



April 1, 2008

April Fool\$

MLAs now paid 15.4 percent more than in 2006 Transition Allowances up 30 percent

REGINA: MLA pay has increased by 15.4 percent in just two years, from a taxable equivalent of \$73,173 to \$84,409 today, says the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF). Wage hikes mandated by an all-party committee in 2006 led to the drastic increases. The basic MLA indemnity rose to \$82,110 following the last election, to be indexed for inflation each April 1. A 2.8 percent increase gives cabinet ministers an annual wage of \$127,384. Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz will make \$133,523, and Premier Wall, \$145,799.

Even though the Cumberland seat is vacant, total wages now reach \$5.85 million. The average salary is currently \$102,783, since fully 37 of the 57 sitting MLAs receive bonuses for additional duties. Roles include premier, opposition leader, house leader or deputy house leader, speaker, deputy speaker, cabinet minister, committee chair or deputy chair, whip or deputy whip. These amounts would be even higher had the government not declined to pay the \$12,560 to which the seven legislative secretaries would otherwise be entitled.

"Most constituents could only dream of this much money," said Lee Harding, Saskatchewan Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. "In January, the average weekly earnings of Saskatchewan people was \$731.72, which translates to an annual wage of \$38,049. The average MLA earns more than two-and-a-half times that amount, insulating them from the financial realities of the constituents they represent.

"Incredibly, finance Minister Rod Gantfoer recently said that he has *never* heard members of the public express concern about the level of MLA salaries," said Harding. "To be sure, some of our supporters would welcome lower wages for MLAs, and would be happy to let the minister know it. These sizeable raises have already fuelled similar demands from public sector unions, and the total cost to taxpayers could be substantial."

MLAs receive many additional benefits for their public service, including health and dental benefits. Members contribute nine percent of their salary to a pension, and the government matches the amount. They are eligible for this pension at the age of 50. As well, all MLAs receive a "transition allowance" when they leave office equivalent to one month's pay for every year served. An outgoing 12-year MLA would have received \$64,817 in 2006, but would now get \$84,409—a 30.2 percent increase.

At the time of the MLA indemnity review in 2006, MLAs were paid \$64,817, plus a \$5,426 tax-free allowance, to total \$70,243. The CTF recommended that the tax-free portion become fully taxable, thereby lowering the real dollar value by \$2,930. The CTF further proposed that future increases be tied to an external amount, such as Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN - SALARIES & ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS
Effective April 1, 2008 *

	Annual Indemnity	Additional Allowance	Total
Member of the Legislative Assembly	\$84,409	-	\$84,409
Speaker	\$84,409	\$42,975	\$127,384
Deputy Speaker	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Premier	\$84,409	\$61,390	\$145,799
Deputy Premier	\$84,409	\$49,114	\$133,523
Minister	\$84,409	\$42,975	\$127,384
Leader of the Opposition	\$84,409	\$42,975	\$127,384
Leader of the Third Party	\$84,409	\$21,487	\$105,896
Deputy Chair of Committees	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Legislative Secretary	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Government House Leader	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Deputy Government House Leader	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Opposition House Leader	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Deputy Opposition House Leader	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Third Party House Leader	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Government Whip	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Opposition Whip	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Third Party Whip	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Government Deputy Whip	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Opposition Deputy Whip	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689
Chair, Standing or Special Committee	\$84,409	\$12,560	\$96,969
Deputy Chair, Standing or Special Committee	\$84,409	\$6,280	\$90,689

* April 1, 2008 - Cost-of-living increase of 2.8% over 2007-08 amounts was applied to Members' remuneration certain travel amounts, the Committee indemnity and the Constituency Service Expenses provision.

Other Expense Provisions

1. **Telephone and Related Expenses** as authorized by Section 49(3)(c) of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007* and Directive #2 of the Board of Internal Economy.
2. Reimbursement or direct payment for **Constituency Service Expenses** as provided by Sections 49(3)(d) and 49(3)(e) of the Act and Directive #4.1 of the Board of Internal Economy. Maximum expense provision for 2008-09 is \$40,607.
3. Provision for **Constituency Assistant Expenses** to an annual maximum of \$49,812 as provided by Section 49(3)(d) of the Act and Directive #6 of the Board of Internal Economy. (April 1, 2008 maximum bi-weekly rate - \$1,910.60.)
4. **MLA Travel and Living Expenses** for Members, as provided by Section 49(3)(b) of the Act and Directive #3.1 of the Board of Internal Economy.
Maximum expense provision is calculated using a formula based on 46.5 cents per kilometre. (Apr. 1/08).
Reimbursement of actual mileage expenses at the rate of 46.5 cents per kilometre. (Apr. 1/08).
Reimbursement of other transportation expenses based on actual costs.

