



# 2017 Annual Report

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island





## Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

*Office of the Speaker*  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

## Île-du-Prince-Édouard

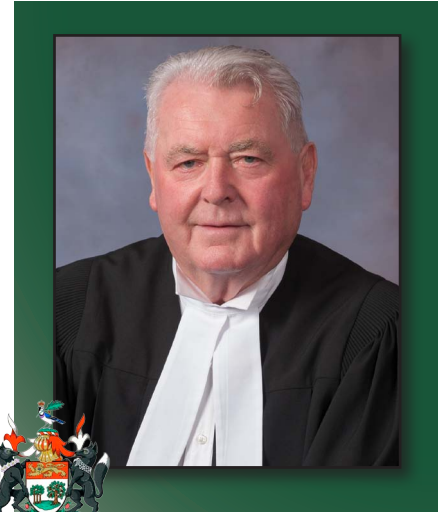
Assemblée législative

*Bureau du président*  
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

April 9, 2018

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of  
Prince Edward Island,  
Charlottetown

I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report of the  
Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the P.E.I.  
Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.



The spring 2017 sitting of the Second Session of the 65th  
General Assembly began on April 4, 2017 and concluded on May 12, 2017. The fall 2017  
sitting of the Third Session of the 65th General Assembly began on November 14, 2017 and  
concluded on December 20, 2017.

We encourage the public of Prince Edward Island to visit our interim Assembly Chamber in  
the Honourable George Coles Building, Monday to Friday or take part when the Legislature  
is in session.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff for their contribution and commitment for their  
work in supporting the operations of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, MLA  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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# **Our Values and Ethics**

## **Democratic Values**

Helping parliamentarians, under law, to serve the public interest.

## **Professional Values**

Serving with competence, excellence, efficiency, objectivity, and impartiality.

## **Ethical Values**

Acting at all times to uphold the public trust.

## **People Values**

Demonstrating respect, fairness, and courtesy in our relations with the public, colleagues, and fellow public servants.



## Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

*Office of the Clerk*  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

## Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Assemblée législative

*Bureau du greffier*  
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

April 9, 2018

Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
197 Richmond Street, Charlottetown

Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure of presenting the 2017 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This report highlights Assembly achievements for the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

This past year was a very busy one for the employees of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island. Following a strategic reorganization process in 2016, the Office of the Legislative Assembly continued to examine new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services. Beginning September 1, 2017, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island began live streaming and video archiving committee proceedings at [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca). The stream has also been broadcast on the Assembly's Facebook page. This initiative has been received very favorably and we will continue to explore other operational areas that would benefit from a fresh approach as well.

As many are aware, we had two key employees of the Legislative Assembly retire in 2017. Al McDonald, Director of Security and Sergeant-at-Arms, and Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees. Both will be greatly missed. Brian Weldon has assumed the duties of Director of Security and the Sergeant-at-Arms and

Emily Doiron and Ryan Reddin were both officially appointed as Clerk Assistants in the fall of 2017. We welcome them to their new roles.

This past year, the Legislative Assembly had the privilege of hosting two conferences. In September, we hosted the national Conflict of Interest Commissioners Conference and in October, the Assembly hosted the 39th CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar, with the theme of “Celebrating 150 years in the Birthplace of Confederation.”

This report demonstrates the continued commitment of staff of the Legislative Assembly in providing Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public with the services and advice required to carry out the work of a professional parliament and parliamentarians in the Chamber, in committees, and in the respective offices of Members and House Officers.

Respectfully yours,



Charles H. MacKay  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and  
Secretary, PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

# Our History

## How It All Started

Prince Edward Island's government was not always led by one House of elected representatives; for roughly the first 120 years of Island governance, there were two legislative bodies, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. A two-body Legislature is known as a bicameral Legislature. PEI's first Governor, Walter Patterson, was instructed to establish a House of Assembly in which representatives were popularly elected (unlike Council members, who were appointed). The combination of a Council and House was a requirement for the enactment of legislation under British law. Though Patterson became Governor in 1769, the first House of Assembly was not elected until 1773. Early sessions of the Assembly met in private homes and taverns. A Sergeant-at-Arms of the time commented that this made for a "damn queer parliament".

By 1825, the House of Assembly was working on establishing its rights and privileges, particularly in terms of self regulation and authority. It followed the example of the British Parliament in seeking to secure

...freedom from arrest (save in indictable offences) during the session and for periods of forty days before and after the session, freedom of speech during debate, power to discipline members and non-members who gave insult or injury to the House or its members, the right to determine disputed elections, [and] the right to receive petitions.

The House also established committees charged with the discussion and analysis of particular matters, which took some of the workload off the main body of the House. Committees remain an important part of today's Legislative Assembly.

PEI's early Legislature often remained in office for an indefinite time, until the Lieutenant Governor saw fit to dissolve it. In 1833, the term was set to four years, with exceptions for dissolution by the Lieutenant Governor or upon the death of the King or Queen. Today, the term of the Legislative Assembly may last for up to five years from the day of the return of the writs for a general election. Otherwise, it may be dissolved earlier by the Lieutenant Governor with the advice of Executive Council. It is no longer automatically dissolved upon the death of a sovereign.

## Responsible Government

The existence of an elected House of Assembly was key to PEI's attainment of responsible government (self government) in 1851. The Members of the House of Assembly were largely in favour of responsible government, while the Members of the Legislative Council largely were not. The Council Members resisted likely because they were appointed, and opposed reform as they enjoyed freedom from responsibility to the House of Assembly. In fact, the Council was often an obstacle to the House in terms of membership and policy. But in 1839, the Legislative Council was separated into a Legislative Council and an Executive Council, and some Members of the House of Assembly were placed on Executive Council; this had the effect of reducing the Legislative Council's

power. In 1840, the House of Assembly requested that the Queen grant responsible government to PEI. It was granted in 1851, and was augmented with an 1862 Act that required the Legislative Council to be elected rather than appointed. From this point onward, the Council's influence gradually diminished compared to that of the House.

### **Creating the Legislative Assembly**

In 1893, the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council were combined to form the Legislative Assembly. From 1893 to 1966, PEI's Legislative Assembly was made up of 30 Members, half of which were elected as Assemblymen, half as Councillors. There were five electoral districts in each of the three counties, and each district elected an Assemblyman and a Councillor. This double-representative system was unique in Canadian politics, as all other provinces had abolished their second chambers. In 1966 the riding of 6th Queens was created, which brought the total membership in the Assembly to 32. In 1994 the Election Act and Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended a shift to single member representation for all 30 districts. MLA Ross Young later introduced a Private Member's Bill which redrew electoral boundaries according to a 27 riding system. The bill received Royal Assent on May 19, 1994, and survived provincial and federal Supreme Court challenges by the City of Charlottetown and other urban centres. The 1996 election was the first time the Legislative Assembly was elected based on one Member for each of 27 ridings, a system it continues to follow today.





# Our Services

The Office of the Legislative Assembly provides nonpartisan procedural, administrative, educational and outreach services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

In 2016, a strategic reorganization process for the Office of the Legislative Assembly was completed. This process presented the Assembly with an excellent opportunity to reflect on, and to examine, possible new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services at the House in planning for the future and to ensure that our programs and services are meeting the needs of clients.

## Office of the Speaker

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly, and is responsible for:

- presiding over the proceedings of the Assembly, maintaining order, and regulating debate in accordance with the rules and practices of the House;
- ensuring all viewpoints have the opportunity of a hearing in debate;
- casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie;
- guarding the privileges of the Assembly and protecting the rights of its Members;
- representing the Legislative Assembly outside of the chamber and embodying the authority and prestige of the House; and
- chairing the Standing Committee on Legislative Management.

## Office of the Clerk

Members are supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered by the Clerk, the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities, and oversees the delivery of

nonpartisan services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Clerk's responsibilities include:

- safekeeping of the records and documents of the House;
- maintaining the official record of the House and publishing the Journal of the Legislative Assembly;
- serving as secretary to the Standing Committee on Legislative Management;
- advising the Speaker and Members on parliamentary procedure, traditions and precedents;
- administering the Oath of Allegiance to all duly elected Members at the beginning of a parliament; and
- presiding over the election of a Speaker.

## Standing Committee on Legislative Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management deals with the administration of the House and the provision of all services and facilities to Members. Chaired by the Speaker, its mandate and membership are specified in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

## Independent Offices of the Legislative Assembly

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner assists Members and Ministers in reconciling their private and public interests to enhance public confidence in the Legislative Assembly.
- Elections PEI administers all elections in Prince Edward Island.

- The Information and Privacy Commissioner accepts appeals from applicants, or third parties, who are not satisfied with the response they receive from public bodies as a result of an access to information request. The Commissioner also investigates privacy complaints.
- The Indemnities and Allowances Commission reviews and recommends salaries and benefits for the Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Auditor General conducts independent audits and examinations that provide objective information, advice, and assurance to the Legislative Assembly. The Office promotes accountability and best practices in government operations.

