
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO REVIEW MLA COMPENSATION

VICTORIA – A three-member Independent Commission of Review has been established to conduct a fair and impartial review of compensation and pension arrangements for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The commission has been given broad terms of reference to collect data, receive public input and make recommendations to the Speaker of the House within 90 days. Results of the report will be voted on in the spring legislative session.

“Fewer things are more difficult and controversial than determining compensation levels for elected officials,” said Premier Gordon Campbell. “This is why I have called for a non-partisan, independent review of salary levels and pension arrangements. Compensation levels need to reflect the important work that MLAs conduct on behalf of British Columbians in their ridings and the Legislature, but must also be at a level that is fair and balanced for taxpayers.”

The current base pay for an MLA is \$76,100 annually. Cabinet Ministers, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Speaker of the House receive an additional allowance of \$39,000 annually and the Premier receives an additional allowance of \$45,000 annually. Since the MLA pension program was cancelled in 1996, the Legislative Assembly contributes nine per cent of the MLA’s base salary to an RRSP. MLA compensation has not received any significant increases since the recommendations of the 1997 Citizen’s Panel Report on MLA Compensation were adopted.

“It will be at the sole discretion of the Commission to determine how they collect information and receive public input for their report,” said Campbell. “Fairness to the taxpayer and the members should be guiding principles for the commission and, in my view, it is appropriate that these issues be dealt with in an open and transparent manner for both the members and the public.”

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2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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