

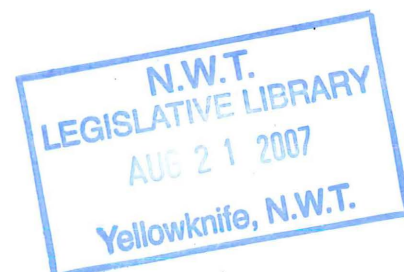


**NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES**

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST COMMISSIONER**

Gerald L. Gerrand, Q.C.

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006**



ANNUAL REPORT 2006
OF
THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER
FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

This is my Annual Report for the year 2006 as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories. The requirement for the submitting of this report to the Speaker is found in section 99 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, S.N.W.T. 1999, c.22 (“the Act”). This is the first full Annual Report on my activities as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories since my appointment to this position in December of 2005.

Disclosure Obligations of the Members of Legislature

Each Member of the Legislature is obliged, pursuant to the provisions of section 87 of the Act, to file with me a Disclosure Statement detailing specific matters related to the income, assets, liabilities and financial interests of the Member and the Member’s spouse and dependent children. The completed Disclosure Statement must be filed by the Member with me within 60 days following the commencement of the first session of the Legislative Assembly after the election of the Member and in subsequent years, it must be filed on or before the anniversary date of the first filing.

The Act provides for the filing of Supplemental Disclosure Statements during the course of the year with respect to any newly acquired source of income, acquisition or disposition of an asset or financial interest described in the original Disclosure Statement, the incurring or discharging of a liability that had previously existed as disclosed in the original Statement or the acquisition or disposition of an interest in a corporation or partnership.

All Members of the Legislature duly completed and filed with me the Disclosure Statements and Supplemental Disclosure Statements, where applicable, on a timely basis. There were one or two occasions where I assisted an individual Member in the completing of the Member’s Disclosure Statement.

As required by section 87(5) of the Act, all Disclosure Statements provided to me are viewed by me as confidential and for my eyes only. The object of the Act is to permit me to acquire knowledge of the details of the financial and business affairs of each Member in order to be in the best position to assess any questions of conflict of interest or breach of the provisions of the Act which may arise.

During the month of February, 2006, I personally met with each of the Members to discuss with them the adequacy of their Disclosure Statement and to review with them their obligations under the conflict of interest provisions of the Act. These meetings are statutorily required pursuant to the provisions of section 88 of the Act and, as a result of my review of the Private Disclosure Statements of each Member along with my meeting with them, I am satisfied that each of the Members has a general working knowledge of their obligations as set forth in the Act. Further, and more importantly, I have concluded that each of the 19 Members has a genuine desire to observe the letter and the spirit of the conflict of interest provisions of the Act.

Appropriate Public Disclosure Statements respecting all of the Members' financial and business affairs were prepared by me as required by section 89 of the Act. The Public Disclosure Statements were duly filed with the Chief Librarian of the Legislative Library and are available for examination by the public.

As previously observed, all disclosure requirements by Members were made on a timely basis and, therefore, there were no extensions of time requested or granted by me as provided in sections 87 and 97 of the Act.

Complaints Against Members

A Member of the Legislative Assembly who believes on reasonable grounds that a Member has contravened any provisions of the conflict of interest provisions of the Act may file a written complaint setting out those grounds with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner (section 100(1) of the Act). Pursuant to the provisions of section 100(2) of the Act, I may entertain and consider oral complaints from a person who is not a Member of the Legislative Assembly if I believe it is appropriate to do so.

No complaints were received by me in any form respecting any Member of the Legislature under this section in the year 2006.

Request for Advice and Recommendations

Several requests were received by me during the course of the year from Members of the Legislature for my advice and recommendations regarding specific obligations of the Member under the conflict of interest provisions of the Act. These requests covered a variety of subjects, including travel, benefits, family employment and conduct of the Member in specific circumstances. I am authorized under the provisions of the Act to make such inquiries as I believe appropriate in order to provide a response to the Member. It is provided in the Act that the information given to me by the Member who is seeking my advice and the advice and recommendations I provide to the Member are confidential, but may be disclosed upon the written consent of the Member.

Statement Pursuant to Section 99(1)(b) of the Act

There were no authorizations requested of me by any Member to permit the acceptance by any Member of a contract that would otherwise have been prohibited by the Act.

Conferences and Conventions

In September of 2006, I attended the Canadian Conflict of Interest Network (CCOIN). The meeting was held at Iqaluit, Nunavut, over a three-day period in mid-September, when Conflict of Interest Commissioners from the Canadian provinces, territories and Government of Canada gathered. This was a useful meeting of individuals carrying out similar responsibilities in a variety of jurisdictions and we were able to discuss a number of issues that have some commonality to all jurisdictions.

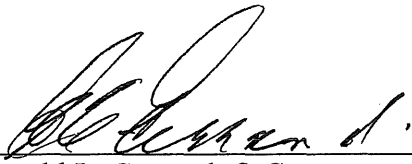
In mid-December of 2006, I attended a seminar conducted by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group at the Legislative Assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The topic of discussion was "The Growing Relationship Between Legislative Assembly Officers and Citizens". A series of papers were delivered by individuals from differing areas, which were of interest to the several Legislative Officers who attended the gathering from across Canada.

Conclusion

I would not wish to end my first Annual Report without expressing the pleasure I have had in meeting with and serving the 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Each Member has been punctual in carrying out his or her statutory obligations with me. It has been an interesting and pleasant experience to spend time with the Members, each of whom demonstrate a desire to comply with the Conflict of Interest provisions of the Act.

My thank yous are extended to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the clerical staff of this office, all of whom have provided me with requested assistance in a cheerful and efficient manner.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2007.



Gerald L. Gerrand, Q.C.
Conflict of Interest Commissioner