## Sessional Administration

During the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, additional administrative support is required. The Sessional Administration Office supports the Clerk with regard to the production, dissemination and safekeeping of documents. Its responsibilities include:

- archiving a copy of everything tabled in the House;
- producing and distributing physical copies of House proceedings and debates to Clerks, Members, and the media, as well as posting to digital copies to the Legislative Assembly website and social media as required;
- undertaking daily mailings to various provincial and federal libraries and government offices; and
- providing training, support and scheduling for Legislative Pages.

## Committees

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island enjoys the flexibility available through its standing committees to carry out detailed consideration of the annual reports of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, an examination of the public accounts of the province, recruiting for positions on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, and matters of interest to the people of the province.

Committee work provides topical information to Members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

In 2017, the standing committees completed a busy and productive schedule of 58 meetings and presented a total of 12 reports to the Legislative Assembly.

## Hansard

Hansard first started transcribing the daily debates of the Legislative Assembly in February 1996. On December 20, 2017, the 929 issue of the daily debates was published.

In 2006, Hansard took over the responsibility for transcribing committee proceedings. Since 2007, Hansard has produced detailed indexes to both the daily debates and committee meetings.

In 2015, Hansard resumed cataloguing various papers connected to the Legislative Assembly, including typescripts of portions of House and committee debates, as well as reports, speeches and other items. The time period covered is from 1961 to 1995. Once the catalogue is developed, the Legislative Assembly, working with other partners, can decide what should be scanned and added to the Legislative Documents Online website.

## Security

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the Legislative Assembly Act, RSPEI 1988 Cap I-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 carry out various functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in the George Coles Building, Saint Paul's rectory and the Angus MacLean Building. As of 2010, security services for the Legislative Assembly are supplied by the Legislative Assembly Security Service, which consists of three full time and seven part-time members, under the direction of the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Additional responsibilities include:

- monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment;
- issuing and controlling of card access system for the Coles, St. Paul's, and Angus MacLean buildings;
- training of security personnel;
- liaising with the Charlottetown Police (as required);
- creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, etc.; and
- serving as the contact for assistance with public demonstrations; and
- conducting threat and risk assessments.

## Corporate Services

This office supports the work of the Speaker, Members and Office of the Clerk by assisting with financial, administrative and human resource management services.

Responsibilities include:

- administering payroll and benefits for staff and Members;
- advising employees with regard to benefits;
- providing information to both the Government House and Opposition Leaders on staffing budgets;
- budget preparation and quarterly forecasting to ensure operations stay within the approved budget;
- administering the day-to-day finances of Legislative Services, Elections PEI, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner;
- responding to information technology, telecommunications, and general maintenance requests;
- participation in the planning and attending of special events;
- conducting the recruitment and orientation process for Legislative Pages; and
- participating in the orientation of Members.

## Library & Research

The Legislative Library and Research Service is a nonpartisan and confidential source of information, news, and reference services to Members of the Legislative Assembly, their caucus staff, standing committees, and staff of the Legislature.

The Legislative Library and Research Service are

also responsible for:

- completing research briefs;
- responding to information requests from other Canadian jurisdictions;
- obtaining information on legislation, regulations, and policies of other jurisdictions for comparison to Prince Edward Island; and
- developing interpretive and informational content for distribution to visitors to the Legislative Chamber
- providing web services and producing social media content for the Legislative Assembly.

## Multimedia Services

Multimedia Services is responsible for producing the television broadcast and webcast of the spring and fall sittings of the legislature. Additional responsibilities of Multimedia Services include:

- archiving all streaming sessions of the Legislature on the Legislative Assembly website;
- providing audio and video support to Information Technology Support Services;
- providing technical support for Members of the Legislative Assembly, the media and presenters to the standing committees;
- producing audio recordings of the standing committee and Legislative Assembly proceedings; and
- repairing and maintaining all audio and visual equipment in the Coles Building.

## Communications & External Relations

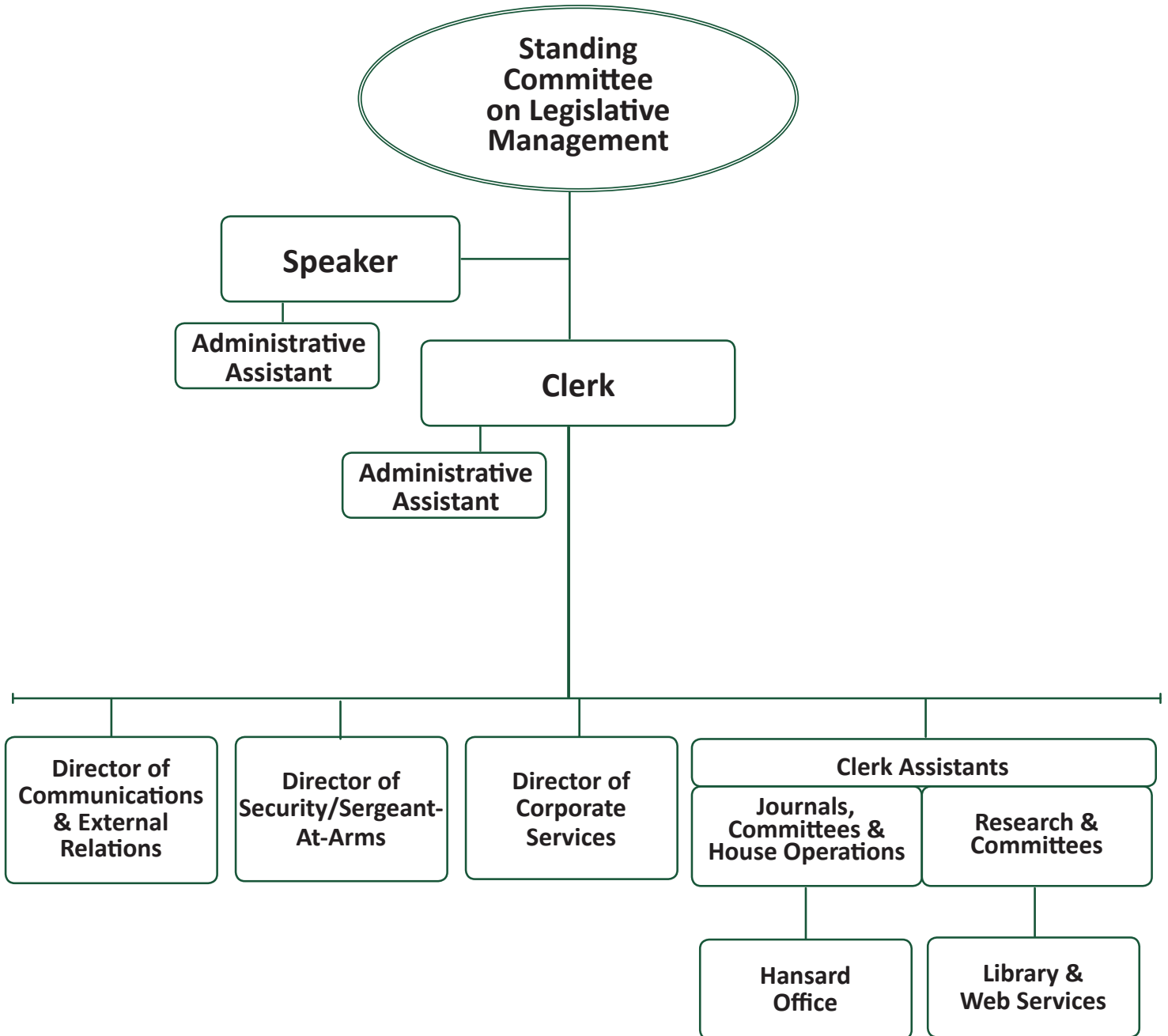
Communications and External Relations provide a proactive strategic corporate (internal and external) communications planning,

implementation and advice for the Assembly. The position is responsible for the development and implementation of communications and marketing strategies, public engagement and special projects, to ensure the consistency of proposed approaches and plans and their compliance with Assembly priorities.

The Communications and External Relations position is also responsible for:

- identifying issues and monitors media relations to maximize media opportunities and negotiates with media when required;
- directs the development and implementation of policies and programs related to interparliamentary relations, protocol, external relations, communications and special project planning on behalf of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island;
- acts as the Secretary for the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council;
- organizes all conferences being hosted for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island;
- liaising with the province to coordinate and communicate the Office of the Legislative Assembly interests in the move back to Province House;
- analyze website, identify and develop outreach opportunities/partnerships (external and internal) for both the relocation and other key Assembly messages; and
- leads and provides strategic planning for current and long-range goals and objectives of the Assembly for changing situations (Business Continuity Plan/Strategic Plan).

