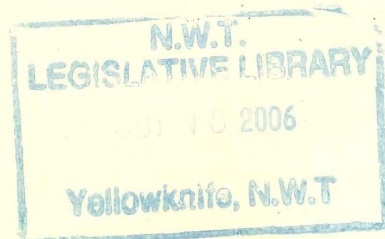


**NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES**

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST COMMISSIONER**

Gerald L. Gerrand, Q.C.

**ANNUAL REPORT
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ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER
FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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By motion of the Legislative Assembly October 21, 2005, I was appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories effective December 1, 2005. It was an honour to be chosen your Conflict of Interest Commissioner and I look forward to working with and providing assistance to all of the Members of the Legislature in the ensuing years.

On December 1, 2005, I succeeded the Honourable E.N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C., as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Hughes has been regarded as the dean of Conflict of Interest Commissioners and Ethics Advisors in Canada for many years and I know how difficult it will be for me to attempt to emulate his performance in these roles with the Government of the Northwest Territories. As one Honourable Member said on the occasion of Mr. Hughes' retirement being recognized in the Assembly, "The next commissioner has some huge shoes to fill when Mr. Hughes leaves."

With the goodwill and cooperation of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I feel confident that each of us will honour the letter and spirit of the conflict of interest provisions of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Section 99 of that Act requires the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to submit an annual report to the Speaker. Since the vast majority of the work of Commissioner for the year 2005 was carried out by Mr. Hughes, I have asked him to report on those events. He reports as follows:

As I complete my four years as Commissioner I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve in this office. From a personal perspective I have met and worked with wonderful people - those who hold elective office and those who work within the government and hold responsibility for its day to day operations. I am most grateful for the cooperation and courtesies I have received throughout my term of office. Thank you.

From the perspective of accomplishment I consider my term in office to have been successful and to have met my objectives. The vast majority of my time has been spent on the preventive side of the spectrum. Honourable members soon learned that the office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner is there

to serve members in such a way that they will not have difficulty in conducting themselves in a manner that complies with the requirements of the law. I am pleased that members sought advice and followed it as they met their obligations under the statute.

The year 2005 saw all members conducting themselves in the manner discussed in the preceding paragraph. The result once again was that no complaints of non compliance were made against any member and as a result no investigations or hearings were required.

In 2005 all members cooperated in the completion of their disclosure forms and in meeting with me for the annual mandated session to review their forms and discuss their continuing compliance with the requirements of the law. I attended on many of the members during the year in providing the preventative service to which I refer. I was present in Yellowknife on six occasions and between visits the staff in the Commission office, located in the Arthur Laing building in Yellowknife, were most helpful in keeping me in touch with members who required advice by telephone, correspondence or other secure methods of communication.

During the year I was pleased to have assisted the Speaker and the Clerk in reviewing the Conflict of Interest sections of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to assess their continuing utility in meeting the requirements of this decade and to suggest changes that could be incorporated at such time as legislative revisions are contemplated. With respect to that participation and on other occasions I was privileged to meet with committees of the Assembly to offer advice and guidance.

As I conclude my term as Commissioner I leave a well functioning office that serves Honourable members and the public with respect, politeness and in a timely way. There is total cooperation with the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk and those who hold responsibilities within those offices. I thank everyone with whom I have worked and I know the same level of support will be available to my successor Gerald L. Gerrand, Q.C. Mr. Gerrand and I are both graduates from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan and we have been colleagues at the bar of that province for many years. He will serve with commitment and sincerity of purpose as he pursues the same goals as I worked towards and in addition he will bring new experience and advice to the office, some of which will come from the distinguished service he has given for some years and continues to give, to the Legislature of Saskatchewan, as its Commissioner of Conflict of Interest. I wish him well.

I wish to thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Tim Mercer, and the staff of the Assembly for their kind assistance in acquainting me with "the ways of the world" in Yellowknife. My load has been significantly lightened by the cheerful cooperation I regularly receive from these dedicated public servants.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Gerrand", written in black ink.

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