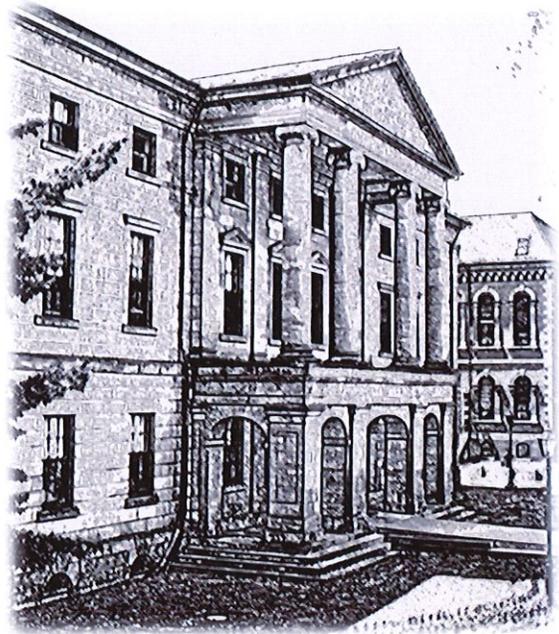




2022 REPORT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER





Prince Edward Island Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Legislative Assembly

Assemblée législative

*Office of the Conflict
of Interest Commissioner*
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

*Bureau du commissaire
aux conflits d'intérêts*
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

February 1, 2023

Hon. Colin LaVie, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is my honour and duty to submit to you the 2022 Annual Report of the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the period January 1 to December 31, 2022.

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

Yours very truly,

Judy Burke, K.C.
Conflict of Interest Commissioner

Conflict of Interest Annual Report for 2022

I am pleased to present my Annual Report for 2022 regarding the affairs of the Office of the Commissioner pursuant to Section 3 of the *Conflict of Interest Act R.S.P.E.I.1988 Cap. 17.1 (the "Act")*.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

The *Act* requires all Members, their spouses and dependent children to file a private disclosure statement disclosing their income, assets and liabilities as well as any interests held in private corporations. In 2022, pursuant to recent amendments to the *Act*, Members were required to provide additional information regarding the shareholders of private companies including the names and addresses of the shareholders and identifying those who are Members or family of a Member, as well as any person owning more than 10 percent issued or outstanding voting shares of a private company or those who own non-voting shares with a value greater than \$ 5,000. The changes were introduced to provide greater transparency regarding Member's interests in private companies.

I met with each Member and any spouse who chose to attend in April and May of 2022, to complete and review each private disclosure statement for compliance with the *Act* and to provide assistance and advice.

Every member has completed a private disclosure statement and a public disclosure statement. Those have been filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and are available on the Assembly website.

Correspondence will soon be delivered to each Member to set up meetings to complete disclosure statements for the 2023 calendar year.

TRUSTS

Four Ministers had previously established trusts and appointed Trustees to hold certain assets. Two of those trusts were dissolved in 2022, as they were no longer necessary due to cabinet changes. Section 18(3) of the *Act* sets out the reporting requirements for those Ministers who have established trusts. All required information was received for 2022.

OPINIONS TO MEMBERS

In 2022, my advice was sought regularly from Members regarding the interpretation and application of the *Act* to a Member's personal circumstances. I responded to each of these requests by telephone, email and on occasion by meeting personally with the Member. I also issued a written opinion in one instance.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the *Act*, all such advice and opinions are given in confidence unless the Member releases the opinion or authorizes the Commissioner to release it.

In 2022, no written requests were received from Members or the public pursuant to Section 28 of the Act to provide an opinion regarding any alleged contravention of the Act by a Member.

CANADIAN CONFLICT OF INTEREST NETWORK

Two meetings of the Canadian Conflict of Interest Network were held in 2022. The first was held via Zoom in March of 2022, and in September of 2022 an in-person meeting was held in Yellowknife, NWT.

It was enormously helpful to me to meet others in a similar role and to seek advice and input. There were also educational sessions regarding policy and practice in other jurisdictions and updates regarding issues that have arisen in other jurisdictions.

Another Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 2023, with the next in-person conference scheduled for September 2023, in Halifax.

CONCLUSION

Thanks once again to all of those who assisted me this year, and to all Members for their continued cooperation. Special thanks again to Ms. Barbara O'Donnell, and to all the staff in the Clerk's office and the Office of the Speaker for their patience and assistance.