



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
BUREAU DE RÉGIE INTERNE

Statement

Use of House of Commons Resources for Political Offices – Remedies

Ottawa – February 3, 2015 – The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, has confirmed that the Board has determined the remedies it will be seeking further to its [August 12, 2014 finding](#) that some New Democratic Party (NDP) Members inappropriately used parliamentary resources for certain employment, telecommunication and travel expenses.

Since individual Members' Office Budgets were used to supplement the NDP Research Office Budget, the Board will be directing that each participating Member personally reimburse the salary costs under question. As such,

- Each participating Member or House Officer will be directed to reimburse, as a personal expense, all salary costs incurred from May 2, 2011 to December 31, 2014. There were 68 Members, including House Officers and one former Member, who participated in this shared employment arrangement on behalf of the Research Office.
- The total amount to be reimbursed is \$2,749,362.

As per the Board's By-laws and policies, Members are the employers of their employees and have full discretion in the direction and control of the work performed on their behalf by their employees. Since Members are responsible for the use of House resources, they bear sole responsibility for any inappropriate use.

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Additional Background Information

Judicial Review

- On September 9, 2014, certain NDP Members filed a notice of application for judicial review of the Board's decision of August 12, 2014. Counsel for the Board and the NDP then entered into discussions to explore the possibility of a settlement.
- On November 11, 2014, they jointly asked the court to suspend the proceedings pending further discussions between counsel.
- As these discussions are still in progress, it would be inappropriate to provide further comment on the matter under judicial review.

By-laws of the Board of Internal Economy

- The Board is authorized by the [Parliament of Canada Act](#) to make by-laws governing Members' use of the funds, goods, services and premises made available to them for carrying out their parliamentary functions.
- The [By-laws](#) are legally binding on Members of the House of Commons and they take precedence over any administrative manual or general policy decision.
- The Board also has the exclusive authority to determine whether expenditures are proper and in accordance with the By-laws, policies and guidelines that have been established.