

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATORS

For many years legislators in most Canadian jurisdictions could only increase their salary by introducing a bill which went through the usual legislative process. The problem with introducing legislation, even when based on recommendations of an impartial committee, is that it invites public criticism and thus tends to inhibit frequent changes.

To eliminate the need for full scale debate on each increase Parliament passed an amendment to the Senate and House of Commons Act in 1975. Beginning January 1, 1976 there was to be an automatic increase of 7 per cent or an amount equal to the percentage increase in the Industrial Composite Index for the preceding twelve months whichever was lesser. In view of the anti-inflation policy announced in October 1975 the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Chrétien, subsequently introduced a bill to eliminate the increase for 1976. Some members felt this was contrary to the principle that salary matters would no longer require a specific bill, however, it was adopted and the increase was cancelled.

For the last two years federal parliamentarians have received increases amounting to approximately 5.6 per cent in 1977 and 5.0 per cent in 1978.

The following table (at pages 26 & 27) shows the indemnity and expense allowances for federal and provincial legislators. Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick along with the Yukon and Northwest Territories have indexed the salary of legislators. Both Alberta and Saskatchewan have statutes providing for annual increases over a three or four-year period. In Nova Scotia legislation specifies that indemnities and allowances be reviewed at least every four years by a Select Committee of the House. In 1976 British Columbia legislators reduced their salary by 10 per cent for a one-year period which ended on April 1, 1977.

Aside from the indemnity and expense allowances shown in the table parliamentarians enjoy a wide range of benefits and services which enable them to carry out their legislative and representat

functions. For example, a federal member is entitled to 52 return trips by air to any place in Canada. He is also entitled to free railway travel. Federal members have franking privileges for sending and receiving first class mail in Canada and for all documents printed by both Houses. Members may also send four mailings per year to constituents. They can use the government leased telephone or credit cards for long distance calls. Since 1972 each member of the House of Commons has been given at least two adjoining offices, furnished and equipped on his behalf. He is also given funds to hire three secretaries or research assistants and he may draw upon the resources of the party caucus research staff, the Library of Parliament, the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and of course the clerical staff and committees' branch of the House of Commons. Members are permitted \$4,800. to rent a constituency office and approximately \$10,000. to staff it. Although not all members have chosen to take advantage of these allowances.

Most provinces also provide transportation, communication, constituency and other allowances although the amounts and conditions vary widely from one legislature to another. In all provinces except Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island members serving on committees during an adjournment receive a daily allowance. Each legislature has a pension plan for its legislators but once again the details differ considerably.

A DETAILED ARTICLE ON
OTHER ALLOWANCES FOR
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT
ISSUE OF OUR REVIEW

	House of Commons	Senate	Alta.	B.C.	Man.	N.B.
Indemnity	26,900	26,900	12,352	16,000	12,199	12,152
Expense allowance	12,000-16,000	5,900	6,175	8,000	6,099	4,050
Most recent increase	1978	1978	1978	1974	1977	1978
Prime Minister	33,000	-	34,962	28,000	16,600	25,000
Opposition Leader	20,000	8,500	28,488	19,000	15,600	16,000
Minister	20,000	-	28,488	24,000	15,600	16,000
Minister without portfolio	20,000	-	20,719	21,000	-	10,000
Parliamentary Secretary	5,300	-	-	-	2,500	-
Speaker	20,000	12,500	10,360	19,000	5,000	5,000
Deputy Speaker	8,000	-	6,475	8,500	2,500	2,500
Chairman of a Select Ctee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Chairman of Ctees	5,300	-	-	-	-	-
Asst. Deputy Chairman of Ctees	5,300	-	-	-	-	-
Leader of Recognized Party	5,300	-	-	8,500	6,000	-
Chief Government Whip	5,300	-	-	-	-	500
Chief Opposition Whip	5,300	-	-	-	-	500
Chief Whip Recognized Party	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Government Whip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Opposition Whip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whip	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Leader Official Opposition	5,300	-	-	-	-	-
House Leader Recognized Party	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leader of the Government	-	20,000	-	-	-	-
Deputy Government Leader	-	4,200	-	-	-	-
Deputy Opposition Leader	-	3,400	-	-	-	-

NOTE: Indemnity and expense allowances as of September 1978
Other allowances as of November 1977.

(a) Includes both annual and sessional expense allowance.
Slightly higher for members from Athabasca and Cumberland.

Nfld.	N.S.	Ont.	P.E.I.	Que.	Sask.	NW.T.	Yukon
12,450	9,600	19,242	10,000	27,800	8,470	11,564	11,912
225-10,225	4,800	7,500	5,000	7,000	11,090	actual	actual
1978	1974	1978	1978	1977	1978	expenses	expenses
						1978	1978
22,555	25,000	25,000	24,500	41,700	24,580	-	-
14,245	21,000	18,000	10,000	30,580	18,205	-	-
14,245	21,000	18,000	14,500	30,580	18,205	-	-
8,310	21,000	7,500	14,500	-	-	-	-
-	-	5,000	-	8,340	3,000	-	-
8,310	11,000	9,000	3,000	30,580	6,535	12,614	20,200
5,935	5,000	5,000	1,500	13,900	3,925	12,114	14,755
-	-	-	-	4,170	-	-	-
2,970	6,000	3,000	-	12,510	9,102	11,614	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	-
2,970	50 x b	5,000	-	12,510	1,310	-	-
2,970	50 x b	3,000	-	8,340	1,310	-	-
-	50 x b	2,500	-	6,950	655	-	-
-	-	3,000	-	6,950	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	6,950	-	-	-
-	-	2,100	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	5,000	-	12,510	-	-	-
-	-	2,500	-	11,120	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(b) Whip's salary is equal to \$50 multiplied by the number of members in the caucus.