Sixth Annual Report
of the
**Legislative Assembly of
Prince Edward Island**
January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

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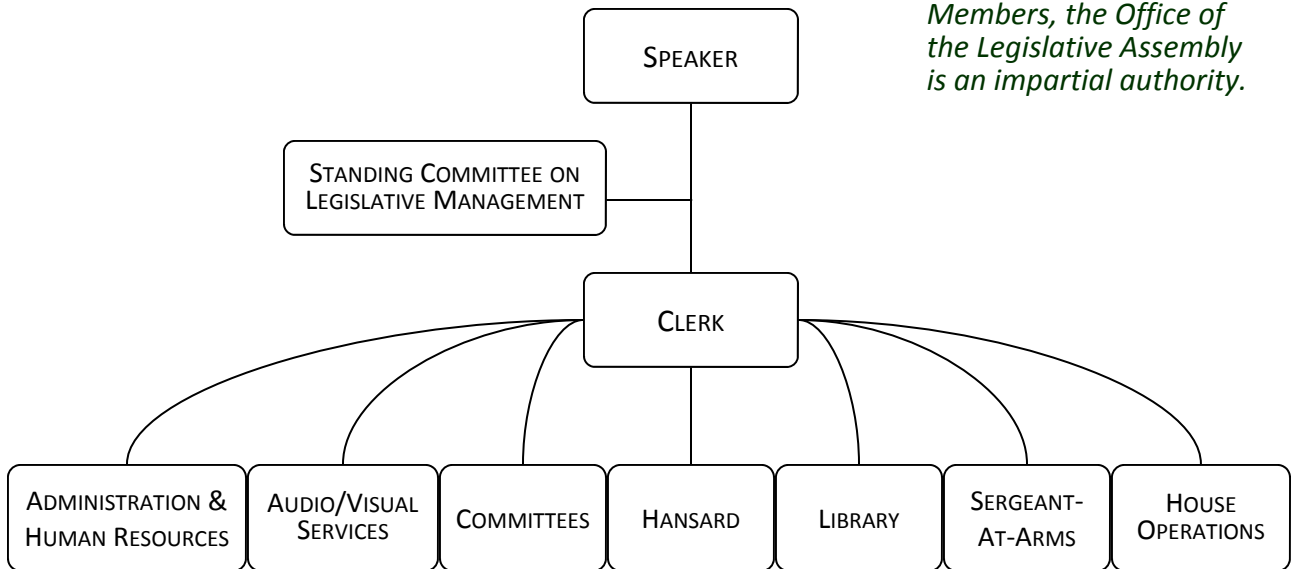# Behind the Scenes
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATION

Organization of the Legislative Assembly

The OLA has access to a wide range of staff and resources that help support the activities of the House and provide services to the public: administrators, lawyers, security, researchers, computer technicians, and maintenance personnel.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) provides the administrative and procedural support Members need to carry out their duties as elected officials.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker and composed of Members of the House, governs the OLA and ensures an "arm's length" relationship is maintained between the operations of the House and the operations of the Executive.

Below is an unofficial organizational chart of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Responsible for providing support services to all Members, the Office of the Legislative Assembly is an impartial authority.

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                    ┌─────────────┐
                    │   SPEAKER   │
                    └──────┬──────┘
    ┌──────────────────────┤
    │ STANDING COMMITTEE ON │
    │ LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT │
    └──────────────────────┤
                    ┌──────┴──────┐
                    │    CLERK    │
                    └──────┬──────┘
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| ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES | AUDIO/VISUAL SERVICES | COMMITTEES | HANSARD | LIBRARY | SERGEANT-AT-ARMS | HOUSE OPERATIONS |

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Meetings are easier to manage when someone is in charge of keeping order. In the House, that person is the Speaker, who is responsible for maintaining the rules and customs of the House, and ensuring all Members have the right to freedom of speech in debate. The Speaker is elected by a secret ballot of all Members in the Assembly.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is elected by secret ballot procedure at the beginning of every new General Assembly. All Members, except the Premier, Members of Executive Council, Leader of the Opposition and leaders of political parties in the House, are eligible for election as Speaker. The Speaker, once elected by secret ballot, has received the confidence of the majority of Members in the House and must preside over the debates and make sure the House follows established rules of procedure and behaviour.

It is important the Speaker be as impartial and politically neutral in manner as possible in order to maintain the confidence of the House and equally represent the interests of all Members, regardless of political affiliation. This is particularly important as it is the Speaker's first duty to claim, on behalf of all Members, the "ancient and accustomed parliamentary rights and privileges," the most important of which is freedom of speech in debate. Balancing the right of the majority to conduct business with the right of the minority to be heard is one of the Speaker's most difficult tasks.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Speaker chairs the Standing Committee on Legislative Management and the Standing Committee on Legislative Audit. The Speaker also serves as President of the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and, as such, represents the Legislative Assembly at regional, national and international meetings of the CPA.

The Speaker is responsible for guiding the House through its daily routine by calling items on the agenda, recognizing Members who wish to debate, and putting questions to the House for decision.

Standing Committee on Legislative Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management had an active year in 2007, dealing with such matters as staffing changes resulting from resignations, budgeting for the Legislative Assembly, determining levels of support provided to Opposition and Government Members Offices, managing Province House and Queens Square, operating the offices for officers of the Legislative Assembly, and many other administrative matters, issues and initiatives respecting the operation of the House.

Some of the matters considered by the Committee include:

- planning the Legislative Assembly base budget for 2007/2008, and projecting issues for base budget 2008/2009
- re-establishing a Research/Legislative Library and creating full-time staff positions for the same: Research Librarian and Research Officer
- creating a part time Committee Clerk position to support an increase in the Legislative Committee workload
- ongoing long-term leave of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
- grounds redevelopment on the south side of Province House
- staffing and personnel issues in Elections PEI
- membership in the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference
- budget for the Offices of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Elections PEI
- supporting the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

The Committee provides security, facilities, and services for party caucuses and Members, appoints staff, and oversees the budget of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Clerk

CLERK OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Charles. H. MacKay

ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Marian Johnston

As the chief permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk aides the Speaker in providing administrative support to Members, and advises the Speaker and all Members on parliamentary procedure, helping ensure the proper execution of House rules and practices.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to provide human resource services to the various operations of the House. Included are the Legislative Assembly Office, Sessional Offices, Opposition Members and Government Members Offices, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Elections P.E.I. and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Throughout 2007, the Office of the Legislative Assembly continued to support such initiatives as the Prince Edward Island Page Programme, the Rotary Youth Parliament, and co-management of Province House (in cooperation with Parks Canada). In addition, the Assembly hosted one national and one international conference on Prince Edward Island. PEI hosted the Canadian Presiding Officers Conference from January 19 - 22, 2007. Business sessions included:

