

MANDATE

OBJECTIVE: An Independent Review of Compensation and Benefits of Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

THE PROCESS:

1. The Government asks the Speaker to initiate a Review
2. The Speaker clarifies the terms of reference in consultation with the Members' Services Committee
3. The Panel would be selected by the Speaker
4. The Panel would undertake its work and submit the Report to the Speaker within 120 days of the agreed start date. The Panel would determine its work schedule and processes and required professional resources. Assembly funds would be allocated to support the work of the Panel.
5. The Speaker would immediately make the report available to Members and the Public and table it in the Assembly.
6. The recommendations of the Report could be debated in the Assembly and if approved be forwarded to the Members' Services Committee and the Government to implement recommendations in their respective areas of responsibility

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The recommendations implemented would come into effect following the next General Election

BY WHOM: An Independent Panel of One Member **OR** a Panel of Three Members

MANDATE: To review and make recommendations to the Assembly regarding the compensation, benefits and allowances to be paid to the Members of the Legislative Assembly under the authority of the Assembly or the Government of Alberta, such items to include:

1. Member Indemnity and Tax Free Expense Allowance
2. Allowances for Offices other than MLA (Premier, Speaker, Minister with Portfolio, Minister without Portfolio, Leader of the Official Opposition, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees, Leader of a Recognized Opposition Party)
3. Special Members' Allowances (Official Opposition House Leader, Third Party House Leader, Chief Government Whip, Assistant Government Whip, Chief Opposition Whip, Assistant Opposition Whip, Third Party Whip)
4. Compensation for serving on Legislative Assembly committees
5. Compensation for serving on Government committees and holding other government funded offices
6. The RRSP Allowance
7. The Transition Allowance and/or consideration of a pension plan.
8. Health Care Benefits and Life Insurance Provisions
9. The impact on Members of "double dipping" provisions in some pension plans

BENCHMARKS:

The Panel would make appropriate compensation and benefit comparisons to other jurisdictions including:

1. Canadian federal, provincial and territorial parliaments
2. Comparable Commonwealth parliaments
3. Alberta Queen's Bench and Provincial Court Judges
4. Senior public servants in Alberta including provincial, university, municipal, education and health care sectors
5. Others as determined by the panel

EXPECTATIONS:

1. The Panel would review the above matters and provide recommendations for consideration by the Legislative Assembly
2. The Panel would make recommendations on the process for future review and adjustment of Members compensation, benefits and allowances