

# Independent Commission to Review MLA Compensation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2007

## **Commission presents its Report to the Speaker.**

VICTORIA – After a comprehensive 90-day review and analysis, the Independent Commission to Review MLA Compensation has submitted its majority report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. In keeping with their broad terms of reference, the majority of the Commission has recommended adjustments to several aspects of the compensation package for MLAs.

The scope of the Commission's consultation included a survey by BC Stats, a survey of MLAs, seven public hearings within the province and a call for written submissions. The Commission also conducted interviews with former and current MLAs, compensation and pension experts, and officials from Ontario, Québec and Saskatchewan who have been recently involved in the compensation review process in their jurisdictions.

The 18 recommendations made by the majority of the Independent Commission include:

- An increase in each member's basic salary to \$98,000 a year, effective April 1, 2007.
- Additional salaries for ministers and parliamentary positions to be calculated as a percentage of the new basic salary.
- The termination of the MLA Group RRSP and the reinstatement of a defined benefit pension plan.
- The continuation of long-term disability and medical benefits.
- Enhancements to transitional assistance.
- The termination of the capital city allowance, to be replaced by an annual allowance for meals and incidentals (\$61/sitting day) which is taxable and reimbursement for accommodation in the CRD (max: \$19,000/year).
- Changes to the existing limits of travel within the province.
- Appointment by the Speaker of a three-member independent commission to review MLA compensation every second parliament, beginning with the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament (scheduled for 2013).
- Annual adjustments in basic salary to be made using B.C. CPI.
- Increasing transparency and openness of the MLA compensation package by posting the information on the Legislative Assembly website.

For further information please contact Sue Paish at 604.631.3139 or [spaish@van.fasken.com](mailto:spaish@van.fasken.com).

Copies of the Report are available from the Clerk of Committees at 250.356.2933 or [ClerkComm@leg.bc.ca](mailto:ClerkComm@leg.bc.ca).

The report is also available online at <http://www.leg.bc.ca/bcmlacomp>.

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# Independent Commission to Review MLA Compensation

BACKGROUND

May 1, 2007

## Details on Basic and Additional Salaries for Members

<b>PROPOSED SALARY BREAKDOWN FOR B.C. MLAs, 2007-</b>									
Current annual salary			Position		#	Proposed annual salary			
Base	Additional	Total	Ministerial Salaries	Parliamentary Salaries		Base	% of base	Additional	Total
\$78,100	\$45,000	\$121,100	Premier		1	\$98,000	90%	\$88,200	\$186,200
\$78,100	\$39,000	\$115,100	Minister with portfolio		19	\$98,000	50%	\$49,000	\$147,000
\$78,100	\$39,000	\$115,100		Speaker	1	\$98,000	50%	\$49,000	\$147,000
\$78,100	\$39,000	\$115,100		Leader of the Official Opposition	1	\$98,000	50%	\$49,000	\$147,000
\$78,100	\$25,000	\$101,100	Minister without portfolio (Minister of State)		4	\$98,000	35%	\$34,300	\$132,300
\$78,100	\$19,500	\$95,600		Deputy Speaker	1	\$98,000	35%	\$34,300	\$132,300
\$78,100	\$19,500	\$95,600		Assistant Deputy Speaker	1	\$98,000	35%	\$34,300	\$132,300
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Government Whip	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Government Caucus Chair	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Official Opposition Caucus Chair	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Official Opposition House Leader	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$9,000	\$85,100		Official Opposition Whip	1	\$98,000	20%	\$19,600	\$117,600
\$78,100	\$6,000	\$82,100	Parliamentary Secretary		6	\$98,000	15%	\$14,700	\$112,700
\$78,100	\$6,000	\$82,100		Deputy Government Whip	1	\$98,000	15%	\$14,700	\$112,700
\$78,100	\$6,000	\$82,100		Official Opposition Deputy Whip	1	\$98,000	15%	\$14,700	\$112,700
\$78,100	\$6,000	\$82,100		Chair of Select Standing or Special Committees	8	\$98,000	15%	\$14,700	\$112,700
\$78,100	\$3,000	\$79,100		Deputy Chair of Select Standing or Special Committees	8	\$98,000	10%	\$9,800	\$107,800
\$78,100	\$0	\$78,100	Private Member		21	\$98,000	0%	\$0	\$98,000
<b>\$6,011,900</b>	<b>\$1,177,000</b>	<b>\$7,188,900</b>	<b>AGGREGATE TOTAL</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>\$7,742,000</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<b>\$1,754,200</b>	<b>\$9,496,200</b>