- A presentation from Dr. David Docherty, Author of *Legislatures* (part of the Legislative Audit Series) on what legislatures are doing, what they should be doing, and a discussion on possible criteria to evaluate the performance of legislatures

- A presentation from Dr. David McNeil, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on Alberta's *Online Virtual Visit Program* and attempts to engage youth interest in their parliament

- Hon.Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons lead a roundtable discussion on decorum in the Chamber and challenges faced by presiding officers in maintaining an appropriate level of decorum in the House

- Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, presented on the question of language rights in the Northwest Territories and a decision to suspend the production of Hansard

Office of the Clerk

- Diane Leblanc, Deputy Speaker of the Assemblee nationale and Michel Bonsaint, Deputy Secretary General, Assemblee nationale presented on L'affaire Michaud

In August of 2007, PEI once again served as host, this time for the Annual General Meeting and Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The Conference was well attended, with business sessions including:

- A presentation on the development, history and operation of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island by Charles MacKay, Clerk and Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk

- A presentation by Robert Vaive, Deputy Clerk, British Columbia on "Politics, Risk and Money: Challenges of Managing Parliament's Finances"

- A joint presentation from delegates from the Yukon, Ontario and Saskatchewan on becoming a Clerk of a Legislative Assembly (newly appointed Clerks on the challenges of succession)

- "Procedural and Administrative Challenges of a Minority Parliament," a presentation from Greg Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

- "The Evolution of Private Members' Business in the House of Commons," a presentation by André Gagnon, Deputy Principal Clerk, House of Commons

Any documents or reports presented by Members during the sitting are given to the Clerk for safekeeping, and are said to have been 'tabled.'

Office of the Clerk

- A presentation from Dr. David McNeil, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on democratic reforms at the Alberta Legislature

- Jurisdictional reports of international conference participants from:
    - House of Commons, UK
    - House of Lords, UK
    - Report from the President of the Australia - New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table
    - Report from the representative of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries
    - Scottish Parliament
    - Parliament of Wales

- A presentation from Blair Armitage, Principal Clerk of the Senate entitled "Perjury, Privilege and Contempt! Oh, my!"

In conclusion, the Clerk would once again like to thank all of those in the Government Service who provide assistance and support to the Legislative Assembly. Without the competent and professional assistance of these dedicated public servants, the Office of the Assembly would not be in a position to deliver high quality services to Members and the public. Specifically, special thanks are extended to Audio Visual Services (Provincial Treasury), Fiscal Management (Provincial Treasury), Queen's Printer (Provincial Treasury), and the Financial Information System support staff, Information Technology Management Group, Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Provincial Archives and Federal Parks Canada.

Budget of the Legislative Assembly

	2007-2008 Original Budget Estimate ($)	*2007-2008* Budget Adjustment ($)	*2007-2008* Revised Budget Estimate ($)
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	1,816,000	96,700	1,912,700
MEMBERS	1,714,400	491,800	2,206,200
OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER	29,600	—	29,600
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION & PRIVACY COMMISSIONER	90,300	—	90,300
ELECTIONS PEI	160,900	959,400	1,120,300
Total	**3,811,200**	**1,547,900**	**5,359,100**

Values are for total costs associated with the general functioning of each office, including items such as staff salaries, telephone and printing costs, training and professional development, and operating grants for Government Members' and Opposition Members' Offices.

Part 2 –
Responsible Government
REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES & HOUSE SERVICES

Report on Activities
In the House

PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS
COVERED IN THIS PERIOD
*4th Session of the Sixty-
Second General Assembly
(November 16, 2006 to
April 30, 2007)*

*1st Session of the Sixty-
Third General Assembly
(July 6, 2007 to
February 19, 2008)*

KEY DATES
*April 30, 2007—
Sixty-Second General
Assembly dissolved*

*May 28, 2007—
General Election*

Photo by Marian Johnston.

The Fourth Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly commenced on November 16, 2006 with a Speech from the Throne and adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 15, 2006. The Session reconvened on April 3, 2007 followed by the presentation of the 2007/2008 Budget by the Honourable Mitch Murphy, Provincial Treasurer on April 10, 2007.

The last sitting day of the Fourth Session was held on Friday, April 27, 2007 as the Sixty-second General Assembly was dissolved on April 30, 2007 and a General Election was called for May 28, 2007. The House was dissolved without having approved the Budget as proposed for fiscal year 2007/2008 thereby creating a necessity for the House to resume business for the passage of the budget later in the fiscal year than usual.

At the time of dissolution, party standings in the House were twenty-three Progressive Conservative Members and four Liberal Members.

The General Election resulted in a change of Government with a complete reversal of seats for the political parties represented in the House. Twenty-three Liberal Party Members and four Progressive Conservative Party Members were returned to the Legislative Assembly.

The election results posed a challenge for those involved in the administration of the House as nineteen of the Members returned had no previous experience as Members of the Legislative Assembly. Orientation sessions were important as Members were eager to gain an appreciation of how to conduct business on the floor of the House and to be as effective as possible in a parliamentary setting in promoting their respective agendas.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING DAYS
(January-December 2007) —27

Sixth Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

Report on Activities
In the House

The First Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly commenced on July 6, 2007, for the purpose of Members swearing, or solemnly affirming, the Oath of Allegiance as required pursuant to the *Constitution Act* of 1867, and for the election of a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly by secret ballot as required pursuant to the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*. As the only candidate, Hon. Kathleen Casey was unanimously elected by acclamation as the 40th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

After the election of Speaker, the House adjourned to the call of the Speaker. The First Session then reconvened on October 16 for the presentation of the 2007/2008 Budget by the Hon. Wes Sheridan, Provincial Treasurer (his first budget presentation and address as Provincial Treasurer).

The House then sat until November 2, 2007, and adjourned to the call of the Speaker.

*Survey of Sitting Days in the House,
1997-2007*

Year	Number of days
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2007*	27
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006	50
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005	54
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2004	46
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2003*	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002	45
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2000*	35
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1999	58
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1998	63
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1997	68

*Indicates a General Election year.

Report on Activities
In Administration

Hansard continues as a professional and reliable parliamentary publication with the Hansard Editor assuming responsibility for editing committee transcripts in 2006, and creating a committee index (see Hansard Office Report - page 26). Audio proceedings and video proceedings of the House continue to be broadcast live on the Internet and are also available in an archived format.

Security measures continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis (see Sergeant-At-Arms Report, page 33). One significant change in administration in this area is that Prince Edward Island has followed the example of many Canadian jurisdictions in that the Sergeant-At-Arms has been made responsible for the overall provision of security services at Province House. Previously, the Director of Security was responsible for the provision of security services and the Sergeant-At-Arms served in primarily a ceremonial capacity.