# Our Team: The Officers & Staff of the Legislative Assembly



# Events

## Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island Hosts Three Conferences

### French Youth Parliament

The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island was very pleased to welcome over 40 Francophone youth to the Chamber from all Atlantic provinces for the “Parlement jeunesse de l’Acadie” from January 6-9, 2017. The event is held every two years, rotating between the four Atlantic Provinces. Topics debated were of current concern and chosen by the participants.



*Speaker Watts welcoming participants of the French youth parliament to the Chamber*



*Speaker Watts with the French youth parliament leaders...*

*...PEI delegates...*



*...and pages!*

### Daughters of the Vote

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, supported the Daughters of the Vote event in the Chamber which includes young women leaders from the province.

Deputy Speaker Kathleen Casey welcomed the group to the Chamber and Minister

*Deputy Speaker Kathleen Casey (centre) with Darlene Compton, MLA (centre left), and Hon. Paula Biggar, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy (centre right), with Daughters of the Vote delegates*



Paula Biggar, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, was the provincial host for the PEI event which provided an historical background highlighting past women members in the Chamber. Darlene Compton, MLA for Belfast - Murray River also participated in the event.

A unique and historic political



*L to R: PEI delegates Peyton Jadis and Taya Nabuurs; Deputy Speaker Kathleen Casey; Darlene Compton, MLA; Hon. Paula Biggar, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure & Energy*

initiative, Daughters of the Vote marked 2017 as the 100th anniversary of some women attaining the right to vote in federal elections, as well as celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Four young women from Prince Edward Island who have demonstrated leadership potential and connection to their community were selected to represent Prince Edward Island in Equal Voice's Daughters of

the Vote event in Ottawa.

The Prince Edward Island delegates met in Ottawa in March, when 338 young women – one for each federal riding in Canada – gathered to 'take their seat' in Parliament on International Women's Day, March 8, 2017, to have their voices heard and mark a century of women's suffrage.

Delegates were selected by Equal Voice, with input from PEI community leaders, on the basis of their demonstrated leadership potential, interest in public policy issues, and level of community engagement. Daughters of the Vote is designed to underscore the often challenging journey of women's full political participation at all levels of government in Canada -- and to cultivate the female leaders of tomorrow.

**The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island was very pleased to host two major conferences in the Birthplace of Confederation as we celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary during 2017.**

### **Canadian Conflict of Interest Network Conference**

Prince Edward Island hosted the Canadian Conflict of Interest Network Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, September 6-8, 2017. The conference was hosted by the Honourable John A. McQuaid Q.C. Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Commissioners from across Canada looked at a variety of topics including: the effect of solicitor-client privilege and other legal privileges on the work of Commissioners; the role of the Commissioner in the development of legislation and codes of conduct; and the view from the seat of a Member of Parliament and the spouse of a Member of the P.E.I. Legislative Assembly.

A great deal of best practices and exchanges occurred during the conference, while enabling



*PEI Commissioner Hon. John McQuaid (seated, third from left) and conference delegates at Fanningbank*

participants to enjoy the conference September in Prince Edward Island.

### **39th CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar – Celebrating 150 years in the Birthplace of Confederation**

The Assembly also hosted the 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar that was held in Charlottetown from October 10-13, 2017.

Delegates from all jurisdictions across the country took part in a variety of business sessions including: The rise of partisanship and how it paralyzes parliament; Advantages and disadvantages of pipelines in the context of climate change; Sustainable Arctic Communities; Women in Politics; Turks and Caicos Islands/Prince Edward Island Twinning initiative and an update on the state of TCI post Hurricanes Irma and Maria; and Minority Government: Election, transition, opportunities and challenges.

The delegates and partners were treated to visits at the following:

Diversified Metal Engineering Ltd. (DME) which is an international company recognized as a leader in custom design and fabrication of equipment for Brewing, BioTech, BioEnergy, Industrial Food & Beverage, Water Treatment, Decor and Marine Applications. DME Brewing Solutions is a recognized leader in the Craft Beer Industry and has successfully completed projects for over 700 craft brewing customers globally.

Paderno  
- Padinox  
Inc., where  
delegates and  
partners toured  
the facility  
of Canada's  
only cookware  
manufacturer  
and explained  
the process  
of making the  
finest stainless  
steel cookware  
found anywhere  
in the world since  
1979.



*Speaker Watts (front, fifth from left) and Deputy Speaker Casey (front, fifth from right) with Hon. H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor (front, centre), and seminar delegates*

These tours were followed by a brief trip to the Island's famed north shore to feel the 'sand and sea.'



# Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

The continuation of the Second Session of the 65th General Assembly of the Prince Edward Island Legislature officially opened at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 located on the first floor of the Honourable George Coles Building (the Coles Building).

Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Frank J. Lewis granted Royal Assent to the Bills during the spring sitting of the Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly. The session was closed on Friday, May 12, 2017. This marked Al McDonald's, Director of Security and Sergeant-at-Arms, last day before his retirement in the fall carrying the Mace in the Chamber. We thank Al for his 22 years of service for the Legislative Assembly.



Photo courtesy of Maureen Coulter



*Bills receiving Royal Assent in the Chamber as part of the close of business for the spring sitting of the legislature.*



*From top: Al McDonald leading the Speaker's Procession into the Chamber; with Hon. Wade MacLauchlan, Premier; with Deputy Speaker Kathleen Casey*



## Province House Conservation Update



Province House is currently closed for an extensive conservation project. Until the site closed, it was occupied by both Parks Canada and the Legislative Assembly.

The building is more than 170 years old and in pressing need of repair. Province House is a historic and complex building and this project presents the unique challenge of rehabilitating the structure to current building standards. Parks Canada is investing \$47 million in the Province House conservation project, which are both the historic birthplace of Canada and the seat of Prince Edward Island's Provincial Legislature. This project began in 2015 under the management of Public

Services and Procurement Canada and is now slated to be completed in 2021.

Phase 1 is nearing completion and work has been ongoing with Quinan Construction Ltd as the lead contractor. Since May 2017, the contractor has been busy working on the exterior of the building, stabilizing the site, excavating around the building to allow access to the foundation, erecting the steel exoskeleton and removing slate roof tiles. Phase 1 included removing some elements from inside the building such as basement flooring, mechanical and electrical systems, windows, and plaster work. The historic features inside Province House, such as columns, pilasters, ceiling medallions, arches, wood sashed windows and central staircase, form part of the heritage defining elements that are key to the conservation project. Each of these elements have been diligently wrapped and tagged for protection through this site stabilization phase. They will remain part of the building's interior once it is rehabilitated. A pedestrian access from Richmond to Grafton Streets has also been established on the east side of Province House, next to the Coles Building.

### What's next?

In October 2017, the contract for construction management services for phase 2 and 3 of the project was awarded to PCL Constructors Ltd. This contract will ensure that these phases of the project are delivered on schedule, within the



construction estimate, and to the level of quality required for a building of this stature. A construction manager was hired due to the increase in complexity at this stage of the conservation project. Multiple sub-contractors will be involved as well, with work beginning in 2018. Phase 2 will focus on the building envelope, which includes the conservation of the exterior walls, and work related to the foundation, exterior walls, structural interior walls, floors and roof, and exterior universal accessibility. Details of the methodology to be used for phase 2 are currently being fleshed out, with PCL Constructors Ltd. and consultants working closely with Public Services and Procurement Canada and the project management team from Parks Canada to familiarize themselves with the specifics of the project and work completed to date.

**Federal Infrastructure Funding**

**Project name:** Province House Conservation Project

**Announced in 2016:** \$21 M

**Announced in 2015:** \$20 M

**Estimated Additional Financing:** \$6 M

**Estimated Total Cost:** \$47 M



*The Chamber with finishes removed to expose interior walls and structures*



*Main staircase from the ground floor*

## Legislative Assembly Launched Live Web Streaming of Committee Meetings

On September 1, 2017, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island began live stream and video archive committee proceedings at [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca). The stream has also been broadcast on the Assembly's Facebook page.

The Assembly is committed to helping people understand, engage and participate in their democracy. This initiative has the potential to engage people who do not normally take an active role in the work of legislative committees.

Streaming of committee proceedings continues the initiative of televising the proceedings of the House and providing a valuable service to all Islanders by keeping them informed of the important work of their elected representatives. Live streaming committee meetings is another step forward in the Legislative Assembly's efforts to expand its outreach to citizens, school rooms, and communities across the Island.

Committee meetings are held in the Legislative Chamber in the Honourable George Coles Building when the Legislative Assembly is not in session. When the House is in session, meetings will be held in the Committee Room on the first floor of the J. Angus McLean Building. The public can watch on the Assembly website at [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca) or the Legislative Assembly Facebook live page.

