



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2011

#### **MLA Compensation and Benefits to Undergo Independent Review**

Speaker Ken Kowalski today announced that the Honourable John C. (Jack) Major C.C., QC will conduct an independent review of the compensation and benefit package provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

The Honourable John C. (Jack) Major is a retired Supreme Court of Canada justice who has had a distinguished legal and judicial career. After 34 years in private legal practice in Calgary, he was appointed to the Alberta Court of Appeal in 1991 and was elevated to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1992. During his tenure with the Supreme Court he presided in approximately 1,000 cases on a wide range of matters.

Upon his retirement from the Court he was appointed to the Alberta Securities Commission as an independent member and in May 2006 was appointed as Commissioner to conduct an inquiry into the investigation of the bombing of Air India Flight 182, the report on which was completed and released in June of 2010. He continues to provide counsel to a major Canadian law firm and provide mediation/arbitration services in his ongoing legal practice.

Honourable John Major is a member of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the Canadian Judges Conference. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1972 and was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in July 2008.

"I am very pleased that such a distinguished Canadian has agreed to conduct this review for the Assembly. The expectation is that the Honourable Mr. Major will not only review current compensation and benefit levels but also provide recommendations on the process for future review and adjustments to these elements," said Speaker Kowalski. "It is my understanding that Justice Major will be able to commence his work in early January. We look forward to receiving the Report within 120 days of his start date."

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“The mandate for this review was discussed in the Special Standing Committee on Members’ Services on November 16, 2011 after I received a request from the Premier to initiate a review. I was supported by the Committee to move forward. Today’s announcement is the completion of the initial phase of the review process,” said Speaker Kowalski.

“This report will be tabled and its recommendations publicly debated in the Assembly,” explained Kowalski. “Any recommendations implemented by the Assembly would take effect following the next general election.”

- 30 -

**Contact**

Beverly Alenius  
Executive Assistant to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
780.427.2464

*For calls outside of the Edmonton area, call 310.0000 and enter the seven-digit phone number*

Hon. John C. (Jack) Major C.C., QC  
403-298-3268

Backgrounder: Mandate for Compensation and Benefits Review