speech from the Throne for the First Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly is delivered on June 3rd in the neighbouring Honourable George Coles Building, marking the first time since 1847 that the full legislature has sat anywhere but Province House.
- 2021** New Virtual Proceedings rule effective January 1, 2021 in response to COVID 19, (first case detected March 14, 2020).
- 2022** 2nd Session of the 66th General Assembly opens with an in-person and virtual hybrid proceeding.
- 2023** The 250th anniversary of democracy on Prince Edward Island was reached in 2023 as the first House of Assembly met on July 7, 1773.

Events

Staff Changes

Denise A Doiron joined the Office of the Clerk as the HR Assistant in September and the retirement of Barb O'Donnell during the summer lead to the hiring of Ann-Marie Sheen as Executive Assistant to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

December saw the retirement of JoAnne Holden, Director of Communications & External Relations and Secretary for the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council.

Canada Winter Games 2023

Between February 18 - March 5, the Island hosted the 29th Canada Winter Games. 5,000 volunteers helped welcome 3,600 participants of over 150 events, guided their supporters and thousands of spectators.



The school calendar was altered to accommodate the Games and allow students to attend events. The sitting calendar of the House was also adjusted to start 2 weeks later on March 7, but was subsequently postponed due to the incumbent Progressive Conservative party calling for an early election on March 6, resulting in the House sitting on May 12.

Province House Update



With the ability to only work on 800mm sections at a time, the painstaking process of excavating and under pinning the basement of Province House was concluded, signaling the end of Phase 2 of the 4-phase renovation plan. The lowering of the basement floor enables the

accommodation of accessible washroom facilities, mechanical and electrical rooms, a storage facility and a staff lunchroom.

For more information visit

<https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/pe/provincehouse/conservation>

Election - MLA and Cabinet Changes

During the April 3rd General Election, the Progressive Conservative party seat count increased from 13 to 22, the Green Party's reduced from 8 to 2 and the Liberal Party of PEI retained 3 of their previously held 6 seats.

Colin LaVie, the MLA for Souris-Elmira who served as Speaker of the House from 2019, did not run in the election. The PCs retained this seat with their candidate Robin Croucher.

On April 14, the Honourable Dennis King, MLA, Premier of Prince Edward Island, announced changes to some government departments namely;

- a realigned Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture
- a realigned Department of Housing, Land & Communities
- a new Department of Workforce, Advance Learning & Population

A new Cabinet was also announced;

- Hon. Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island and Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs and Indigenous Relations
- Hon. Bloyce Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Justice, Public Safety & Attorney General and Deputy Premier
- Hon. Steven Myers, Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Action
- Hon. Ernie Hudson, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education & Early Years and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
- Hon. Cory Deagle, Minister of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture
- Hon. Mark McLane, Minister of Health & Wellness
- Hon. Gilles Arsenaault, Minister of Economic Development, Innovations & Trade and Minister Responsible for Acadian & Francophone Affairs
- Hon. Jill Burridge, Minister of Finance
- Hon. Rob Lantz, Minister of Housing, Land & Communities
- Hon. Barb Ramsay, Minister of Social Development & Seniors
- Hon. Jenn Redmond, Minister of Workforce, Advanced Learning & Population

In November, Jamie Fox, MLA Borden-Kinkora announced his intention to run for federal election and resigned his seat.

MLA Orientation



Clerk, Deputy Clerk and new MLAs in the Chamber, Hon. George Coles Bldg

Orientation for new and returning MLAs took place on April 19, 26 and May 3 in preparation of the reopening of the House.

The comprehensive program included standard human resources and administrative policies and progressed to an overview of the Legislative Assembly, its rules and parliamentary conduct.

Presentations by the offices of the Legislative Assembly were made on operations, locations and services and a mock parliament was held to familiarize the MLAs with House procedures.

Coronation of King Charles III

The coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023 was marked by an outdoor public ceremony held by Lieutenant-Governor Antoinette Perry at Government House.

The outdoor public ceremony began with hundreds of members of the public watching the parade from the Charlottetown Armoury, whose arrival was marked with a 21-gun salute in Victoria Park.

As a constitutional monarchy, and as required by the Constitution Acts 1867-1982, Section 128, all MLAs must swear or solemnly affirm an oath of allegiance before taking their seat on the floor of the House.

The coronation marked the first time in 70 years that the MLAs oaths or affirmations would be to His Majesty instead of Her Majesty.



