

Statement

Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Ottawa – **February 26, 2014** – The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, confirms that the Board has carefully considered the matter of the *Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement* for employees of Members, House Officers and Research Offices at its meetings of January 27 and February 10, 2014.

The Board has determined that Members and House Officers will now be required to have a common *Policy on Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest* for their employees.

This Policy clarifies certain aspects of the current confidentiality agreement, specifically with regard to service contracts, gifts, categories of confidential information, and levels of consequence. These clarifications are being made further to consultations conducted by the Board and feedback that Members and House Officers have received from their employees.

The *Policy on Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest* will support Members and House Officers in their role as employers as it provides a framework for clearly establishing and communicating expectations around confidentiality and conflicts of interest. The Policy will also help ensure that Members', House Officers' and Research Office employees are working within common requirements in the unique environment of the House of Commons.

Please consult the <u>backgrounder</u> for additional information and to view the *Policy on Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest*.

More information about the Board of Internal Economy, including its By-laws, *Members' Allowances and Services Manual* and meeting minutes, is available on <u>parl.gc.ca</u>.

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