Other important developments at the Legislative Assembly during calendar year 2007 include:

- The re-establishment of the Legislative Library in the Parliamentary precinct (see page 31 for the Legislative Library Report).
- Continued negotiations with Parks Canada on the Memorandum of Agreement between the Province and Parks Canada on the operation and maintenance of Province House and required capital expenditures to repair grounds on the south side of Province House.
- Upgrading requirements for the Legislative Chamber video broadcast system
- Renovation of first floor Coles Building to accommodate offices for the Research Librarian and Research Officer

Gary Watts getting the House ready for a sitting.

Reports from House Services Committees

The Standing Committees are established by order of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, 1988*, which lists the committees the House has decided will be appointed in every session.

Committee work is an important part of the work of Members. In committee, Members can study legislation, inspect government spending, and gather information on issues referred to them by the House. Committees have the tools to investigate matters in detail by calling for expert testimony, inviting public input, or examining policies from other jurisdictions for comparison, tasks made easier by the smaller Committee size.

In total, 27 meetings were held during 2007 to undertake work mandated to various committees.

During the period of this report, Committees dealt with issues ranging from government finances to agriculture to Sunday shopping.

The following pages present information regarding committee membership, number of meetings, and number and dates of the committees' reports to the Legislative Assembly during the 4th Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly and the 1st Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly.

Special Committees are created for a particular purpose, then disbanded when that purpose is discharged. They can be established during the course of each session, and vary in number and mandate.

Reports from House Services
Committees

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, & Environment

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
4th Session of the Sixty-
Second General Assembly
Wilbur MacDonald, Chair
Wilfred Arsenault
Richard Brown
Ron MacKinley
Fred McCardle
Andy Mooney
Hon. Mitch Murphy
Eva Rodgerson

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 0

Paul Neima, Business Development Officer, Honourable Olive Crane, and Robert Henderson, touring the National Research Council building on the University of Prince Edward Island campus. Photo by Marian Johnston.

On November 1, 2007, a motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island giving the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment a mandate to review the implementation and potential impacts of a province-wide ban on the use of cosmetic lawn pesticides. The Committee was authorized to meet after prorogation of the First Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly and make report to the House during the Spring 2008 Session.

In tandem with this work, the Committee received a series of briefings on its assigned subject matter of agriculture, forestry and environment.

The Committee met twice to deal with the matter of cosmetic lawn pesticides; in addition, it met once to elect its chair, once to organize its work plan, and twice to hear presentations on a variety of issues related to agriculture.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
1st Session of the Sixty-
Third General Assembly
Alan McIsaac, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Carolyn Bertram
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Cynthia Dunsford
Robert Henderson
Charles McGeoghegan
(as of November 1, 2007)
Robert Vessey
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 6
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 1
DATE OF REPORT - 31-10-07

Special Committee on Committees

Before committees can organize or undertake any business, the membership of each committee must be established. Rule 82(a) and Guidelines 3(1) and 3(2) provide for the establishment of a striking committee, called the Committee on Committees, which is charged with the selection of members for all the Standing Committees, with the exception of the Standing Committee on Legislative Management. The Committee on Committees is guided by Rule 82(b), which limits the membership of a Standing Committee to ten; by Rule 84, which prohibits ministers from appointment to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; and by Guideline 4, which specifies proportional committee membership representative of the proportions of recognized political parties in the House. In no case shall the official opposition have fewer than two members on any committee, unless there are fewer than two members of the official opposition.

The Committee on Committees was formed by motion on July 6, 2007, and reported to the Legislative Assembly on October 17, 2007. As is the case with all Special Committees, the Committee on Committees ceased to exist upon adoption of its final report.

Standing Committee on Community Affairs & Economic Development

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
4th Session of the Sixty-Second General Assembly
Wilfred Arsenault, Chair
Hon. Jamie Ballem
Carolyn Bertram
Hon. Philip Brown
Richard Brown
Helen MacDonald
Fred McCardle
Eva Rodgerson

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 0

The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development was charged, by motion, on October 26, 2007, with conducting public hearings on Sunday shopping to solicit the views of Islanders, and to report back to the Legislative Assembly in the spring of 2008.

The Committee met twice in late 2007 on this issue; in addition, it met once to elect its chair, once to organize its work plan, and once to be briefed on the bioscience industry on Prince Edward Island, a topic the Standing Committee identified as being of interest to its members.

The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development is charged with matters concerning community, cultural and economic affairs, labour and justice.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
1st Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly
Robert Henderson, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Doug Currie
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Mitchell
Janice Sherry

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 5
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 1
DATE OF REPORT - 31-10-07

Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
4th Session of the Sixty-Second General Assembly
Hon. Pat Binns, Chair
Wilfred Arsenault
Carolyn Bertram
Hon. Robert Ghiz
Hon. Chester Gillan
David McKenna
Hon. Mitch Murphy
Eva Rodgerson

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 0

The Standing Committee on the Constitution of Canada is charged with matters concerning the Constitution of Canada and, as a committee dealing with provincial-federal matters, is chaired by the Premier.

The constitutional amending formula established in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, requires each province to either support and enact each constitutional amendment or, if the province wishes to dissent from the amendment, to pass a resolution of dissent so the amendment will have no power in that province.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
1st Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly
Hon. Robert Ghiz, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Alan Campbell
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Hon. Gerard Greenan
Robert Vessey

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 1

Reports from House Services Committees

Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs, & Transportation

On November 1, 2007, a motion was adopted by the Legislative Assembly instructing the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation to conduct a thorough review of the collapse of Polar Foods International Inc., a business failure the Auditor General identified as costing Island taxpayers approximately $31 million.

The Committee met three times in late 2007 in order to elect its chairman and to begin work on the Polar Foods file. The Auditor General, Mr. Colin Younker, CA, was in attendance at two of the meetings in order to assist the Committee with its inquiries.

The Committee will report in the spring 2008 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Reports from House Services Committees

Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules, & Private Bills

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
4th Session of the Sixty-Second General Assembly
Helen MacDonald, Chair
Hon. Jim Bagnall
Carolyn Bertram
Richard Brown
Hon. Mildred Dover
Wes MacAleer
Hon. Elmer MacFadyen
Hon. Gail Shea

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 0
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 1
DATE OF REPORT - 25-04-07

The Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills is charged with matters concerning the rules and privileges of the Legislative Assembly, private bills, and matters concerning the *Conflict of Interest Act* (Section 17).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
1st Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly
Paul Biggar, Chair
Hon. Richard Brown
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon, Ron MacKinley
Janice Sherry
Robert Vessey
Hon. George Webster

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 1
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 0

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met five times during 2007. It completed its review of the 2006 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly in March 2007. In addition, the Committee received an overview of the property tax assessment process and tax administration system, and examined the 2005-2006 public accounts of the province, assisted by the Provincial Treasurer and the Director of Fiscal Management. The Committee requested that the Auditor General carry out an audit of the small claims court process and report back to the Committee on the matter.