Dignitaries outside Government House
Photo Credit: Stacey Janzer, CBC

First Session of the 67th General Assembly

Following the swearing in of new MLAs, the First Session of the 67th General Assembly began on May 12, 2023 with the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward after notice that the Honourable Darlene Compton was chosen by a secret ballot of the MLAs to become the new Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

This sitting concluded on June 21, 2023. The fall sitting began on November 7, 2023 and ended on November 29, 2023.

Budget

The 2023-2024 Budget Proposal, delivered by The Honourable Jill Burridge, Minister of Finance and Chair of Treasury Board at the First Session of the 67th General Assembly of the Prince Edward Island Legislature on May 25th, 2023, addressed healthcare, housing affordability, workforce development, economic growth, and environmental protection with modernization, support and initiatives slated for other areas.

The budget passed on June 16th following 15 days of debate in the House.

Government and Private Member Bills

During the 2023 legislative year, the House introduced 51 bills, 42 Government, 8 Private Members' and 1 Private bill. 38 Government, 4 Private Members' and the 1 Private bill passed all stages and received Royal Assent, 43 in total.

Members of the 1st Session 67th General Assembly - 2023



Belfast-Murray River
Speaker
Hon. Darlene Compton



Morell-Donagh
Deputy Speaker
Sidney MacEwen



Souris-Elmira
Robin Croucher

Alberton-Bloomfield
Transportation & Infrastructure
Hon. Ernie Hudson



Cornwall-Meadowbank
Health & Wellness
Hon. Mark McLane



Charlottetown
-Belvedere
Susie Dillon



Rustico-Emerald
Brad Trivers

Georgetown-Pownal
Environment, Energy & Climate Action
Hon. Steven Myers



Évangéline-Miscouche
Economic Development, Innovation & Trade Acadian & Francophile Affairs
Hon. Gilles Arsenault

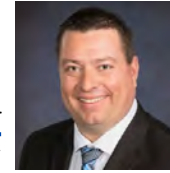


Tyne Valley
-Sherbrooke
Hilton MacLennan



Summerside-Wilmot
Tyler DesRoches

Kensington-Malpeque
Government House Leader
Hon. Matthew MacKay



Charlottetown-Brighton
Housing, Land & Communities
Hon. Rob Lantz



Borden-Kinkora
Jamie Fox



Tignish-Palmer Road
Leader of the Official Opposition
Hon. Hal Perry

Stanhope-Marshfield
Agriculture Justice & Public Safety Attorney General Deputy Premier
Hon. Bloyce Thompson



Summerside-South Drive
Social Development & Seniors
Hon. Barb Ramsay



O'Leary-Inverness
Opposition Whip
Robert Henderson

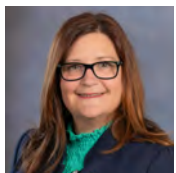


Charlottetown-
West Royalty
Opposition House Leader
Gordon McNeilly

Brackley-Hunter River
Premier Intergovernmental Affairs & Indigenous Relations
Hon. Dennis King



Mermaid-Stratford
Workforce, Advance Learning & Population
Hon. Jenn Redmond



Charlottetown
-Victoria Park
Third Party House Leader
Karla Bernard



New Haven-Rocky Point
Leader of the Third Party
Peter Bevan-Baker

Stratford-Keppoch
Finance
Hon. Jill Burridge



Montague-Kilmuir
Fisheries, Tourism, Sport & Culture
Hon. Cory Deagle



Charlottetown-
Hillsborough Park
Education & Early Years Status of Women
Hon. Natalie Jameson



Charlottetown-Winsloe
Government Whip
Zack Bell



Midnight Sittings



The Government House Leader introduced a motion pursuant to Rule 4 (4) of the Legislative Assembly. This motion passed by majority vote, extending the hours the House sits until 11.59pm on June 14, 15 and 16. This resulted in extended debate on the budget for the province estimates.

Although concerns were raised by both the Opposition and Third parties regarding the reduced time they had to study and raise questions on the budget, it was passed on the third and final day of the extended sitting hours.

250th Anniversary of the 1st Elected Assembly Meeting

2023 marked the 250th anniversary of PEI's, House of Assembly's first sitting on July 7, 1773.

