



**MANITOBA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

To All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

I have the privilege of presenting for your information, the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Whitham".

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and
Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly
Management Commission

Composition of the Commission

Members as at March 31, 2010

Honourable George Hicke, MLA
Speaker and Chairperson

Honourable Bill Blaikie, MLA
Government House Leader

Mr. Gerald Hawranik, MLA
Official Opposition House Leader

Ms. Erna Braun, MLA

Mr. Ralph Eichler, MLA

Mr. Kelvin Goertzen, MLA

Mr. Gerard Jennissen, MLA

Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA

Secretary to the Commission

Ms. Patricia Chaychuk
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

COMMISSION PROCESS

This is the annual report to the Legislative Assembly of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission (the Commission) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010.

The Commission is comprised of the Speaker as Chairperson, four MLAs appointed by the government caucus and three from the official opposition caucus. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is the Secretary.

During the 2009/2010 fiscal year the Commission held meetings on the following dates to consider various matters:

September 23, 2009
November 23, 2009
November 30, 2009
February 17, 2010
March 3, 2010

The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act assigns the following duties and responsibilities to the Commission:

- carrying out those Rules of the Assembly and those provisions of *The Legislative Assembly Act* which relate to the financial management of the Assembly;
- reviewing the estimates of expenditure and the establishment of positions for staff required for the proper conduct of the business operation of the Assembly and for the Assembly offices and for the Auditor General, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Children's Advocate and the Ombudsman and their respective offices;
- in cooperation with the government, providing facilities and services required by the Members of the Assembly, by the caucuses of the various parties to the Assembly and by the leaders of the parties in opposition;
- formulating administrative policies in respect of the Clerk and the offices required for the administration of the Assembly, *The Legislative Assembly Act* and *The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act*;
- maintaining a proper system of security for the Chamber and the Assembly Offices, subject to the administrative authority of the department of the executive government of the province charged with the responsibility for such security; and

- advising and giving directions respecting the efficient and effective operations and management of the Assembly.

Meetings are held in camera, however Officers of the Assembly and staff required to be present may attend. Members of the Assembly who are not Commission members may attend Commission meetings if so invited by the Commission.

As of November 2009, the minutes of Commission meetings, and the Annual Report of the Commission are posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

This report provides an overview of the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission.

2009/2010

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

2010/2011 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES

The Commission met on February 17 and March 3, 2010, to consider and approve the 2010/2011 estimates for the Legislative Assembly and for the offices of the Independent Officers.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES AND ANNUAL REPORTS

In order to provide enhanced transparency of Commission decisions, the Commission agreed that as of November 2009, minutes of decisions from Commission meetings as well as the Annual Reports of the Commission are to be posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

Correspondingly, the decision for the minutes and annual reports to appear on the Legislative Assembly website was codified into law as section 9 of Bill 2 – *The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act*, which was adopted by the Legislature and given royal assent on December 10, 2009.

MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES OFFICE

In November 2009, the Auditor General released a report on Audits of Government Operations that contained an audit and recommendations concerning the acceptance and processing of MLA expense claims by the Members' Allowances Office. Though the audit did not uncover any cases of fraudulent spending, the Auditor did make a number of recommendations to strengthen the accountability and transparency of the expense claim filing process.

In response to the Auditor's report, the Commission agreed to implement a number of interim procedures to put the Auditor's recommendations into practice. The Commission also agreed to appoint an Interim Commissioner to review the Auditor General's report pertaining to Members' allowances, and to decide what regulations or amendments to existing regulations should be made in compliance with the Auditor's recommendations.

The Commission welcomes the opportunity to enhance accountability and transparency of MLA expense spending, as a way of providing confidence and assurance that funds are being spent appropriately and for the purposes intended.

In support of this goal, the Legislative Assembly adopted and gave royal assent on December 10, 2009 to Bill 2 – *The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act*.

This legislation stipulates that a compliance report is to be prepared within six months of a general election by the Members' Allowances Office, with the report to be tabled in the House by the Speaker and posted on the Assembly website. The legislation also provides for the appointment of an Allowances Commissioner who is charged with reviewing the Auditor's report and making appropriate and applicable regulatory changes concerning Members' Allowances. In addition, the Members' Allowances Office now reports to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.