In October 2007, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met to elect its Chair and Vice-Chair. As in other years, the Committee is chaired by a member of the opposition, and the role of Vice-Chair is held by a private member of the governing party. For the first time since 1987, Hon. Ron MacKinley, now Minister of Transportation and Public Works, is not a member of the Committee. According to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, ministers of the Crown are prohibited from serving on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Reports from House Services Committees

Standing Committee on Social Development

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
4th Session of the Sixty-Second General Assembly
Wayne Collins, Chair
Carolyn Bertram
Olive Crane
Hon. Robert Ghiz
Wilbur MacDonald
Hon. Elmer MacFadyen
Beth MacKenzie
David MacKenna

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 3
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 2
DATES OF REPORTS - 10-04-07
- 11-04-07

During the Fourth Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly, the Standing Committee on Social Development met three times in relation to its work on entrepreneurial skills and positive development in Island youth. The Committee made a number of recommendations as a result of its public consultations, including strengthening entrepreneurial education in Island schools, encouraging consumers to purchase locally-produced products and services, involving youth in civic and business life, and the need for a seamless delivery of assistance, training and other services to entrepreneurs across all levels of government.

The Standing Committee on Social Development is responsible for recommending to the Legislative Assembly persons to serve on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission. In April 2007, the Committee recommended the re-appointment of Mr. Richard Montigny and Ms. Anne Nicholson for a term of three years, to expire on May 19, 2010. The Committee's report was adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

In November 2007, the Standing Committee on Social Development met to elect its chairman.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
1st Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly
Janice Sherry, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Henderson
Hon. Neil LeClair

NUMBER OF MEETINGS - 2
NUMBER OF REPORTS - 1
DATE OF REPORT - 1-11-07

Reports from House Services
Committees

Conferences

The *Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees* (CCPAC) is a national association that meets annually to discuss topics of mutual interest. Its members represent the parliamentary public accounts committees, or similar committees, of all 14 parliaments within Canada - the federal House, the ten provincial assemblies and three territorial legislatures.

The *28th Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees* was held in Victoria, British Columbia, from August 19-21, 2007. Attending from Prince Edward Island were delegates Jim Bagnall and Buck Watts.

Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, attended the *24th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference* in Charlottetown from January 18-21, 2007; the annual *Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada*, held in Stanhope in August 2007; the *29th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar* in Yukon Territory September 6-9, 2007; and the *Third Conference of Canadian Parliamentary Committee Clerks*, held in Quebec City from September 12-15, 2007.

Publications

In September 2007, the Legislative Assembly published the *Guide to the Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island*. The booklet is intended to be a resource for members and staff, and covers a variety of topics, such as adjourning a debate, the chairman's casting vote, publication of committee reports, quorum, rules of debate, and other explanations of parliamentary procedure and practice observed in committee.

Professional development is an important resource to help staff and members work efficiently by networking with peers and colleagues , and learning the latest developments in public administration and job performance.

Alan McIsaac & Honourable Olive Crane at the 29th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar.
Photos by Marian Johnston.

Committees

Orientation Sessions

Part of the responsibilities of the Clerk's Office is providing advice and instruction in parliamentary procedure to the speaker's office and all Members of the house.

In September 2007, two orientation sessions were offered to newly elected members, as well as to those members returning to the Legislative Assembly and taking up new roles.

Members were given a copy of the new publication, *Guide to the Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island*, along with information on the roles and mandates of the various standing committees, how to manage the business of the committee, what to expect at the first and subsequent meetings of a committee, an explanation of privilege, what steps a committee may take to obtain information, and details on reporting to the House.

Honourable Greg Deighan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (front row, centre), Andy Mooney, Deputy Speaker (second row, far right), and Charles H. MacKay, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (back row, third from right), with their colleagues in the official photo of the 24th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference held in Charlottetown, January 2007. Photo by Brian Simpson.

Reports from House Services
Hansard

HANSARD MANAGER
Jeff Bursey

Since 2003 both the Hansard document and the division itself have advanced steadily in terms of layout of debates, professionalism, and breadth of operations.

Hansard PEI was created at the commencement of the Fourth Session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly in 1996. Since 2003 the Hansard documents and the division itself have advanced in terms of layout of debates, professionalism and breadth of operations.

In the spring of 2003 Hansard PEI joined the Hansard Association of Canada, which has proven to be of great value when the assistance of other jurisdictions has been needed on, for example, procedural matters. In turn, Hansard PEI has rendered assistance to other jurisdictions. It has had a visible and noted presence at the HAC conferences in 2004 (Halifax), 2005 (Edmonton), 2006 (Winnipeg), and 2007 (Iqaluit). In 2005 the HAC conference took place during the Commonwealth Hansard Editors Association conference. Through these conferences, Hansard PEI has represented the Legislature on national and international stages.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2007, it was announced officially that Hansard PEI would host the conference in 2010. The conference will mark the first time that the HAC has met in Prince Edward Island. Delegates will come from the fifteen Hansard jurisdictions in Canada and, if past history is any indicator, from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It will be a significant event in Hansard PEI's history.

Hansard PEI is the smallest in-house Hansard. As such, in 2007, along with Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories, it was asked to be part of a panel presentation for the HAC conference entitled "Hansard Issues in Small Jurisdictions." Rather than focus on challenges or problems, the presentation Hansard PEI made spoke of characteristics that mark our jurisdiction, and the improvements made over the last four years, as well as the work left to do.

Hansard PEI was created at the commencement of the 4th Session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly in 1996.

Reports from House Services
Hansard

The responsibilities of Hansard broadened somewhat in 2007. Hansard staff transcribed and edited the daily debates of the Spring 2007 sitting of the Fourth session of the Sixty-second General Assembly (518,049 words) and the Fall sitting of the First Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly (417,895 words). The Hansard Office also edited various meetings of the various Standing Committees.

During 2007, the manager of Hansard assisted the Clerk Assistant in the draft revision of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, and the *Guide to Standing and Special Committees*. Hansard also, for the first time, created the Index for, and edited, the *Journal of the Legislative Assembly* for 2006-2007. In July, prior to the start of the Sixty-third General Assembly, Hansard presented at the orientation sessions for new MLAs and Cabinet ministers, explaining its role, its products, and its services.

For some years the physical design of the Hansard documents had remained the same. Before the Sixty-third General Assembly convened there was an overhaul of the appearance of these documents. Formerly, Question Period (Oral Questions) had been printed with a light green cover and the daily debates with a gray cover. Beginning with the new General Assembly, the covers were changed to emerald for Question Period and goldenrod for Hansard. As well, the layout of the cover was updated. Furthermore, the covers of committee meetings, which had been gray or white, were given a tan cover to set them off from the other documents.

