



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

BOARD OF
INTERNAL
ECONOMY

BUREAU
DE RÉGIE
INTERNE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Board of Internal Economy Disclosure: Publication of Reimbursements under the *Legal Fees Policy*

May 31, 2018 – Ottawa, ON

Further to the adoption of the *Legal Fees Policy* by the Board of Internal Economy on March 1, 2018, the first posting of the reimbursement of legal fees to Members and employees under the policy is now available on ourcommons.ca.

The posting includes the aggregate amount of legal fees reimbursed to Members and employees under the policy from March 1 to March 31, 2018, as well as the number of requests for reimbursement received by the Board during that period.

The new policy reflects the Board's commitment to transparency to Canadians.

Legal Fees Policy

The *Legal Fees Policy* outlines the criteria for the reimbursement of legal fees by the Board and provides additional measures to ensure a harassment-free workplace for Members of Parliament and employees.

It applies to Members of Parliament, including House Officers and Members responsible for Research Offices. In cases of harassment, it also applies to persons employed by a Member of Parliament (including House Officers or Members responsible for a National Caucus Research Office), as well as interns or volunteers who carry out duties for a Member.

The Board will publish the aggregate amount of legal fees reimbursed to Members and employees under the policy each quarter, as well as the number of requests for reimbursement of legal fees it has received during that time. This information is to be published on the following quarterly schedule in future:

| Quarter | Posted by |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| April 1 to June 30 | August 30 |
| July 1 to September 30 | November 30 |
| October 1 to December 31 | February 28 |
| January 1 to March 31 | May 31 |

For reasons of confidentiality, no further information can be shared regarding the reported reimbursements.

Quick Facts

- Members must consult the Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel (OLCPC) when a legal issue arises. The OLCPC is the in-house counsel for the House of Commons and its Members, committees, the Board and the House Administration.
- The Board reviews each request for reimbursement of legal fees on a case-by-case basis, having considered the eligibility criteria under the policy. Ultimately, the reimbursement of legal fees is at the sole discretion of the Board.
- If a request is granted, legal fees are reimbursed at rates pre-established by the Board, as set out in the policy. If a request is not granted, Members are required to personally assume the payment of the legal fees.
- All reimbursed legal fees are also included in the amounts published annually in the *Public Accounts of Canada*.

For more information:

Heather Bradley
 Director of Communications
 Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons
 613-995-7882
heather.bradley@parl.gc.ca