

Parliament be prohibited from the holding of any other elected political office.

Comment:

Your Committee is of the opinion that the holding of two elected offices constitutes a potential conflict of interest for the Member of Parliament, and a necessary reduction in his capacity to serve as a Member of Parliament. Your Committee recommends therefore that the draft Independence of Parliament legislation reflect a more precise prohibition against Members of Parliament holding such offices as the following:

- (a) membership on a municipal council;
- (b) mayoralty or the office of reeve;
- (c) any elected office which is under the authority or control of a provincial or municipal government;

and that the legislation be so drafted as to provide that a Member of Parliament be required to resign all other elected offices within a period of six months, in order to continue holding his seat in the House of Commons.

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As a separate consideration, and touching directly or indirectly upon Proposals 5, 10, 15, 16 and 17, your Committee recommends that, in any case where a Member of Parliament has been given a leave of absence from his employment, the terms and conditions of such a leave of absence be disclosed to the Registrar, as defined hereinafter, by the Member within six months of his assuming office.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

1. It is recommended that the Proposals entitled "Government Contracts" be amended or deleted to meet the following counterproposals:

- (a) that, in order to clarify the requirement that a Member of Parliament avoid and sever connections with companies engaged in government contracts, as specified in the proposed "Independence of Parliament Act", a schedule listing those government corporations and agencies which would put a Member of Parliament in conflict of interest, if his or her company or one in which he or she had the required percentage of interest entered into contractual business arrangements with such corporations or agencies, be compiled and published annually by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections in a Report to the House.

Comment:

Such a listing would help to differentiate such government corporations, etc., from those with joint public and private equity participation, with whom a contractual business arrangement entered into by a Member of Parliament, his business firm, or one in which he had the

specified percentage of interest, would not ordinarily be unlawful.

- (b) that references to the Clerk be deleted and replaced with the word "Registrar".

Comment:

Subsequent recommendations in this Report make it desirable that a "Registrar" be responsible for the receiving and filing of all public disclosures as well as certain recommended types of confidential registration of property or pecuniary interests.

- (c) that the amount of \$1,000.00 referred to in Proposal 11, paragraph (b) be changed so as to read \$5,000.00, and that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be made responsible for a periodic review and determination of this amount.

Comment:

Your Committee is recommending the increase in the exempted contract amount in order to reduce the expected number of requests put before the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections under the terms of Proposal 24.

- (d) that Proposal 14 be deleted in its entirety.

Comment:

Your Committee is recommending that Proposal 14 be deleted in order to avoid any reduction in the number of citizens willing to be candidates, and has taken into consideration the adverse effect of certain provincial legislation of this type.

FINANCIAL INTERESTS

It is recommended that the Proposals entitled: "Financial Interests" be expanded to include the "Office of Registrar", whose existence is intended to assure the public of the determination of Members of Parliament to avoid potential or actual conflicts of interests.

Comment:

Your Committee agrees with the statement in the Green Paper that "Members may increasingly find themselves in situations for which no adequate rules or guidelines exist to aid them in ensuring that their conduct respects their fiduciary duty."

Accordingly, your Committee envisages the function of the Registrar as being:

- (a) The registration of an annual statement of the pecuniary interests of each Member of Parliament, and the making and filing of records pertaining thereto;
- (b) The provision of confidential advice to Members of Parliament, at their request, on any matter that may concern a possible conflict of interest of the Member;