The 2006 report read in part: "Changes were made to the form of the Hansard index. The first in-depth index was created in the summer of 2003, and this revamped index has proven to be accessible and useful to Members and staff. Early in 2007 there was a renovation to the [Fall 2006] index with four new sections added: a speaker's index, a subject index, a list of questions taken as notice, and petitions. Hopefully these new

Reports from House Services
Hansard

The newly expanded index to Hansard is almost twice as long as it was previously, providing better accessibility for Members, staff, and the public

sections will be of benefit to everyone." The previous sentence spoke to the index created after the fall sitting of the Fourth session. This index received immediate positive, critical comments, encouraging a further broadening and deepening which occurred in the interregnum between the dissolution of the Sixty-second and the opening of the Sixty-third general assemblies. Now the index is almost twice as long as it used to be.

The Subject index lists every topic (excluding recognition of guests) and the Speaker index lists each time a member spoke on a matter (excluding recognition of guests). This task was done by Jeff Bursey and Linda Henry (appointed Assistant Manager in April 2007). The index is available online. In September, the manager was invited to make a presentation to both sides of the House on how best to use the new index, and these presentations looked to be helpful. In November, an index was done along these same lines that covered the Fall sitting.

The daily Hansard, and Question Period, have been distributed on a consistent, reliable, and efficient basis since the installation of the printer in Province House in the fall of 2004, and are posted on the Internet. The Preliminary Proceedings of Question Period are transcribed by the end of each sitting day. This means that Tuesday's Question Period appears in print, with Statements by Members, for Wednesday's sitting, and so on.

This task is the responsibility of one transcriber; it is edited the next day for inclusion in the complete Hansard document. The remaining three transcribers produce the rest of the day's sitting, which is then edited by the manager. Usually the Legislature sits sixteen hours per week. The full Hansard document is produced as follows: Tuesday's Hansard is distributed on Thursday, Wednesday's Hansard is distributed on Friday, Thursday's Hansard is distributed on Tuesday, and Friday's Hansard is distributed on Wednesday.

Hansard PEI is the smallest in-house Hansard in Canada.

Reports from House Services
Hansard

Hansard is completed sometime in the afternoon of any given day, and is then sent to the printer in Province House. It is usually set to be printed at a time when it won't interfere with print jobs from other parts of the Legislature. As an example, on a Thursday the printing job would begin anywhere between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., when the printer is not in demand. After going to print, the Hansard document is e-mailed to a member of the administrative staff in Province House. That person posts it on the web. Hansard controls neither the distribution of the printed document nor the loading onto the web page.

These deadlines have been in existence for some years. Occasionally there are requests for unedited transcripts – essentially, a preview of some part of the edited Hansard. These are provided to the Speaker, Clerk, or Clerk Assistant. They are not released to anyone else.

In 2007 the Hansard staff consisted of transcribers Judy Burgoyne, Helen Gunter, Linda Henry, and Barbara O'Hare.

At the conclusion of a session the printed Hansard, with the complete index, is bound into volumes which are distributed within the legislative offices, to government and opposition offices, and to libraries locally and nationally.

- *1996*: Fourth Session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,238 pages)
- *1997-1998*: First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly; 13 volumes (6,150 pages)
- *1998-1999*: Second Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,623 pages)
- *1999-2000*: Third Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,001 pages)

Reports from House Services
Hansard

- *2000*: First Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,054 pages)
- *2000-2001*: Second Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,100 pages)
- *2001-2002*: Third Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,417 pages)
- *2002-2003*: Fourth Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly; 3 volumes (2,788 pages)
- *2003-2004*: First Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,300 pages)
- *2004-2005*: Second Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly; 4 volumes (3,762 pages)
- *2005-2006*: Third Session of the Sixty-second General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,466 pages)
- *2006-2007*: Fourth Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,281 pages)

Hopefully, it can be seen from this that 2007 marked a development in the formulation of a more useful index, while moving Hansard PEI into new terrain.

Reports from House Services
Library

RESEARCH LIBRARIAN
Laura Morrell

RESEARCH OFFICER
Ryan Conway

In 2007, approval was given by the House for the re-establishment of the Legislative Library. The first Legislative Library was created in 1773, with the establishment of the Legislature, but by 1971 it was only an adjunct of the Confederation Centre Public Library, and a responsibility of the Department of Education.

With approval to re-establish a legislative library service granted in September of 2007, and staff hired to fill the two new positions by late October, progress on the library was begun in earnest. New offices were constructed in the lobby of the Coles Building for the Research Librarian and Research Officer, with the official move-in happening early in the new year. Along with the physical construction of offices came the challenge of sounding out the dimensions and work responsibilities of the new positions. Both staff members hit the ground running and have been building a responsive and quality library service.

The next step was hiring an interior designer for some professional guidance in renovating the interior of the Whelan Room, the future site of the library, on the first floor of the Coles Building. The company Fortune 50 Design was hired to do the redesign of the interior.

The design services of Mr. Luis Roman were engaged and consultations held in the library space, with a design plan promised early in the new year.

In the meantime, the Research Librarian had several meetings with librarians and library technicians from around the Island to connect with the local professional network. In addition to meetings with Pam Borden of the Law Society library; Kathleen Eaton, Provincial Librarian; Simon Lloyd, UPEI Special Collections Librarian; Mark Leggot, UPEI University Librarian; and Nichola Cleaveland, Government Services Librarian, she also joined the *Prince Edward Island Professional Librarians' Association* and attended its semi-annual meeting in November. An introduction to information sources available through the *Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information* was held at the NRC Institute for Nutrition & Health on the UPEI campus, attended by the Research Librarian. EBSCOhost database representative Fabien Verdier made a brief

presentation to the Librarian, and a trial of Canadian Reference Centre was provided to library staff.

Since beginning work in November, 2007, the Research Officer has undertaken several research reports and briefs. The largest task has been research into the cosmetic use of pesticides on behalf of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment. A lengthy report on provincial and municipal legislation and educational programming was presented to the committee on this issue in February, 2008. There have also been several shorter research briefs delivered to the committee, on topics such as the status of the chemical 2,4-D in Sweden, pesticide regulatory enforcement and budgeting, PEI's *Pesticides Control Act* and regulations, and other matters. For the Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development the Research Officer wrote and presented a report on Sunday shopping legislation in other provinces and states and the history of the issue on PEI. Several individual members have also made use of the Research Officer's services, mainly in order to obtain information on particular topics relevant to committee deliberations. One member engaged the Research Officer on a longer-term project toward the drafting of a Private Member's Bill.

In addition to research projects, the Research Officer has assisted the standing committees by writing short summaries of the numerous presentations given by committee witnesses. The Research Officer has also assisted the committee clerks in the preparation of committee reports.

The Research Officer position is new, and still in development. Part of the ongoing work is to familiarize members with the research services available to them. To provide more efficient, accurate and expedient services, the network of research resources and contacts is constantly expanding.

Reports from House Services
Sergeant-At-Arms

The office originated in the early years of the British Parliament, when mace-bearing members of the Royal bodyguard were assigned to attend the Speaker at sittings of the House of Commons.