## Opening of the Third Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

Her Honour, the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, proceeded to open the Third Session of the 65th General Assembly on Tuesday, November 14th, 2017 at 2:00 in the afternoon, in the Legislative Chamber, Coles Building, Charlottetown. Her Honour was appointed Lieutenant Governor on October 20, 2017, and this marked her first opportunity to deliver the speech from the Throne in the Chamber.



On a Motion of the Honourable Premier, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, RESOLVED that the following students be appointed as Pages for this Session of the Legislative Assembly:

Bailey Clark, Kensington Intermediate Senior High School

Robin Dann, Montague Regional High School

Esther Puiras, Bluefield High School

Julia Ezeard, Grace Christian School

Jacob MacDonald, Morell Regional High School

Kristi Stewart, Colonel Gray High School

Naomi Milner, Charlottetown Rural High School

Rilind Musliu, Three Oaks Senior High School

Matteo LeClair, École Francois-Buote



*Military marching band and honour guard*

Olivia Batten, Westisle Composite High School  
Logan Rose, Souris Regional High School

The opening session also appointed the following:

With the retirement of Warrant Officer J. A. McDonald as Sergeant-at-Arms of the House effective September 29, 2017. Mr. Brian D. Weldon of Charlottetown was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island effective November 14, 2017.

Ms. Amy Unwin of Cherry Valley was appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island effective November 14, 2017.

With the retirement of Ms. Marian Johnson as Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees effective December 31, 2017, Ms. Emily Doiron of Charlottetown was appointed as Clerk Assistant (Journals, Committees and House Operations) and Mr. Ryan Reddin of Millvale was appointed as Clerk Assistant (Research and Committees).



*Legislative pages being welcomed by Speaker Watts*



*The Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of PEI, reading the Speech from the Throne*

Honourable Doug Currie declared his resignation as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for District 11, Charlottetown-Parkdale, effective October 19, 2017.

# Legislative Assembly Staff Retirements: Al McDonald and Marian Johnston

## Al McDonald

Al McDonald retired, after 22 years, as Director of Security and Sergeant-at-Arms with the Legislative Assembly.

Born and raised on PEI, WO McDonald joined the Canadian Armed Forces in October 1966. He served 27 years with the Royal Canadian Regiment including service in Soest, Germany, CFB Petawawa, Special Service Force Operations Training Detachment, the RCR Battle School, CFB Gagetown 2nd Battalion RCP and RSS (Cornwall, Ontario).

Mr. McDonald retired as Special Service Force Training Officer in July 1993 and became involved in the delivery of security services at the Legislative Assembly in 1995. He was unanimously appointed Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in July 2007.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. McDonald always maintained high professional, ethical and confidentiality standards when interacting with the general public, MLAs and the media. Protecting the legislative precinct was always a passion for him.



## Marian Johnston

Marian Johnston retired, after having served as Chief Electoral Officer (Acting) since June 2017. Prior to that, she was Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, a post she held since November 2001.



Prior to Marian coming to the Legislative Assembly, she served more than twenty years as an administrative assistant in a variety of settings, most recently serving as Assistant to the President of the University of Prince Edward Island.

Once arriving at the Assembly, Marian served on the Executive of the Association of Clerks at-the-Table in Canada from 2010-2013, including a term as President in 2012. The Association was established in 1969 to promote, encourage and facilitate the professional development of Clerks through various forums to exchange information. Members share parliamentary knowledge and professional experiences, discuss and debate on issues of interest, and consult and collaborate with similar professional organizations in other jurisdictions, both nationally and internationally.

During her time with the Assembly, Ms. Johnston became an expert in her field, consistently providing professional and reliable support to Members, committees and the House while maintaining her dedication to the Legislative Assembly and the principles of parliamentary democracy.

## Swearing in a New Member: Hannah Bell, MLA

On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, administered the Oath of Allegiance to new member Hannah Bell, MLA for District 11: Charlottetown-Parkdale. The swearing-in ceremony was conducted in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Honourable George Coles Building. Hannah Bell was elected to the Prince Edward Island Legislature in a by-election held on November 27, 2017, as the representative for District 11 as a Member of the Green Party of Prince Edward Island.



*Top and right: Charles MackKay, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly administers the Oath of Allegiance to Hannah Bell, MLA*

Prior to assuming a designated seat on the floor of the House, all Members must swear, or solemnly affirm, the Oath of Allegiance as required in the Constitution Acts 1867 to 1982, Section 128. Pursuant to direction received from the Lieutenant Governor, this Oath is administered by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. The new Member solemnly affirmed that she would be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors according to law.



Hannah Bell, MLA took her seat for the first time in the P.E.I. Legislature the afternoon of December 13, 2017 following the swearing in ceremony. The province's *Election Act* provides Elections P.E.I. with two weeks to confirm election results. It's known as determination day, and after that, and once the required Oath has been administered, MLAs can take their place in the House.



*LtoR: Judith Bayliss, Ava King, Rachel Vidito, and Hannah Bell, MLA*

Bell is the second Green Party Member to be elected to the P.E.I. Legislature, and only the third MLA since 1900 who was not elected as a Liberal or Progressive Conservative (Conservative prior to 1947).

## Order of Prince Edward Island

First conferred in 1996, the Order of Prince Edward Island is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the province. It is awarded annually following a public nomination process with not less than three recipients being selected by the independent Advisory Council.

The Order of Prince Edward Island has been established as a way of encouraging and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individual citizens of the province. It is a special act of appreciation to nominate someone you believe is deserving of such an honour. The Order of PEI Advisory Council reviews nominations and recommends the names of honour recipients.

With the resignation of Mr. Charles Curley as Chair of the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council, Mr. Gerard Greenan was appointed the new Chair through the Engage PEI process in May 2017.

### 2017 Recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island

#### Catherine Hennessey, C.M.

Through passion and personal conviction, Catherine Hennessey has been a champion of Prince Edward Island's heritage and culture for decades. With a unique combination of intelligence, wit, and downright stubbornness, she has been an advocate for the preservation of buildings and streetscapes, and is fearless in her commitment to ensuring that the Island's history is protected, promoted and celebrated.

Hennessey's role as an historical activist spans many decades. In the 1960's and 70's she was part of a group of researchers and advocates who were instrumental in the preservation of the Island's unique landscapes and public spaces, and most recently, her persuasiveness and involvement in the Samuel Holland 250 Committee. As a city counselor, she worked to promote Charlottetown for its historical significance in the formation of Canada. Hennessey has served on numerous national boards; including Heritage Canada and the Canadian Housing and Design Council, just to name a few. She has the distinction of being the first executive director of PEI's Heritage Foundation.



*Left to right: Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of PEI ; Catherine Hennessey, 2017 OPEI Recipient; Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of PEI*



In 1986, Hennessey received an honorary degree from the University of Prince Edward Island; in 1988, she received the Lieutenant Governors medal from Heritage Canada; and in 2001, she was awarded membership into the Order of Canada.

Catherine Hennessey continues to be passionate about the preservation of the Island's heritage. She is an inspiration to historians, to women and to seniors. She is a tireless advocate for historical conservation in Prince Edward Island and is a most worthy inductee to the Order of Prince Edward Island.

### **James C. MacAulay**

James MacAulay is an outstanding contributor for the improvement of his Island community as an exceptional educator, leader, visionary, mentor and advocate for local communities.

Born and raised at "The Bay", MacAulay's teaching career spanned four decades, the majority spent at Morell Regional High School, where he served with distinction as principal from 1969 to 1997. A graduate from St. Dunstan's University in 1962, he continues to play an integral role in education in the province. MacAulay mentors many of his former students in leading change in the community and continues to counsel many who struggle with addiction.



*Left to right: Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of PEI; James MacAulay, 2017 OPEI recipient; Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of PEI*

MacAulay has been instrumental in spearheading major revitalization projects; including the transformation of the former St. Peter's Consolidated School into the St. Peters Bay Complex, a multi-purpose, state-of-the-art facility that has brought new life into the community and is utilized to capacity. As a catalyst for development, his vision for revitalization has far surpassed expectations and is, indeed, a model for other communities.

James MacAulay's involvement has earned him many awards including, the Pillar of the Community – Impact Award in 2016, an Honourary Degree from UPEI in 2012, the Charlie Ryan Award in 2000 and in 1994, the Meritorious Service Medal, from the Royal Canadian Legion, Red Cross Recognition Award.

In addition to his tireless work as an educator, MacAulay is a natural leader who has forged the way to bring about amalgamation in his church; change in local communities; and improvements in service to veterans through his volunteer efforts. James MacAulay is a supreme volunteer – an Islander who is most worthy of investiture into the Order of Prince Edward Island.

### **Honourable Catherine Callbeck, C.M.**

A devoted Islander and Canadian, Catherine Callbeck of Central Bedeque has contributed to Prince Edward Island and Canada as a political, business, and community leader. She has made a notable commitment to education and economic development throughout her impressive career.