Still known as St. John's Island at the time, 13 pieces of legislation were passed before it closed on July 12. These included retroactive approval of rules established since Governor Patterson's arrival in 1770, measures

regarding small debts, permissions to burn items ranging from rubbish to derelict windmills and licensing for the retail of "Spirituuous Liquors".



L'Accadie map from 1757

On the Road



The Standing Committee on Health and Social Development held 4 on-the-road public sessions to gather feedback on government action on homelessness on the island.

Committee members were joined at these meetings by Legislative Assembly broadcast

team who provided sound and live-streamed these events for the first time. These community meetings were well attended, the feedback from which appear in the Committee's Activities report, dated November 29, 2023.

New Table Officers

In November, Alysha MacEachern and Samantha Lilley, already known at the Legislative Assembly as Committee Clerks, began training to become Table Clerks, providing procedural advice to the Speaker and the MLAs alongside the Clerk or Deputy Clerk.

CWP Canada Twinning Program

The PEI Legislative Assembly hosted a Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Twinning Program on November 14, 2023 with all 7 women Prince Edward Island parliamentarians and 9 young women who had registered for the event.

Designed to generate political interest among young women and provide an experience of parliamentary life by

accompanying women parliamentarians in their parliamentary activities, the day included a guided tour of the Chamber, visits to government administrative buildings, job shadowing with twinned Parliamentarians and a presentation by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government encompassing the history of women in government in Canada, (and worldwide), along with insights, projections and information on assistance available to those wanting to pursue a career in the field.



Participants, Speaker, Deputy Clerk and MLAs in the Chamber, Hon. George Coles Building

Rotary Youth Parliament



Participants debating in the House of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. George Coles Building

Photo Credit: rotarycharlottetown.com

The Hon. George Coles Building played host to the Rotary Clubs of P.E.I. 33rd and 34th Rotary Youth Parliaments on March 31 - April 1 and November 24 - 25 in 2023 respectively, following a suspension of events due to COVID 19.

Students from across the province acted as MLAs and debated topics chosen by the participants in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, under the direction of an acting

Speaker of the Legislature Assembly throughout these weekends.

The Rotary Clubs of PEI have organized this annual two-day event for Island high school students for over 30 years, providing the opportunity to present and debate acts and resolutions on the floor of the Legislature. In preparation for the mock assembly, participants meet with fellow students from all over the Island to prepare their platform and organize their debate

Legislative Assembly Precinct Activities



Disability Flag outside the Hon. George Coles Building - Photo Credit Travis Kingdon/CBC

Province House, the Honourable George Coles Building, the J. Angus MacLean Building and St Paul's Anglican Church Rectory form the Legislative Assembly precinct.

The provincial flag is flown in front of the Hon. George Coles Building daily and is periodically joined by the provincial or national flag of a visiting delegation or

dignitary, lowered to commemorate anniversaries of significant loss or replaced by flags of marginalized communities on national dates of awareness.

This area, along with the Grafton Street side of the Hon. George Coles Building, is also host to community events, Island celebrations, local protests and rallies throughout the year.

For more Legislative Assembly's precinct buildings information, visit <https://www.assembly.pe.ca/buildings-of-the-legislative-assembly>.

Legislative Pages

Legislative Pages are Grade 11 and 12 honour students who have shown an interest in the Legislative Assembly and public affairs. Active members of their schools and communities, their pursuits often include such things as 4-H, music, Rotary Youth Parliament, sports, student council, volunteering and writing.

The Legislative Page Program gives them a unique chance to see the Legislature's work firsthand. 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.

This year's Pages were:

- Bluefield High School
Emmeline Stanley
- Charlottetown Rural High School
Gabrielle MacLean
- Colonel Gray High School
Evelyn Peacock
- École François-Buote
Rylee Lewis
- Grace Christian School
Kenneth Liang
- Montague Regional High School
Gage Creed
- Morell Regional High School
Ava Trowbridge
- Three Oaks Senior High School
Campbell McNeill



(L-R) Emmeline Stanley, Ava Trowbridge, Gabrielle MacLean, Kenneth Liang, Hon. Darlene Compton - Speaker, Campbell McNeill, Rylee Lewis, Evelyn Peacock, Gage Creed

For more information on the Legislative Pages, visit:

www.assembly.pe.ca/about/student-opportunities/page-program.

UPEI 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 to participate in 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.

In 2023, Alexander MacDonald joined the Assembly staff from January to April, and between September to December, Mateo Blacquiere participated in the program.