W/O Al McDonald, a long time member of the Corps of Commissionaires serving at Province House, was appointed Sergeant-At-Arms effective July 6, 2007.

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act*, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition.

With the Sergeant-At-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges and the various parliamentary functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms on Prince Edward Island is responsible for the provision of security services for the Legislative Assembly, bearing the Mace during the daily procession into the House, ensuring the safekeeping of the Mace, and carrying out such other duties as may be assigned by the Speaker or the Clerk.

The Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the implementation and day-to-day operations of security policies for the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in Province House and the Coles Building. At present, assisting the Sergeant-At-Arms in the delivery of security services are seven Members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (one full-time and six part-time).

Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment, additional training of security personnel, liaison with Charlottetown City Police as required, creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, contact for assistance with public demonstrations, and other duties.

For the first time, PEI has an Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms. Mr. Maurice Fitzpatrick of Tracadie was appointed to this position by the House on July 6, 2007.

The Indemnities & Allowances Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS
Barbara Stevenson, Q.C.,
Chair

Blair Campbell,
Commissioner

Leonard Cusack,
Commissioner

DATE REPORT FILED
December 3, 2007

The independent Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (pursuant to Section 46 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. L-7) and is charged with the responsibility of making binding decisions on remuneration and allowances to be paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier, Speaker, Ministers of the Crown, various House positions and Executive Council Committee positions.

The Commission conducts an annual review of remuneration and allowances and submits, on or before December 1 each year, a report determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the persons referred to in subsection 46(1) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

In 2007, the Commission increased MLA remuneration by 2% effective April 1, 2008, and commenced a review of the *Pension Plan for Members of the Legislative Assembly*, on which the Commission will report in 2008.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed, or for not more than five years.

Prince Edward Island Branch
of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA is an association of Commonwealth parliamentarians who, regardless of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Association is a charity registered under the laws of the United Kingdom. Its stated purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it.

The CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament. Its role is endorsed by Commonwealth Parliaments and Heads of Government.

The CPA pursues these objectives by means of
- annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences, and other symposiums;
- interparliamentary visits;
- parliamentary seminars and workshops;
- publications, notably *The Parliamentarian*, *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications.

Prince Edward Island Branch
of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

In 2007 the Prince Edward Island Branch participated in the following activities of the Canadian Region of the CPA:

- As noted previously in this report, the Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was hosted in Prince Edward Island in January, 2007. PEI delegates were Hon. Greg Deighan, Speaker; Andy Mooney, Deputy Speaker; Charles MacKay, Clerk; and Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk.

- At the request of the Canadian Region, and attending as the Canadian Regional Representative, the Branch President Hon. Greg Deighan attended the CPA Mid-Year Executive meetings in Cyprus in April, 2007.

- Prince Edward Island was scheduled to host the Atlantic Parliamentary Conference in Charlottetown in June, 2007; however, with the Provincial General Election of May 28, 2007, the Conference was rescheduled for June 19 - 22, 2008.

- At the 45th Annual Canadian Regional Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba from July 24 - 29, 2007, the PEI representatives were Hon. Kathleen Casey, Cynthia Dunsford, Paula Biggar, Pat Murphy, Robert Vessey, Jim Bagnall and Charles MacKay, Clerk .

- The Annual Canadian Regional Seminar was held in Haines Junction, Yukon from September 6 - 8, 2007. PEI representatives were Hon. Olive Crane, Alan McIsaac and Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Committee Clerk.

Prince Edward Island Branch
of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

- The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Small Countries Conference was held in New Delhi, India from September 21 - 30, 2007. PEI's delegate was Branch President Hon. Kathleen Casey, who also attended the CPA Executive Committee meetings as one of three Canadian Representatives.

- PEI also participated in the 2007 Parliamentary Seminar in Ottawa in October, 2007. PEI representatives were Janice Sherry and Sonny Gallant.

Part 3 – Connections

PROCEDURE, HISTORY, & SYMBOLS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

A Day in the Life of the House

*The daily meeting of the Assembly is called a **sitting**, and ends every day with an adjournment.*

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*The annual meeting of the Assembly is called a **session**. A session is made up of many sittings and ends when the Lieutenant Governor declares it prorogued.*

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*A **general assembly** is the period between general elections.*

Tradition plays an important part of how business is conducted in the Legislative Assembly, reminding us of our roots in the past while providing a familiar foundation on which to base the present and build the future. These traditions are on display every day, starting with the daily procession of officers and staff into the House.

Members take their places in the House and await the arrival of the Speaker's Procession, which is made up of the Sergeant-At-Arms carrying the Mace, the Speaker, the Clerk and Clerk Assistant, and House pages. Members stand as the Speaker enters the House and takes the Chair, then a prayer is read and the Speaker officially opens the sitting.

Once prayers have been said, Members sit down and the daily journal of House business for the last-but-one sitting day is approved. The Speaker then orders the doors opened and the public is allowed into the gallery.

The House has an established agenda called the Ordinary Daily Routine which the Speaker follows to keep order, and to ensure that all items of business are addressed during the sitting, in the following order:

Matters of Privilege & Recognition of Guests - *Members have an opportunity to correct an incident or impression which has infringed on the rights, immunities, or credibility of the House, as well as welcome any guests present in the public gallery*

Statements by Members - *Members who are not Cabinet Ministers may make statements on matters of national, regional, or local importance.*

Designed by Canadian manufacturer Henry Birks and Sons Ltd., the Mace incorporates the seals of the ten Canadian provinces and the Coat of Arms of Canada. It was a gift to the Assembly from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Canadian Region) in 1966.

A Day in the Life of the House

Questions by Members - *also known as oral question period, this 45-minute period gives Members a chance to address questions to Ministers and committee chairs, but only about their current Portfolio.*

Statements by Ministers - *Ministers begin by responding to oral questions taken as notice, then deliver short, factual statements of government policy. Opposition spokespersons can add their comments.*

Presenting and Receiving Petitions - *a formal request by Islanders addressing a local issue or grievance. Only Members may present the petition, although the public may attend in the gallery. The petition is ordered received and is placed on the Clerk's Table.*

Tabling of Documents - *Members provide answers to written questions asked in previous sittings, and have the opportunity to present annual reports, departmental budgets, media items, and other documents. Once a document is tabled, it becomes public record and accessible to all.*

Reports by Committees - *Committees may present oral or written reports of their activities to the House.*

Introduction of Government Bills - *Government Bills are any bills introduced to the House by a Minister. The first presentation of a bill is automatic, allowed without debate, amendment, or question.*

When the House has concluded its business for the day, a Member makes a motion to adjourn the sitting until a specific time and date, usually the following day. Once it's seconded by another Member, the motion is carried and the House adjourns.