Educated at Mount Allison (BComm) and Dalhousie (BEd), Callbeck taught high-school business administration before becoming an executive with the family retailing business. She entered politics in 1974, and served in the provincial legislature, House of Commons and the Senate of Canada. She has many hallmarks to her distinguished public service career, including being the first woman elected as a provincial premier.



*Left to right: Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of PEI; Honourable Catherine Callbeck, 2017 OPEI recipient; Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of PEI*

In recognition of her commitment to public service and community life, Callbeck has received numerous awards and distinctions. She has been conferred with Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Mount Allison University and the University of

Prince Edward Island. Callbeck was presented with the prestigious Rural Beautification Shaw Award for her contribution to the enhancement of rural life in Prince Edward Island in 1997. In November 2006, she was named as one of Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women’s Executive Network. In June 2008, she was an inaugural inductee into the Canadian Women in Politics Hall of Fame. In June 2011, she was inducted into the PEI Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame and in December 2015, she was named a member of the Order of Canada.

The Order of P.E.I. recognizes “remarkable contributions to the social, economic and cultural life” of P.E.I. and its residents. Callbeck is a woman of vision, determination and passion. Always up for

a challenge, she has excelled as a business leader and stateswoman. Clearly, Catherine Callbeck is an Islander so very deserving to be a recipient for the Order of Prince Edward Island.

## New Lieutenant Governor Sworn in as Chancellor of the Order of Prince Edward Island

### Honourable Antoinette Perry

Antoinette Perry is a respected educator from Tignish, Prince Edward Island. Before her retirement from teaching in 2009, she enjoyed a distinguished 32-year career at Tignish Consolidated Elementary School where she taught music and French. She serves as an organist and church choir director at St. Simon and St. Jude Parish and as a co-coordinator of the Parish's Summer Organ Recital Series.

Ms. Perry studied Music Education at the Université de Moncton before returning home in 1977 to teach. Her lifelong passion for music and teaching found expression in many ways, including her establishment of the West Prince Music Festival (affiliated with the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals) and her service on the executive committee of the Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) Music Educators Association. As Vice Principal of Tignish Consolidated Elementary School, she worked to instill in her students and their families a sense of pride in their community. Ms. Perry has also served on the P.E.I. Education Commission.



*Her Honour Antoinette Perry,  
Lieutenant Governor of  
Prince Edward Island*

Ms. Perry is a proud Acadian who enjoys celebrating her culture through her involvement in community and cultural organizations. She has served on the West Prince Arts Council and the Tignish Historical Preservation Society and, in 1979, she composed the theme song "Acadiens, c'est l'heure" for the celebrations of the 375th anniversary of the arrival of the first Acadians and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin. She also directed the Bicentennial Choir for the first ever recording of Ave Maris Stella, the Acadian National Anthem, with the official French verses.

In 2011, she spearheaded her parish's organ restoration project which, thanks to her community's generosity, saw the majestic instrument restored to its original state. In addition to her music interests, her hobbies include cooking, yoga, travel and discovering hidden treasures in P.E.I.

Her Honour Antoinette Perry was installed as Prince Edward Island's 42nd Lieutenant Governor in a special ceremony held on October 20, 2017, in her home community of Tignish.

## Members of the Order of Prince Edward Island

A	H	R
Angèle Arsenault, O.C. Reverend Éloi Arsenault Georges Arsenault	Honourable Barbara Hagerman H. Wayne Hambly, C.M. Wilma Hambly Nancy Ann Hamill Catherine Hennessey James Hogan Arthur Hudson	Honourable Marion Reid, C.M. Antoine Richard, C.M. Helen Robbins
B	I	S
Leone Bagnall, C.M. Carolyn Bateman Chief Darlene Bernard Honourable J.Léonce Bernard Reverend Dr. F.W.P. Bolger, C.M. Emily Bryant Marlene Bryenton Garnet Rankin Buell Marie Burge	Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings	Paul H. Schurman, C.M. Father Brady Smith
C	K	T
Honourable Catherine Callbeck, C.M. William Callbeck Dr. Sheldon Cameron Alexander Bradshaw Campbell Bill Campbell Reverend Charles Cheverie Honourable Gilbert R. Clements Sibyl Cutcliffe	Derek Key, Q.C.	Dr. Charles St. Clair Trainor
D	L	W
Eleanor Davies Donald M. Deacon, O.C., M.C. Sister Mary Deighan Dr. George Dewar, C.M. Vera Elizabeth Dewar Gerald Sheldon Dixon Dr. Dagny Dryer Anna Duffy Regis Duffy, C.M.	Frank Ledwell Dorothy Lewis Honourable H. Frank Lewis Charles Linkletter, C.M.	Kay Wall Elmer Williams Noel Wilson Dr. David Wong
E	M	Z
Edith Eldershaw Dr. Kent Ellis	James C. MacAulay Elmer MacDonald H. Wade MacLauchlan William MacLean Helen Stewart MacRae Dr. Joyce Madigane Dr. John H. Maloney Maylea Manning Shirley McGinn Barbara McNeill Heather Leanne Moyse Ray Murphy	Frank Zakem
G	O	
J. Henri Gaudet, C.M. Allan Graham Diane Griffin	Dr. Hubert O’Hanley	
	P	
	Honourable Antoinette Perry Ulric Poirier	



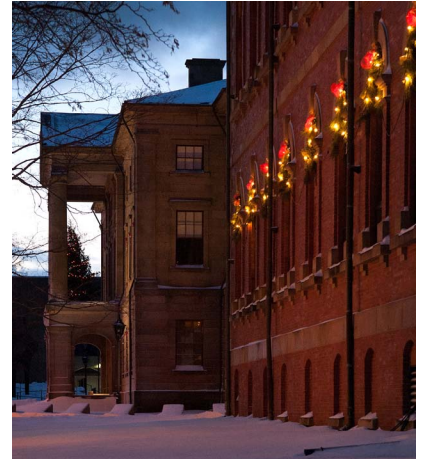
Visit [www.assembly.pe.ca/opei](http://www.assembly.pe.ca/opei) for full biographies of all recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island.

## Wintertide

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island once again partnered with the City of Charlottetown to host the Wintertide Holiday Festival Opening on November 24, 2017.

The Wintertide Holiday Festival Tree Lighting event begins with a candlelight walk from Peakes Wharf to the Confederation Centre of the Arts Upper Plaza. Approximately 1,000 people attended the ceremony to usher in the holiday season in Historic Downtown Charlottetown with Father Christmas, the Confederation Centre Youth Chorus and Julia Dunn.

The parade arrived at the Confederation Centre of the Arts Upper Plaza to a large gathering crowd with the voices of the Confederation Centre Children's Youth Chorus singing Christmas carols in the background.



Following the tree illumination, hot chocolate and cookies were served and all enjoyed the tree and lights in the surrounding area. Christmas carols were played in the background to maintain the festival atmosphere.

The event itself is presented by the City of Charlottetown in partnership with the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Children's Wish Foundation, and media partners: The Guardian and NewCap Radio.

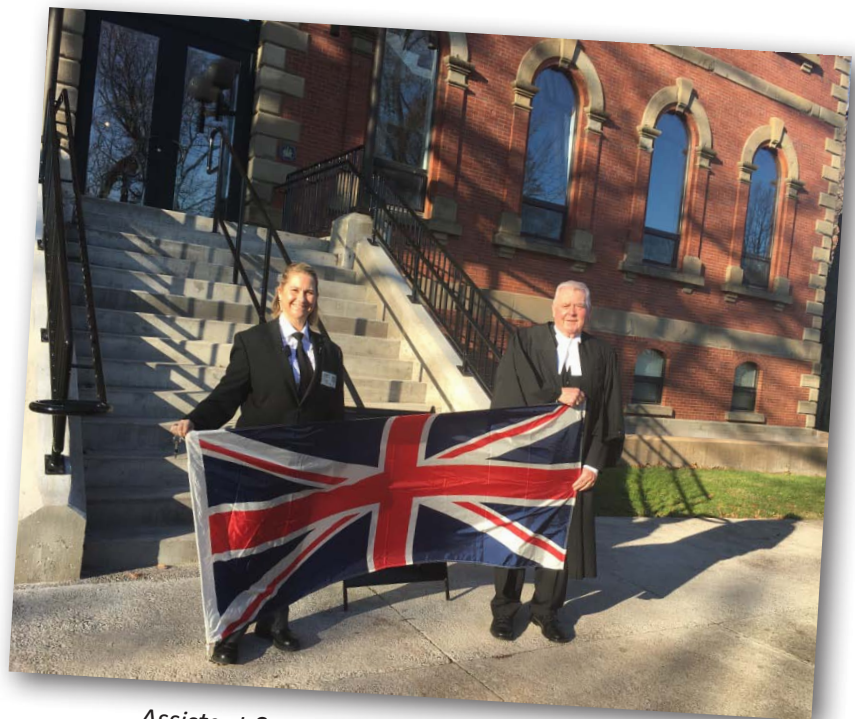
The evening was once again a great success and served as the official launch of the Holiday Season in the capital city.

## Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster in Canada

The Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and Amy Unwin, Assistant Sergeant at Arms/Security with the Legislative Assembly raised the Royal Union flag (known as the Union Jack) in front of the Honourable George Coles Building. The flag celebrates the anniversary of the Statute of Westminster (1931) which is observed in Canada on December 11 each year to mark the statute's establishment. The Canadian flag and the Royal Union flag are flown together on this day.

The anniversary of the adoption of the Statute of Westminster (December 11) is a momentous occasion in Canada's journey to sovereignty. The Statute granted Canada independence from British regulations and the freedom to pass, amend, and repeal laws within an autonomous legal system. Full autonomy gave the government the independence it needed to build a legislative foundation upon which Canada still stands today.

The Union Jack serves two purposes. First, it is the national flag of the United Kingdom, and second, it is flown as a symbol of membership in the Commonwealth and allegiance to the Crown as approved by Parliament on December 18, 1964.



*Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Amy Unwin and Speaker Watts displaying the Union Jack*

## Changes at Elections PEI

In June 2017, Gary McLeod, resigned as Chief Electoral Officer for Prince Edward Island. Mr. McLeod served as Chief Electoral Officer since January, 2013. Stephanie Roberts was appointed as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer on April 26, 2017.

Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees for the Legislative Assembly, accepted the designation as Chief Electoral Officer (Acting) until Mr. Tim Garrity, was appointed the CEO of Elections PEI by the Legislative Assembly on November 16, 2017.



# Community Engagement

## Visitor Services

The Chamber of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in the Honourable George Coles Building (Coles Building), welcomed 891 visitors between June 5 and August 31, 2017. During the summer from Monday to Friday, a Student Intern - Visitor Guide is on site to greet visitors and tell them about the Assembly, with services offered in both French and English. In 2017, the guide at the Legislative Assembly was Christian Hansen.

The Legislative Assembly Chamber was located on the 2nd floor of Province House until January 2015. The building was closed for major conservation work that year and is slated to reopen in 2021. With conservation efforts underway, the Chamber is now located on the 1st floor of the Honourable George Coles Building, located at 175 Richmond Street.

While Province House is closed for conservation work, the Assembly had the opportunity to adapt the Visitor Guide program to the new interpretive space in the Coles Building. Guide duties also expanded to include research and other tasks similar to those performed by Legislative Interns.

Some of the topics that are typically covered in the guide program include the long and colourful history of the Assembly, the importance of the various symbols and objects found within the Chamber, as well as the role that the Assembly plays today in passing laws and upholding our democratic traditions.

More information can be found at the Visitor Information page on the Legislative Assembly's website, (<http://www.assembly.pe.ca/visitorinfo>).

## Legislative Pages for 2017

Legislative pages are Grade 11 and 12 honour students, who have shown an interest in the Legislative Assembly and public affairs. They are active members of their schools and communities, participating in different activities, including sports, music, writing, volunteering, 4-H, Rotary Youth Parliament and student council. The Legislative Page Program provides them with a unique experience to see first-hand the work of the Legislature. Pages are responsible for delivering documents, making photocopies, serving refreshments to Members, and other general responsibilities as assigned by the Speaker and Clerks. Their work term follows the academic year, commencing with the fall sitting in November, and ending with the close of the spring sitting.

In 2017, we had 22 students serving as pages at the Legislative Assembly.





**During the Spring Sitting (L to R):** Jasmin Howatt, *Kinkora Regional High School*; Chelsea Perry, *Three Oaks Senior High School*; Yun Huang, *Charlottetown Rural High School*; Brandon O'Brien, *Souris Regional High School*; Sebastien Arsenault, *École François-Buote*; Nathan Kerley, *Bluefield High School*; Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts, *Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*; Chandler Gard, *Westisle Composite High School*; Olivia Corrigan, *Colonel Gray Senior High School*; Lindsay Sanderson, *Morell Regional High School*; Carleigh Macleod, *Kensington Intermediate High School*; Paige Miller, *Montague Regional High School*



**During the Fall Sitting (L to R):** Julia Ezeard, *Grace Christian School*; Esther Puiras, *Bluefield High School*; Logan Rose, *Souris Regional High School*; Matteo LeClair, *École François-Buote*; Naomi Miller, *Charlottetown Rural High School*; Olivia Batten, *Westisle Composite High School*; Robin Dann, *Montague Regional High School*; Bailey Clark, *Kensington Intermediate High School*; Kristi Stewart, *Colonel Grey High School*; Jacob MacDonald, *Morell Regional High School*; Rilind Musliu, *Three Oaks Senior High School*

# Rotary Youth Parliament

On November 24, 2017 the Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island hosted students from across the Island at this year's Rotary Youth Parliament.

The Speaker welcomed the students to the 30th Annual Rotary Youth Parliament on Friday, November 24, 2017 at 1:45 pm with the Speech from the Throne delivered by The Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Students from across the province debated under the direction of the Speaker of the Legislature, and continued throughout the weekend. Topics debated are of current concern and chosen by the Rotary Youth Parliamentarians themselves.



*Honourable Francis (Buck) Watts with participants of the 30th Annual Rotary Youth Parliament outside the Honourable George Coles Building.*



*Speaker Watts with Rotary Youth Parliament leaders (top) and international students (bottom)*



## Partnership with the University of Prince Edward Island's International Relations Office

This past spring the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island was very pleased to partner with the University of Prince Edward Island's (UPEI) International Relations Office to provide an international student with a 30-hour job shadow work placement for the month of March. The student attended committee meetings and worked on small projects at the Legislative Assembly.

A new pilot initiative from the International Relations Office and Career Services at UPEI, Canadian Workplace Explorations is a job shadow program that has been developed to provide International Students the opportunity to explore the Canadian workforce and to network with employers in their field of study.



*Olamilekan Alarape, UPEI International Student, in the Legislative Chamber.*

Assembly staff were pleased to welcome Olamilekan Alarape to the Legislative Assembly who shadowed UPEI graduate Emily Doiron, currently Clerk Assistant – Journals, Committees and House Operations. Mr. Alarape is a fourth year Political Science international student who is interested in politics and government. This partnership helped the student gain a further knowledge of Canadian politics on the Island and while enriching the workplace of the Assembly with diversity and supporting our youth.

For more information please contact International Student Employer Liaison Officer at UPEI at 902-566-0574.

## Indemnities & Allowances Commission

The Commission's authority arises from a 1994 amendment to the Legislative Assembly Act, which established the independent Indemnities and Allowances Commission. Its purpose is to review annually the remuneration and benefits of Members of the Legislative Assembly and others, as defined by Section 46 of the Legislative Assembly Act, and to report its decisions and findings to the Speaker by December 1 each year.

The Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed. The Honourable Francis (Buck)

Watts, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, appointed Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair, Ronald Profit, Q.C., and Sharon O'Halloran, C.P.A, C.G.A., as Indemnities and Allowances Commissioners.

The Commission's 2017 report was tabled by the Honourable Speaker on November 30, 2017.

## Legislative Internship

The Legislative Internship Program is run in partnership with the Department of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. Each year, a third or fourth year student majoring in history and/or political science is selected by their faculty to participate in a paid internship at the Legislative Assembly in each of the fall and winter semesters. The Internship promotes a deeper understanding of the functions and processes of the Legislative Assembly within the university faculties and provides students with an opportunity to work in their field of study while gaining real-world, practical knowledge of the provincial institution that governs the Island. Students are also encouraged to pursue projects within their areas of academic interest while they put their research skills and political studies knowledge to use.

Since its inception in 2008, the program has been well received by both partner institutions, and provided work placement for 19 students. In 2017, Keith Hogg and Justin Clory worked at the legislature with both students gaining valuable work experience and contributing to the important work of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

# Parliamentary Matters

## Unparliamentary Language

The *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island* prohibit disrespectful language in debate (Rule 34(2)). In addition, personal attacks, insults, obscene language, or words that question a member's integrity, honesty or character are not permitted. While it is not possible to produce a definitive list of unparliamentary words and expressions, the following is a list of words and phrases that were either ruled unparliamentary or the Speaker cautioned were close to unparliamentary in 2017 :

- misleading
- liar and misleading
- not telling the truth
- so far from the truth
- farce

## Committee Activities

An important segment of the Legislative Assembly, both historically and currently, is that of the committee. There are three types of committee: Standing Committees, Special Committees and Committee of the Whole House. Committee work provides topical information to members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

Currently, several Standing Committees exist for every General Assembly, along with occasional Special Committees struck for a particular purpose and for a limited period of time. Standing and Special Committees are sub-groups of Members of all parties according to their proportion within the Legislative Assembly. These committees hold hearings and receive written submissions and in-person presentations from the public according to their committee mandates. The current active Standing Committees are organized into the following subject areas:

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries  
Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment  
Standing Committee on Education and Economic Development  
Standing Committee on Health and Wellness  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy  
Standing Committee on Legislative Management  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges  
Special Committee on Democratic Renewal (Committee Page)

There is also the Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker. This Committee is responsible for policies for the administration of the Legislative Assembly, approving the Assembly budget, providing facilities for the operation of the legislature and its offices, and other matters relating to the efficient and effective operation of the legislature.

