



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
BUREAU DE RÉGIE INTERNE

Statement

Use of House of Commons Resources for Political Offices

Ottawa – April 8, 2014 – The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, has confirmed that the Board is conducting an investigation into the use of House of Commons resources in offices outside of the Parliamentary Precinct or constituency offices. This investigation is further to allegations of improper use of House resources brought forward to the Board, specifically related to the [Members By-law](#) (section 4.3).

While the investigation is proceeding, the Board is acting quickly to end the performance of parliamentary work and political party work from the same location, adopting the following provisional amendment to the *Members By-law*:

Place of Work

93.1(1) No employee of a Member or House Officer may have as their regular place of work any space in premises owned, leased or under the effective control of a political party.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to contractors.

(3) Contravention of subsection (1) constitutes grounds for dismissal with due notice.

(4) Within 48 hours of learning of a contravention of subsection (1), the relevant Member or House Officer shall report the same to the Clerk in writing, together with a statement indicating whether the employee or contractor has been terminated, or reasons why termination has not been effected.

(5) The Clerk shall inform the Board within 5 days of receiving a report mentioned in subsection (4).

(6) This section is repealed effective on the dissolution of the 41st Parliament.

(7) This section becomes effective April 14, 2014.

Coming into force April 14, 2014, this amendment has the effect of preventing employees or contractors whose salaries or fees are paid using House of Commons budgets from working on premises owned, leased or under the control of a political party. Employee dismissal will only occur if employees performing parliamentary work are not moved from political party premises.

The Board of Internal Economy is the governing body of the House of Commons. The Board is created by the *Parliament of Canada Act* and has equal representation from the governing party and the officially recognized parties (i.e. those holding at least 12 seats in the House). It is chaired by the Speaker of the House. The Board is responsible for establishing [by-laws, policies and guidelines](#) relating to expenditures and resources provided to Members in order to carry out their parliamentary functions. This authority is given to the Board by the [Parliament of Canada Act](#). In keeping with the Board's commitment to public disclosure, the minutes of Board meetings are tabled in the House and posted on parl.gc.ca, along with other key documents.

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