Living With the Past: 235 Years of Government

The Chief Justice acted as president of the Legislative Council, but early reforms in 1838 excluded the Chief and the Bishop of Nova Scotia from membership in either Council.

Present day photo of the Legislative Council Chamber restored to 1864 period.

In 1769, Governor Walter Patterson received instructions to create a seven-member advisory council to help with administration of the colony. Governor Patterson expressed doubts as to whether the colony possessed seven upright, responsible men to appoint to the Council; nevertheless, the Council first met in 1773, playing the dual role of Executive Council when advising the Governor, and Legislative Council when dealing with legislative matters.

By 1838, it was recognized that the Executive and Legislative Councils needed to be separated. Previous to this reform, the balance of power rested with a few families from Charlottetown, leaving the outlying areas of the province without representation in either Council. In the new system, members of both Councils were still appointed and not elected, but they were to represent all parts of the Island.

The problem of appointment was addressed with the Assembly's 1840 petition to the Queen for responsible government. Confidence in the Executive and Legislative Councils was low since appointments to either Council often lasted a person's lifetime, representing only a few with vested interests.

Responsible government was granted in 1851, but it wasn't until ten years later that members of the Legislative Council were elected, rather than appointed, in one of 13 districts across the Island. The Legislative Assembly as we know it today was finally created in 1893 when an act abolishing the Legislative Council was passed, and the single house of government renamed. *(From Archives PEI)*

Living In the Past: 161 Years of Province House

The main doors of Province House face down Great George Street toward Charlottetown Harbour.
Photo by Brian Simpson.

Completed in 1847, this neo-classical building was designed and built by local architect Isaac Smith to accommodate the Provincial Legislature and administrative offices. It also housed the Island's Supreme Court until 1872.

Issac Smith's plans were for a three-storey stone structure of classic proportions and detail with a central portico and substantial columns. This was in keeping with 19th century interest in Greek and Roman styles for public buildings and was thought particularly suitable for a legislature.
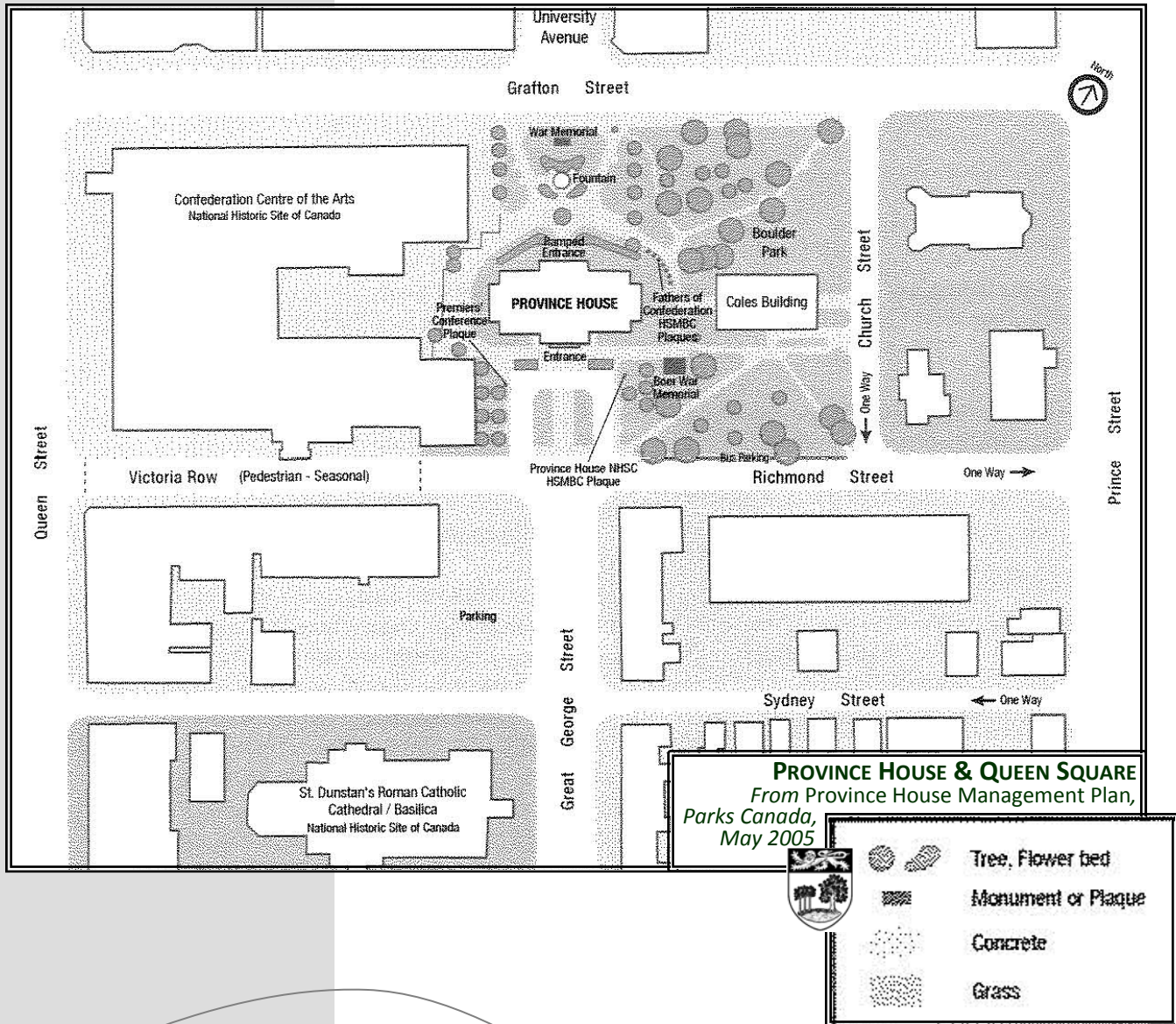
When tenders for trades were accepted, it was found necessary to leave the Island only for stone, which was brought from Nova Scotia. Stone-masonry, brick-laying, carpentry, joinery, plastering, slating, painting, glazing, sheet metal working and excavating were all done by Islanders, proud that the new Colonial Building was indeed a local accomplishment.

The cornerstone was laid in May, 1843 - a band, parade, and a speech by the lieutenant governor were some of the events marking the occasion. The first session of the Prince Edward Island Legislature, held in the new Colonial Building in January 1847, marked the official opening of the structure.

In September 1864, Province House was the scene of the first conference on colonial union. Delegates from the colonies of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada met in the legislative council chamber, now the Confederation Chamber, to begin discussions which led to confederation in 1867. (*from Parks Canada*)

Province House was officially designated a National Historic Site In 1966.