Panoramic view of the Hon. George Coles Building Legislative Assembly House Chamber

For more information on the UPEI Internship, visit:
www.assembly.pe.ca/about/student-opportunities/upei-internship.

The Order of Prince Edward Island

The Order of Prince Edward Island, first conferred in 1996, is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the province.

It was established as a way of encouraging and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individual citizens of the province and is awarded annually following a public nomination process with 3 recipients being selected by an independent Advisory Council.



The Order of PEI Advisory Council considers each nomination and makes final recommendations to the Premier in their role as President of Executive Council. The Premier then forwards those recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor, who is Chancellor of the Order.

The 3 Islanders selected to receive the honour were:

- Sister Teresa Currie
- Mary Hughes
- Scott Parsons



(L-R): Hon. Antoinette Perry - Lieutenant, Sister Teresa Currie, Scott Parsons, Mary Hughes, Hon. Bloyce Thompson - Deputy Premier at Government House, October 2023

For more information on the Order of Prince Edward Island, visit: www.assembly.pe.ca/index.php/opei.

Reports and Statistics

2023 Standing Committees

Special Committee on Committees Committee Clerk: Emily Doiron - Number of Meetings: 2 in camera		
Members	Chair: Matthew MacKay Zack Bell Peter Bevan-Baker	Sidney MacEwen Hon. Hal Perry Substitute: Susie Dillon
Reports	<u>Composition of Standing Committees - May 18, 2023</u> <u>Composition of Standing Committees - June 8, 2023</u>	

Legislative Assembly Management Committee Clerk: Joseph Jeffrey - Number of Meetings: 6 in camera		
Members	Chair: Hon. Darlene Compton Karla Bernard Zack Bell	Sidney MacEwen Matthew MacKay Gordon McNeilly Hon. Hal Perry
Reports	<u>Report of the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly on Management on Bill 104 - June 21, 2023</u>	

Education and Economic Growth Committee Clerk: Alysha MacEachern - Number of Meetings: 9 + 2 in camera		
Members	Chair: Hon. Brad Trivers Karla Bernard Peter Bevan-Baker Susie Dillon	Robert Henderson Gordon McNeilly Observing: Robin Croucher Observing: Jamie Fox - until Nov 10
Reports	<u>Committee Activities November 28, 2023</u>	

2023 Standing Committees

Health and Social Development		
Committee Clerk: Samantha Lilley - Number of Meetings: 15 + 3 in camera		
Members	Chair: Susie Dillon Karla Bernard Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker Robin Croucher Gordon McNeilly	Hon. Hal Perry Observing: Tyler DesRoches - until Oct 6 Observing: Matthew MacKay - as of Oct 6 Observing: Hilton MacLennan
Reports	<u>Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission - November 24, 2023</u> <u>Committee Activities - November 29, 2023</u>	

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability		
Committee Clerk: Alysha MacEachern - Number of Meetings: 8 + 3 in camera		
Members	Chair: Robert Henderson Karla Bernard Peter Bevan-Baker Jamie Fox - until Nov 10 Hilton MacLennan	Hon. Hal Perry Observing: Susie Dillon Observing & Substitute: Brad Trivers Substitute: Zack Bell Substitute: Gordon McNeilly
Reports	<u>Committee Activities - November 28, 2023</u>	

Public Accounts		
Committee Clerk: Ryan Reddin - Number of Meetings: 9 + 3 in camera		
Members	Chair: Gordon McNeilly Karla Bernard Peter Bevan-Baker Tyler DesRoches - until Oct 6 Sidney MacEwen	Hilton MacLennan - from Oct 6 Hon. Hal Perry Observing: Zack Bell Observing: Matthew MacKay
Reports	<u>Committee Activities - November 29, 2023</u>	

2023 Standing Committees

Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges Committee Clerk: Emily Doiron - Number of Meetings: 2 in camera		
Members	Chair: Karla Bernard Zack Bell Peter Bevan-Baker Matthew MacKay Gordon McNeilly	Hon. Hal Perry Observing: Hon. Cory Deagle - as of Oct 6 Observing: Tyler DesRoches - until Oct 6 Observing: Sidney MacEwen
Reports	<u>Committee Membership - June 1, 2023</u> <u>Private Bill No. 200 - November 21, 2023</u>	