The standing and special committees completed a busy and productive schedule of 58 meetings, submitting a total of 10 reports to the Legislative Assembly, 9 of which were adopted.

The following table contains information about the special and standing committees of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, including their membership, meeting activity and reports for 2017.

<b>Summary of Committee Activity</b> <b>Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly</b> <b>January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017</b>				
<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)</b>
Agriculture and Fisheries	Hon. Pat Murphy <i>(until March 10)</i>  Hal Perry <i>(as of March 17)</i>	Peter Bevan-Baker Bush Dumville Hon. Sonny Gallant Colin LaVie Hon. Tina Mundy <i>(from March 10 to November 3)</i> Hon. Pat Murphy <i>(until March 10)</i> Hal Perry Brad Trivers Hon. Paula Biggar <i>(as of November 3)</i>	January 20 March 17 March 24 March 31 May 4 Sept 15 Sept 29 <i>(in camera)</i>	<i>Committee Activities (May 5, 2017)</i>  <i>Committee Activities (Dec 6, 2017)</i>

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)</b>
Communities, Land and Environment	Kathleen Casey	Peter Bevan-Baker Richard Brown ( <i>as of March 10</i> ) Kathleen Casey Hon. Sonny Gallant ( <i>until March 10</i> ) Hon. Heath MacDonald ( <i>as of March 10</i> ) Sidney MacEwen Hon. Pat Murphy Hal Perry Brad Trivers	February 2 February 9 March 14 May 3 July 27 September 21 October 5 October 26 November 2	<i>Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission (May 5, 2017)</i>  <i>Committee Activities (May 5, 2017)</i>
Democratic Renewal, Special Committee on	Hon. Jordan Brown	Peter Bevan-Baker Hon. Paula Biggar Hon. Jordan Brown Sidney MacEwen Richard Brown ( <i>as of April 26</i> )	May 2	

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)</b>
Education and Economic Development	Bush Dumville	Peter Bevan-Baker Hon. Jordan Brown <i>(until November 3)</i> Kathleen Casey Bush Dumville Hon. Sonny Gallant <i>(until March 10)</i> Matthew MacKay Hon. Robert Mitchell <i>(as of March 10)</i> Steven Myers Chris Palmer Hal Perry <i>(as of November 3)</i>	February 1 February 8 February 15 March 15 March 29 May 11 September 13 October 4 October 18 morning October 18 afternoon	<i>Committee Activities (Dec 7, 2017)</i>
Health and Wellness	Hon. Jordan Brown <i>(until December 12)</i>	Hon. James Aylward <i>(until October 26)</i> Peter Bevan-Baker Hon. Jordan Brown Kathleen Casey Darlene Compton Bush Dumville Sidney MacEwen <i>(as of October 26)</i> Hon. Pat Murphy <i>(until March 10)</i> Chris Palmer <i>(as of March 10)</i> Hal Perry <i>(as of March 10)</i>	March 7 March 28 June 27 August 29 September 26 October 3 October 31 December 12	<i>Committee Activities (December 15, 2017)</i>



<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)</b>
Infrastructure and Energy	Hon. Sonny Gallant <i>(until Feb. 24)</i>  Bush Dumville <i>(as of March 16)</i>	Peter Bevan-Baker Richard Brown <i>(as of February 24)</i> Hon. Doug Currie <i>(from March 10 until October 19)</i> Bush Dumville Jamie Fox Hon. Sonny Gallant <i>(until February 24)</i> Sidney MacEwen Hon. Alan McIsaac <i>(as of March 10)</i> Hon. Tina Mundy <i>(as of November 3)</i> Hon. Pat Murphy <i>(until March 10)</i> Chris Palmer <i>(until March 10)</i> Hal Perry	January 26 February 23 March 16 March 30 September 14 October 26	<i>Committee Activities (May 10, 2017)</i>  <i>Committee Activities (December 13, 2017)</i>
Public Accounts	Hon. James Aylward <i>(until October 26)</i>  Hon. Jordan Brown, vice-chair <i>(until October 23)</i>  Brad Trivers <i>(as of November 8)</i>  Chris Palmer, vice-chair <i>(as of November 8)</i>	Hon. James Aylward <i>(until October 26)</i> Peter Bevan-Baker Hon. Jordan Brown <i>(until October 23)</i> Kathleen Casey <i>(as of March 10)</i> Darlene Compton Bush Dumville Hon. Sonny Gallant <i>(until Feb. 15)</i> Chris Palmer Hal Perry Brad Trivers <i>(as of October 26)</i>	January 11 January 18 February 1 February 15 February 22 March 1 March 8 March 31 June 14 July 12 August 23 September 27 November 8 November 16 <i>(in camera)</i>	<i>Committee Activities and Review of Reports of the Auditor General (Dec 1, 2017)</i>

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Reports (Subject and Date Tabled)</b>
Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges	Kathleen Casey	Hon. James Aylward Peter Bevan-Baker Kathleen Casey Bush Dumville Jamie Fox Hon. Sonny Gallant Hon. Robert Henderson Hon. Tina Mundy	February 21 April 11 April 20	<i>Recommendations regarding Written Questions, Oral Question Period and Suspension of a Member (presented May 2, 2017, not adopted)</i>
<b>Total Number of Meetings:</b>			<b>58</b>	
			<b>Total Number of Reports:</b>	<b>10 presented, 9 adopted</b>

## Parliamentary Meetings

Conferences provide Members with a unique opportunity to have parliamentary exchanges and to discuss issues of mutual importance with colleagues (provincial, national and state parliaments as well as the legislatures of dependent territories).

Those conferences include:

### **34th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference – Toronto, ON - January 26 - 29, 2017**

Topics - Finding a Prima Facie Case of Breach of Privilege: Attempted intimidation of the Speaker; New Senate: Still in Transition; Celebrating 100 Years of Manitoba Women Being the First in Canada to Get the Vote; The CYP8 Experience; Presiding Officers and Contempt of Parliament: Safeguarding Members' Rights Regarding Testimony Given in Committee; and Round Table with "Rookie" Speakers.

### **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Members Meeting AND Equal Voice: Daughters of the Vote initiative 2017 - Ottawa, ON - March 6-9, 2017**

Deputy Speaker and MLA, Kathleen Casey represented the Honourable Tina Mundy. Roundtable discussions/hearings occurred during this meeting.

Topics - Indigenous Forum for Daughters of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Heritage; Roundtable discussions/hearings hosted by House of Commons Status of Women Committee; March by Daughters, MPs, CWP Steering committee/ MLAs and Supports; Historic Seating of Daughters in House of Commons; Daughters meet their Members of Parliament; Daughters attend Question Period; Daughters: City of Ottawa Youth Event



*Clerk Assistant Emily Doiron, Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker Kathleen Casey, with representatives of the Turks & Caicos Islands at the CPA Conference in Winnipeg*

**55th CPA Canadian Regional Conference - Winnipeg, MAN - July 16 - 22, 2017**

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Meeting - July 16 - 17, 2017**

Topics – International Outreach - Women standing together across the globe; Daughters of the Vote



*Delegates at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Winnipeg*

-Review of 2017 and what's next?; Interacting with the Media; and Dancing Backwards.

**Canadian Regional Meeting - July 17 -22, 2017**

Topics - Heckling and Civility in the Chamber; Overcoming Obstacles in Male-Dominated Professions; Moving Forward on Indigenous; Talkin' Bout my Generation: Millennial Edition; Mental Health in Politics: It's Time to Talk; Polling in the age of Trump: Challenges and Lessons Learned; How Tweet It is! The Art of Effective Social Media and Political Communications; and Adjusting to "Civilian" Life after Politics.

**l'Assemblée regionale Amérique de l'APF - Fredericton, Bouctouche and Tracadie, NB - July 30 - August 4, 2017**

Theme - The issue of the decline of the Francophone population in the Territory covered by the Region of America.