University Avenue

Grafton Street

North

War Memorial

Fountain

Confederation Centre of the Arts
National Historic Site of Canada

Boulder Park

Ramped Entrance

PROVINCE HOUSE

Fathers of Confederation HSMBC Plaques

Coles Building

Church Street

Premiers' Conference Plaque

Entrance

One Way

Boer War Memorial

Prince Street

Province House NHSC HSMBC Plaque

Bus Parking

Richmond Street

One Way →

Queen Street

Victoria Row   (Pedestrian - Seasonal)

Parking

Great George Street

Sydney Street   ← One Way

St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Cathedral / Basilica
National Historic Site of Canada

PROVINCE HOUSE & QUEEN SQUARE
From Province House Management Plan, *Parks Canada, May 2005*

Tree, Flower bed

Monument or Plaque

Concrete

Grass

History of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association and its affairs were administered by the United Kingdom Branch. The original member Branches were Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Evolving with the Commonwealth, the CPA in 1948 adopted its present name, changed its rules to enable all member Branches to participate in the Association's management, and established a separate Secretariat to manage its affairs.

Association Branches now exist in more than 165 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of over 14,000 Parliamentarians.

Today's resurgence of parliamentary democracy is evident in the growth of the CPA. In the 1990s, nearly 30 new Parliaments and Legislatures joined or rejoined the CPA: Cameroon; Fiji; newly devolved Assemblies in Canada, India and the United Kingdom; Maldives; Mozambique; Nigeria; Seychelles; South Africa and its provinces; Uganda; and Zanzibar in Tanzania. Pakistan and its provinces were members until the 1999 *coup d'état*.

The CPA in 1989 created the constitutional posts of Patron and Vice-Patron. Her Majesty The Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth consented to become Patron. The Vice-Patron is normally the Head of State or Government of the Branch hosting the coming plenary conference. In 2004, the right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, then Governor General of Canada, served as Vice-Patron for the CPA, when the plenary session was held in Canada. Currently, the Prime Minister of India, the Honourable Manmohan Singh, MP, serves as Vice-Patron, as New Delhi hosted the last plenary meeting in 2007.

Colonial Beginnings: The Role of the Lieutenant Governor

Honourable Barbara A. Hagerman was installed as the 40th Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island on July 31, 2006.

Ms. Hagerman serves as Chancellor to the Order of Prince Edward Island, and was invested as a member of the Order of Prince Edward Island (Insignia of the Order - O.P.E.I.) on July 31, 2006.

The Lieutenant Governor is an important element in both the Legislative and Executive Government of the Province. In addition to summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the Legislative Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor appoints and swears in, with the advice of the Premier, members of the Executive Council. Moreover, the Lieutenant Governor gives Royal Assent in Her Majesty's name to all measures and bills passed by the Legislative Assembly, and signs Orders-in-Council, Proclamations, Crown Grants and other official documents, to give them the force of law.

The Offices of the Monarch, Governor General, and Lieutenant Governor are entrenched in the Canadian Constitution, and no changes can be made to the offices without unanimous approval of all Provincial Legislative Assemblies, the House of Commons, and The Senate.

The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, for a period of not less than five years. Those appointed are generally persons who have served their country and/or province with distinction for many years. *(From PEI Government website)*

Symbols of Authority

The Mace

The Speaker's Procession which opens each sitting of the Assembly is not complete without the Mace, the symbol of the Speaker's authority and the authority of the House. Carried on his right shoulder at the front of the procession by the Sergeant-At-Arms, the Mace must be present at all times while the House conducts its business. It rests on the Clerk's Table, with the Prince Edward Island Shield of Arms facing upward, while the Speaker is in the Chair, and is moved to a rack in front of the Clerk's Table when the Speaker leaves the Chair.

Originally the symbol of the Crown's authority, the mace is now considered symbolic of parliament's authority and the Speaker's authority - with the Speaker's authority being inseparable from the House itself.

The Black Rod

Early use of the Black Rod in 1348 suggests it was used to deny the admission of unauthorized persons to various festivals and events at Windsor Castle.

The Lieutenant Governor reads the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of every session, providing an outline of the government's plans for the session. To gain access to the House, the Lieutenant Governor is escorted in procession by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to the doors of the House. In a ceremony added in 2000, the Gentleman Usher taps on the door with the Black Rod to ask permission for the Lieutenant Governor to enter the House. This symbolic act emphasizes that the people of Prince Edward Island, and their elected Members, are supreme, rather than the Crown.

Prince Edward Island has a relatively new, and unique, Black Rod. It is made of Island Red Oak, Prince Edward Island's official tree. It has a gold band at the top representing the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, a silver band representing the Speaker, red, white and blue signifying the Clerk, Clerk Assistant and Sergeant-At-Arms, four white rings for the pages and large and small dark green rings representing the Province and the three counties, respectively.

Two Island pennies have been mounted beneath. These are the only Island coins ever minted for P.E.I. and show on the face "Victoria Queen 1871" and on the reverse the Provincial Oak trees. Below this

are the 27 grooves representing the 27 electoral districts in Island rust, the colour of our unique soil.

Lloyd Kerry's Woodworking of Charlottetown crafted the redesigned Black Rod with the assistance of Ivan Kerry, Sergeant-At-Arms of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly (1997 - 2003). Island historian Doug Morton presented as a gift the two 1871 coins mounted in the base of the Rod.

Legislative Assembly Emblem

Though not officially adopted by the House, the emblem of the Legislative Assembly was developed to provide a uniform branding for the House. Designed by Robbie Dover, it features a maple leaf silhouette behind Province House, with a representation of the Mace, the symbol of authority for the Speaker and the House, resting under the House.

Tricorn Hat

The dignity and authority of the Speaker is reinforced in dress as well as in tradition. When sitting in the house, the Speaker wears a black silk robe, originally in imitation of the power and authority invested in Queen's Council of the court system. The Speaker also wears a tricorn hat when entering and exiting the House, removing it while in the Chair.

A tricorn is a hat with a very wide brim that has been pinned up on three sides, giving the hat three corners, or points. It is traditionally made out of black felt, and was popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when it was part of civilian dress and military and naval uniforms.

The first Speaker to wear the hat in the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly was Dan Compton, in 1979.

Symbols of Authority

Bowler Hat

One of the more interesting traditions that continues in the House today revolves around the wearing of the bowler hat.

When a matter of money or legislation is referred to a Committee of the Whole House for consideration, the Speaker leaves the Chair and another Member sits at the Table to chair the discussion. The Rules of the House require Members to "rise in his place, head uncovered, and address the Speaker".   It is thought that the tradition of the bowler hat serves to remind that the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House is entitled to certain privileges that extend beyond those of regular Members.

Today, that privilege has translated into the Member ceremonially putting the hat on for a moment, then removing it and setting it on the Table, in recognition of his or her role as Chair as the House collectively considers the matter before it.

Gavel

A gavel is a small ceremonial mallet used by presiding officers to call for attention or to punctuate rulings and proclamations. It is customarily struck to indicate the opening and closing of proceedings, giving rise to the phrase "gavel-to-gavel" to describe the entirety of a meeting or session.