2023 House Statistics

Sitting Days	49	54	37
<u>Bills</u>	2021	2022	2023
Government Bills Brought	42	42	42
Government Bills Passed	39	33	38
Private Members' Bills Brought	22	8	8
Private Members' Bills Passed	13	5	4
Private Bills Brought	0	1	1
Private Bills Passed	0	1	1
<u>Questions</u>	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Questions	1,258	1,718	1,139
Longest Question Asked	1 min, 33 sec	1 min, 21 sec	1 min, 39 sec
Longest Answer Given	2 min, 15 sec	1 min, 51 sec	2 min, 1 sec
Shortest Question Asked	2 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds
Shortest Answer Given	2 seconds	1 second	4 seconds
<u>Member Statements</u>	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Member Statements	146	152	104
Longest Statement	4 min, 24 sec	4 min, 15 sec	3 min, 55 sec
Shortest Statement	58 seconds	50 seconds	1 minute
<u>Ministerial Statements</u>	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Ministerial Statements	82	49	45
Longest Statement	5 min, 43 Sec	5 min, 56 sec	6 min, 3 sec
Shortest Statement	1 min, 1 sec	1 min, 13 sec	1 min, 22 sec
<u>Motions</u>	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Motions	79	54	81
Government	7	14	22
Other than Government	72	38	58
Introduced Jointly	0	2	1
Passed	22	18	23
<u>Written Questions</u>	2021	2022	2023
Number of Written Questions	109	39	77
Number of Written Answers	102	34	64

2023 Durations

Questions	
Longest Question Asked: 1 min, 39 sec	May 31 – Asked by the Leader of the Opposition to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety about emergency preparedness and evacuation plans. He specifically asked when the Minister would release the forest fire safety plan.
Longest Answer Given: 2 min, 1 sec	November 9 – Given by the Minister of Fisheries, Tourism, Sports, and Culture when asked by the Member representing Rustico-Emerald how he plans to further advertise the Confederation Trail to tourists; the Minister’s response involved working with the ATV Federation to grow tourism.
Shortest Question Asked: 5 seconds	May 16 – The Member of Charlottetown-West Royalty asked the Minister of Health and Wellness how long the Minister believes the ICU beds at the PCH will be closed. June 2 June 8 November 23 – Asked by the Member representing Charlottetown-West Royalty to the Minister of Housing, Land, and Community regarding the number of transitional beds being placed in Summerside.
Shortest Answer Given: 4 seconds	May 18 – Given by the Premier to the Leader of the Third Party regarding private surgical clinics; the Premier responded “yes” to there being no place for private surgical clinics on PEI. May 30 June 1 November 14 November 17 November 21 November 29 – The Minister of Justice and Public Safety answered the Leader of the Opposition, stating he had already answered similar questions when asked whether an incident at the Outreach Centre was considered a crime.

Member Statements	
Longest Statement: 3 min, 55 sec	November 16 - The member for New Haven-Rocky Point made a statement on the passing of the Mental Health Act and the role of a Member.
Shortest Statement: 1 minute	November 17 - The member for Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke congratulated the Stewart Memorial Auxiliary on hosting a successful Christmas Tea.

2023 Durations

Ministerial Statements	
Longest Statement: 6 min, 3 sec	June 20 - The Minister of Education and Early Years congratulated the 2023 high school graduates.
Shortest Statement: 1 min, 22 sec	May 18 - The Minister of Social Development and Seniors made a statement on the importance of foster care.

2023 Broadcast Services

Broadcast Services began televising the Question Period of the Daily Debates in 1997 and extended this provision to include the entire daily sitting shortly afterwards.

The recording and live televising of events is conducted from a sound-proofed suite by 2 full time and 1 part time staff, and includes managing multiple cameras and angles, microphone levels, on screen titles and presenter graphics. Live streaming of the proceedings on the Legislative Assembly website, Facebook and YouTube is also handled by the team.

Broadcast/Streamed Event	2021	2022	2023
Daily Debates	49	54	37
Standing Committee Meetings	77	63	41

Broadcast Services also maintain the archives for these recordings. The video archive of daily debates begins in April, 2003, the Standing Committee audio starts in September 2016, with video available in September 2017 and the Legislative Assembly's YouTube channel holds both Standing Committee and daily debate videos from January 2020.

Live streaming from outside of Legislative Assembly buildings was established as a new service of the team with 4 on-the-road Standing Committee meetings in 2023.

