



Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

Grounds Use Policy

Objectives

This policy will support the demonstration of democratic values on Legislative Assembly grounds while balancing public access for all and legislative priorities. Advance notice for demonstrations, rallies, protests, etc. on the grounds is appreciated to facilitate the orderly and fair use of the Parliamentary Precinct. The Legislative Assembly supports the right for peaceful assembly in the Parliamentary Precinct as outlined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The grounds outlined in the *Legislative Assembly Act* are under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Principles

The Legislative Assembly's *Ground Use Policy* is based on the following principles:

- **Accessibility:** the Legislative Assembly, as the provincial parliament, is a meeting place for residents of the province for all to experience.
- **Fairness:** the Grounds Use Policy is transparent and available to all external users on the Legislative Assembly website – www.assembly.pe.ca.

Application

This policy governs the use of the Parliamentary Precinct for demonstrations, protests and other public activities. The Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly have jurisdiction over the Precinct and have approved this policy.

Definitions

External user: means all users who are not Members of the Legislative Assembly or their staff, and who are not employees of an Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Grounds: means the Legislative Precinct as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act*:

(i) *the land and buildings utilized by the members, officers and employees of the Legislative Assembly for the purposes of the Legislative Assembly, located within the area bounded by Grafton Street, Richmond Street, Prince Street and Queen Street in the City of Charlottetown, including but not limited to the following buildings and the land on which they are located:*

(A) *Province House,*

(B) the Coles Building,

(C) the building located at 197 Richmond Street,

(ii) the J.A. MacLean Building and the land on which it is located, and (iii) other land and buildings utilized by the members, officers and employees of the Legislative Assembly for the purposes of the Legislative Assembly, which are identified by the Speaker and designated by minute of the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management,...

Policy requirements

1. General

- (1) Temporary displays, demonstrations and events must:
 - a. Respect other users on the grounds;
 - b. Not endanger the health or safety of demonstrators or others;
 - c. Maintain a respectful environment free from bullying, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination.
 - d. Adhere to the direction provided by the Sergeant-at-Arms or Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
 - e. Not erect any structure including tents, tarps or other means that may be used as shelter or otherwise become an encampment. Any structure or encampment will be dismantled and removed by staff without notice and disposed of.
 - f. Not tie or otherwise affix signs or other demonstration materials to any structure or tree in the Parliamentary Precinct.
 - g. Keep the sidewalks, stairs, and entryways always clear.
 - h. Not interfere with, intimidate or harass a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Infractions of this nature are a contravention of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and may be actionable.
 - i. Clean up any debris or materials generated by the event.
- (2) Temporary displays, demonstrations and events cannot interfere with access to the grounds or prevent others from enjoying the grounds.
- (3) Temporary displays, demonstrations and events that place the Parliamentary Precinct or grounds at risk of physical damage, or that may affect the integrity of the grounds as a historic site are not allowed.

2. Prohibited uses

- (1) The following temporary displays, demonstrations and events are prohibited on the grounds:
 - a. For-profit;
 - b. Commercial;
 - c. Personal or private (ex// wedding); and
 - d. Political/election events or signage
- (2) Temporary displays, demonstrations and events are prohibited from conducting, permitting, or promoting the sale of goods, memberships, or soliciting donations on the grounds.

- (3) Advertising of a commercial nature, including the display, mounting, or hanging of commercial signs or banners, is prohibited on the grounds.
- (4) Admission fees are strictly prohibited.
- (5) The sale of food and/or beverages is not permitted on the grounds.
- (6) The Legislative Assembly permits various activities on the parliamentary precinct grounds; however, any events, signs, displays, speeches or activities that involve obscenity, hate propaganda, or flags/symbols associated with a criminal organization are strictly prohibited as determined by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- (7) Overnight activities or anything that could be reasonably understood to be a 24-7 presence is strictly prohibited and will not be allowed to continue under any circumstances.
- (8) Any action that contravenes this policy, a provincial or federal statute, or a municipal by-law may result in the immediate termination and/or cancellation of the activity.
- (9) Such other prohibited uses as determined by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

3. Scheduling priority

- (1) Public use of the grounds must not interfere or conflict with parliamentary business or activities.
- (2) Events that support the functions of the Legislative Assembly have priority over the use by external users.

4. Cost recovery

- (1) Defacing or damaging the Legislative Building/Precinct or grounds and its contents is prohibited. In the event of damage, the cost of repair, replacement or cleaning (including excessive garbage) shall be the responsibility of the individual or group using the grounds or who causes the damage.

5. Compliance

The Speaker, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly or Sergeant-at-Arms have the authority to enforce this policy with the assistance of the Charlottetown Police Service if necessary.

6. Other

- (1) All organizations holding demonstrations or special events on the parliamentary precinct grounds agree to hold the Legislative Assembly harmless of any liability or loss.
- (2) Advance notice for demonstrations, rallies, protests, etc. on the grounds is appreciated to ensure orderly use of the grounds in the Parliamentary Precinct.
- (3) Use of the grounds in the Precinct is on a first-come, first-served basis if multiple groups exceed the capacity of the grounds.

7. Contact

To provide advance notice or if you have any questions, please contact:

Gordon Campbell, Sergeant-at-Arms at 902-368-5970 or assembly@assembly.pe.ca