There were presentations from many participating jurisdictions, as well as special invited guests with expertise on this topic

**57th Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum - Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference - Uncasville, CT - August 13 - 16, 2017**

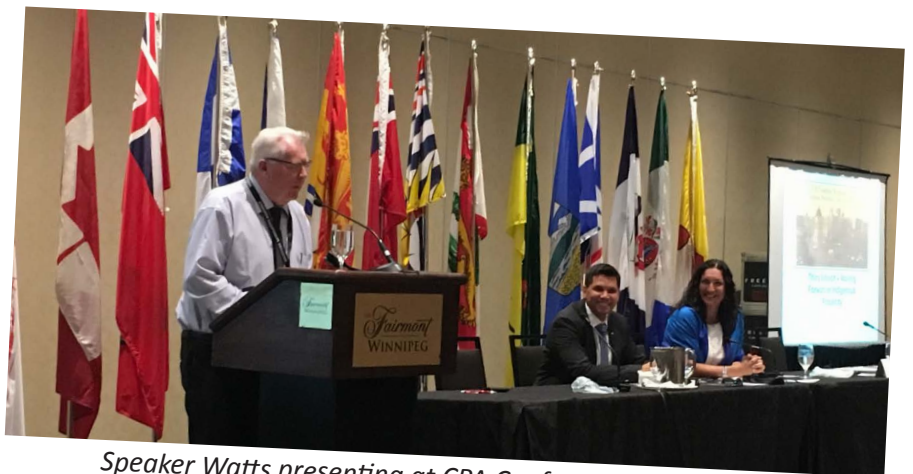
This is the largest meeting of state and provincial officials from eastern Canada and the eastern United States.

Theme - 'States of Change'. The new administration in Washington and Congress has created the potential for significant changes in many areas ranging from health care and tax reform, to trade policy and infrastructure spending with significant implications for states in the eastern region of CSG.

Topics - The Future of Healthcare: Genome Based Medicine; Climate Change and Communities of Color; Agriculture and Rural Development: State Updates and Update from Washington; The Food Safety Modernization Act and Agricultural Trade Between the U.S. and Canada; Canada-U.S. Relations: Trump, Travel and Trade: Navigating the Canada-U.S. Relationship under a New Administration; The Offshore Wind Opportunity in the Northeast; Creating a Sustainable Energy Future in the Northeast; Veterans Mental Health 2.0; Emerging Transportation Issues, status of potential federal infrastructure authorization, and an update on safety issues; Charting the Course Through Demographic Change; States of Democracy: Building Engagement and Confidence in the Era of Hacks & Voter Purges; Round Table: Education Inequality in the States; Farm Bill Discussion; Professional Development: Facing the Media; The Every Student Succeeds Act: Looking at State Plans; The Future of the State-Federal Partnership on Health; State Efforts to Address Retirement Security; Overseas Voting Initiatives; Government's Cybersecurity Challenge; Bioscience Incubators and Economic Development.

**38th Annual Canadian Council of Public Accounts - Fredericton, NB - September 10 - 12, 2017**

Topics - Institutions of Truth and Integrity in our "Post-Truth" Age; Strengthening the effectiveness



*Speaker Watts presenting at CPA Conference in Winnipeg*



*L to R: Cindy Forster, MMP, Ontario; Laurie Scott, MMP, Ontario; and Kathleen Casey, Deputy Speaker, at the 39th CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar*

of Public Accounts Committee's, MLAs and developing collaborative relationship with the AG's to assist the Committee; Climate Change Collaborative Audit by Federal and Provincial Auditors General; Benchmarks and Questioning approaches for Effective PAC hearings on Public Accounts; Accountability in Action: Good Practices for Effective Public Accounts Committees; Round Table Working Session.

### **Conference for Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities - Halifax, NS - August 30 - September 2, 2017**

Topics - The Development of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; The proposal for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Network (CPwD); Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); General Status of Persons with Disabilities in CPA Member Countries/Parliaments; Election and Beyond (Access to elected Office and the Member of Parliament); Accessibility of Parliament for Disabled Members; and Conclusion and Recommendations for the Report to Establish CPwD.

### **Canadian Conflict of Interest Network Conference - Charlottetown, PE - September 6 - 8, 2017**

Topics - Effect of solicitor-client privilege and other legal privileges on the work of Commissioners; The Role of the Commissioner in the development of legislation and codes of conduct; Cash for access and receipt of gifts from lobbyists; Policy issues surrounding privative clauses and the judicial review of a Commissioner's decision and; Re-investigations and the appointment of a Commissioner in the event the Commissioner is unable to act because of a conflict or potential conflict; The view from the seat of a Member of Parliament and the spouse of a Member of P.E.I. Legislative Assembly; and Blind trusts/ management trusts – jurisdictional experience and how they are consistent with the policy of ethics legislation, and The process of appointing Commissioners.

### **39th CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar - Charlottetown, PE - October 10 - 13, 2017**

Topics - The rise of partisanship and how it paralyzes parliament; Advantages and disadvantages of pipelines in the context of climate change; Sustainable Arctic communities; Women in Politics; Turks and Caicos Islands and Prince Edward Island twinning initiatives, and update on the state of the Turks and Caicos Islands post hurricanes Irma and Maria; and minority government: election, transition, opportunities and challenges.

# 2017 House Statistics

	2015	2016	2017
Number of sitting days	34	43	44
Government bills brought	47	59	34
Government bills passed	44	55	32
Private members' bills brought	2	0	8
Private members' bills passed	0	0	2
Private bills brought	2	3	0
Private bills passed	1	3	0
<b>Oral Question Period</b>			
Total number of questions	1,186	1,349	1,406
Longest question asked	1 min., 39 sec.	1 min., 47 sec.	1 min., 42 sec.
Longest answer given	2 min., 56 sec.	1 min., 47 sec.	1 min., 37 sec.
Shortest question asked	4 seconds	3 seconds	8 seconds
Shortest answer given	1 second	1 second	7 seconds
<b>Ministerial Statements</b>			
Total number of statements	81	132	121
Average length of statements	2 min., 12 sec.	2 min., 30 sec.	2 min., 36 sec.
Longest statement	8 min., 8 sec.	5 min., 45 sec.	18 min., 54 sec.
Shortest statement	1 min., 7 sec.	1 min. 22 sec.	1 min., 19 sec.
<b>Motions</b>			
Government	19	18	7
Other than Government	49	68	42
Introduced Jointly	2	1	1
Passed	21	18	6
Number of written questions submitted	79	1,092	438
Number of written answers submitted	54	1,032	114

# Legislative Assembly Budget & Expenses

*The information below has been taken from the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Volume II, for the year ended March 31, 2017. The Public Accounts provide the most current information comparing actual expenditures (Expenses column) to the budgeted estimates (Estimates column).*

	ESTIMATES \$	EXPENSES \$
<b>LEGISLATIVE SERVICES</b>		
Administration	163,100	149,703
Equipment	49,500	46,775
Materials, Supplies & Services	129,800	51,575
Professional Services	20,000	19,834
Salaries	1,392,900	1,408,476
Travel & Training	49,400	37,333
Grants		
Miscellaneous	--	(53,460)
	<u>1,804,700</u>	<u>1,660,236</u>
<b>Government Members' Office</b>		
Administration	120,400	120,382
Salaries	283,000	293,472
	<u>403,400</u>	<u>413,854</u>
<b>Opposition Members' Office</b>		
Administration	120,400	115,346
Salaries	340,000	400,295
	<u>460,400</u>	<u>515,641</u>
<b>Third Party Office</b>		
Administration	20,000	9,389
Salaries	67,000	73,333
	<u>87,000</u>	<u>82,722</u>
<b>Total Legislative Services</b>	<b>2,755,500</b>	<b>2,672,453</b>
<b>Members</b>		
Administration	--	17
Materials, Supplies and Services	--	2,009
Salaries	2,196,000	2,172,072
Travel and training	117,900	130,657
	<u>2,313,900</u>	<u>2,304,755</u>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>2,313,900</b>	<b>2,304,755</b>

	ESTIMATES \$	EXPENSES \$
<b>OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER</b>		
Salaries	45,500	48,708
Travel & Training	3,200	1,780
<b>Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</b>	<b>48,700</b>	<b>50,488</b>
<b>OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER</b>		
Administration	6,400	2,959
Equipment	--	631
Materials, Supplies & Services	1,600	2,350
Professional Services	1,000	4,245
Salaries	115,600	120,146
Travel & Training	5,000	2,208
<b>Total Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</b>	<b>129,600</b>	<b>132,539</b>
<b>ELECTIONS P.E.I.</b>		
Administration	458,200	121,302
Equipment	1,300	69,329
Materials, Supplies & Services	2,500	133,565
Professional Services	14,000	167,296
Salaries	264,400	468,514
Travel & Training	4,000	32,964
<b>Total Elections P.E.I</b>	<b>744,400</b>	<b>992,970</b>
<b>ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION</b>		
Administration	--	346
Equipment	--	540
Materials, Supplies and Services	--	5,088
Professional Services	--	5,066
Salaries	--	28,723
Travel and Training	--	1,911
<b>Total Electoral Boundaries Commission</b>	<b>41,674</b>	<b>41,674</b>
<b>TOTAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>5,922,100</b>	<b>6,194,879</b>



# PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective 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. Its 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. 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.



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 communication

For a report of activities of the PEI Branch, please see pages 44 to 47 of this report.