2023 Hansard

Transcriptions of the daily debates of the Legislative Assembly began in February 1996 following the establishment of the Hansard service, which provides interested parties and the general public details on what was said by whom on the issues discussed. Hansard also took over producing the daily journals for these debates in 2000 and extended their transcription service to include previously uncovered committee meetings in 2006.

While the Legislature is in session, Hansard employs 6 to 7 staff members, with tasks ranging from mic operation and annotations within the legislative chamber to transcribing, editing, proofreading and publishing the transcripts of the daily debates. Question Period transcripts are published as soon as possible and typically have a turnaround time of 1.5 to 2.5 hours. Daily debates are published within 2 sitting days

Every hour of daily debate and Committee meeting time requires approximately 8 to 10 hours to transcribe, edit, proofread and publish.

Events	2021	2022	2023
House Sittings	49	54	37
House Sitting Hours	196	216	176
Committee Meetings	77	63	41
Committee Meeting Hours	124	105	69
Total Events	126	117	77
Total Hours	320	321	245

Outside of legislative sittings, Hansard employs 2 to 3 staff throughout the year to operate mics and annotate Committee meetings, produce Committee transcripts and other published materials such as the bound Hansard and Clerk's Journal. These staff members also assist the Parliamentary Research department.

For more information on Hansard, visit: www.assembly.pe.ca/offices/assembly-administrative-offices/hansard.

2023 Parliamentary Research Service

Since 2007, the Parliamentary Research Service has provided MLAs, Standing Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly with custom, non-partisan research reports and documentation.

3 members of staff, 1 of which is the Legislative Assembly Librarian, provide research to be used in statements, motions, the drafting of bills as well as information on issues raised by an MLA's constituent.

Research can take anything from a few hours to several weeks, depending on the scope and complexity of the request.

Service	2021	2022	2023
Research Reports requested by Members, Committees or staff of the Legislative Assembly	39	19	28
Responses to Jurisdictional Scan questions from other jurisdictions through the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada	101	62	111
Tours provided to schools, post-secondary institutions, other organisations and individuals	0	7	16

The Parliamentary Research Service also obtains information or statistics from provincial offices and external agencies, provides summarizations on the legislation of other jurisdictions on a given issue and presents to Standing Committees when requested.

Tours of the House Chamber in the Hon. George Coles Building Chamber are currently being conducted by this department and include the history and symbols of the Legislative Assembly, benchmark legislation, rules regarding conduct in the House and may end with participants watching the proceedings of the House from the Gallery if the House is sitting.

For more information on the Parliamentary Research Service, visit:

www.assembly.pe.ca/offices/assembly-administrative-offices/library-and-research-service.

2023 Legislative Assembly Budget & Expenses

The information below is from the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Volume II, for the year ending March 31, 2022. The Public Accounts provide the most current information comparing budgeted estimates to actual expenditures.

Legislative Assembly		
	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Legislative Services		
Administration	157,492	194,500
Equipment	31,932	197,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	136,099	432,800
Professional Services	40,858	30,000
Salaries	2,090,307	2,201,200
Travel and Training	110,227	65,000
	<u>2,566,915</u>	<u>3,121,000</u>
Government Members' Office		
Administration	140,000	161,900
Equipment	1,001	-
Salaries	302,292	284,200
	<u>443,293</u>	<u>446,000</u>
Opposition Members' Office		
Administration	62,346	162,400
Salaries	464,844	401,600
	<u>527,190</u>	<u>564,000</u>
Third Party Office		
Administration	61,764	130,000
Salaries	145,359	182,100
	<u>207,123</u>	<u>312,100</u>
Total Legislative Services	<u>3,744,521</u>	<u>4,443,100</u>

Members		
	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Members		
Administration	160	15,000
Equipment	70	-
Salaries	2,488,376	2,510,800
Travel and Training	120,471	140,000
	<u>2,609,077</u>	<u>2,665,800</u>
Total Members	<u>2,532,949</u>	<u>2,665,800</u>

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate		
Administration	12,962	22,200
Equipment	24,230	10,000
Materials, Supplies and Services	16,775	26,500
Professional Services	66,849	75,000
Salaries	674,572	896,100
Travel and Training	6,067	15,200
	<u>801,455</u>	<u>1,045,000</u>
Total Office of the Child and Youth Advocate	<u>801,455</u>	<u>1,045,000</u>

Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner

	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner		
Salaries	56,089	53,000
Travel and Training	2,416	3,200
	<u>58,505</u>	<u>56,200</u>
Total Office of the Child and Youth Advocate	<u>558,505</u>	<u>56,200</u>

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner		
Administration	5,022	8,700
Equipment	4,918	-
Materials, Supplies and Services	631	1,600
Professional Services	22,438	18,800
Salaries	331,305	424,000
Travel and Training	2,943	5,000
	<u>367,257</u>	<u>458,100</u>
Total Office of the Child and Youth Advocate	<u>367,257</u>	<u>458,100</u>

Office of the Ombudsperson and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner

	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Office of the Ombudsperson and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner		
Administration	176	-
Equipment Professional	4,719	-
Services	2,075	-
Salaries	26,197	46,900
Travel and Training	5,000	3,200
	<u>38,167</u>	<u>50,100</u>
Total Office of the Ombudsperson and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner	<u>38,167</u>	<u>50,100</u>

Elections PEI

	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Elections PEI		
Administration	262,123	16,700
Equipment	57,011	2,800
Materials, Supplies and Services	(42,474)20,	12,000
Professional Services	511	10,000
Salaries	1,017,115	361,300
Travel and Training	41,477	10,500
	<u>1,355,763</u>	<u>413,300</u>
Total Elections PEI	<u>1,355,763</u>	<u>413,300</u>
Total Legislative Assembly	<u>9,499,433</u>	<u>9,831,500</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 communication

For more information on the PEI Branch of the CPA visit:

www.cpahq.org/directory/prince-edward-island.

Inter-Parliamentary Organisations Meetings

Conferences provide Members and staff with unique opportunities 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 included:

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association 39th Canadian Presiding Officers Conference - February 2 - 4, 2023 - Regina, Saskatchewan

Participants: Deputy Speaker Hal Perry, MLA; Joseph Jeffrey, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Topics: Training sessions, jurisdictional scans and round table discussions on procedures and emerging trends effecting presiding officers in their role.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association 59th Canadian Regional Conference - July 22 - 29, 2023 - Regina, Saskatchewan

Participants: Susie Dillon, MLA

Topics: Delegates from the federal, provincial and territorial CPA branches meeting for annual training and knowledge exchanges related to their work as legislators.

Annual General Meeting of the Association of the Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada - August 1 - 5, 2023 - Whitehorse

Participants: Joseph Jeffrey, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; Emily Doiron, Deputy Clerk;

Topics: Annual General Meeting followed by business sessions addressing the activities and policy issues at play in regional jurisdictions.

Canadian Congress of Black Parliamentarians - August 9 - 11, 2023 - Ottawa

Participants: Gordon McNeilly, MLA

Topics: Regular meetings to bring forward, discuss, and advocate issues that are of importance to Black communities across Canada with the goal of building consensus and proposing solutions to improve the lives of Black Canadians.

Robert J Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy - August 27 - 23, 2023 - Philadelphia

Participant: Robin Croucher, MLA

Topics: Lectures and hands-on workshops in media relations, negotiation skills and public speaking

Council of State Governments (CSG) East Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum - August 20 - 23, 2023 - Toronto

Participant: Peter Bevan-Baker, MLA; Robert Henderson, MLA

Topics: Annual General Meeting followed by policy committee meetings to discuss wide-ranging emerging policy issues and their impact on our individual constituents and jurisdictions.

38e Session de l'Assemblée régionale Amérique de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) - September 4 - 8, 2023 - Baton Rouge

Participant: Gordon McNeilly, MLA

Topics: The renaissance of the French language in schools, the development of Francophone cultural tourism and the role of politics and diplomacy in the sustainability of the Francophonie in the Americas.

Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) - Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Annual Conference - September 10 - 12, 2023 - Whitehorse, Yukon

Participants: Tyler DesRoches, MLA; Hal Perry, MLA; Ryan Reddin, Director of Parliamentary Research

Topics: Jurisdictional updates, defending Canada, managing cyber security threats, collaborating on climate change solutions and accountability.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association 43rd Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar - October 12 - 15, 2023 - Toronto, Ontario

Participants: Karla Bernard, MLA; Gordon McNeilly, MLA; Emily Doiron, Deputy Clerk

Topics: Representative Government: Cultivating Inclusive Parliaments