Reimbursement for living expenses: meals based on the Public Service rate of \$41 per day or actual costs; accommodation based on actual costs or the Public Service rate of \$35 (Oct.1/05) per day for private accommodation.

Regina accommodation expenses for Members representing constituencies wholly outside Regina, to a maximum of \$33 for each day the Regina accommodation is available for the Member's use.

During session, special air travel provisions for Members living 350 kilometres or more from Regina to travel between Regina and their home at the start and end of the sessional week.

Air travel for northern Members: Two return trips to each community within the constituency as provided by Section 49(3)(f) of the Act and Board of Internal Economy Directive #3.1.

5. **Committee Indemnity and Expenses** - An indemnity of \$97 for each day a Member attends a Committee meeting or attends to the business of a Committee, outside of session or outside of Regina when Session is on, as provided by Section 49(3)(i) of the Act and Board of Internal Economy Directive #17.2.
May claim mileage costs and living expenses (meals and accommodation) for each meeting day, in accordance with the provisions of Directive #3.1 - *MLA Travel and Living Expenses*.

Member	Party	Constituency	Indemnity	Position	Bonus	Total
Mr. Dennis Alchurch	SKP	Rosthern-Shellbrook	84,409			84,409
Ms. Pat Atkinson	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana	84,409	Deputy Leader, Opposition	12,560	96,969
Mr. Buckley Belanger	NDP	Athabasca	84,409			84,409
Hon. Bob Bjornerud	SKP	Melville-Saltcoats	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Hon. Bill Boyd	SKP	Kindersley	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Fred Bradshaw	SKP	Carrot River Valley	84,409			84,409
Mr. Greg P. Brkich	SKP	Arm River-Watrous	84,409	Deputy Whip, Government	6,280	90,689
Mr. Cam Broten	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place	84,409			84,409
Mr. Lorne Calvert	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale	84,409	Leader of the Opposition	42,975	127,384
Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff	SKP	Saskatoon Silver Springs	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Michael Chisholm	SKP	Cut Knife-Turtleford	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Hon. Dan D'Autremont	SKP	Cannington	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Hon. June Draude	SKP	Kelvington-Wadena	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Dustin Duncan	SKP	Weyburn-Big Muddy	84,409	Committee Chair	12,560	96,969
Ms. Doreen Eagles	SKP	Estevan	84,409			84,409
Hon. Wayne Elhard	SKP	Cypress Hills	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. David Forbes	NDP	Saskatoon Centre	84,409			84,409
Mr. Darcy Furber	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote	84,409			84,409
Hon. Rod Gantefer	SKP	Melfort	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Hon. Donna Harpauer	SKP	Humboldt	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Ron Harper	NDP	Regina Northeast	84,409	Deputy Committee Chair	6,280	90,689
Mr. Jeremy Harrison	SKP	Meadow Lake	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Mr. Glen Hart	SKP	Last Mountain-Touchwood	84,409	Committee Chair	12,560	96,969
Hon. Nancy Heppner	SKP	Martensville	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Hon. Darryl Hickie	SKP	Prince Albert Carlton	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Ms. Deb Higgins	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow	84,409	Deputy Committee Chair	6,280	90,689
Hon. Bill Hutchinson	SKP	Regina South	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. D. F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert	SKP	Wood River	84,409	Committee Chair	12,560	96,969
Mr. Andy Iwanchuk	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview	84,409	Whip, Opposition	12,560	96,969
Ms. Judy Junor	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview	84,409	Deputy Committee Chair	6,280	90,689
Mr. Delbert Kirsch	SKP	Batoche	84,409	Committee Chair	12,560	96,969
Hon. Ken Krawetz	SKP	Canora-Pelly	84,409	Deputy Premier	49,114	133,523
Mr. Serge LeClerc	SKP	Saskatoon Northwest	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Mr. Warren McCall	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre	84,409			84,409
Mr. Tim McMillan	SKP	Lloydminster	84,409			84,409
Hon. Don McMorris	SKP	Indian Head-Milestone	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Warren Michelson	SKP	Moose Jaw North	84,409	Deputy Committee Chair	6,280	90,689
Hon. Don Morgan	SKP	Saskatoon Southeast	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Ms. Sandra Morin	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres	84,409	Deputy Whip, Opposition	6,280	90,689
Mr. John Nilson	NDP	Regina Lakeview	84,409			84,409
Hon. Rob Norris	SKP	Saskatoon Greystone	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Greg Ottenbreit	SKP	Yorkton	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Mr. Frank Quennell	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin	84,409			84,409
Mr. Jim Reiter	SKP	Rosetown-Elrose	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Ms. Laura Ross	SKP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Ms. Joceline Schriemer	SKP	Saskatoon Sutherland	84,409	Legislative Secretary*		84,409
Hon. Lyle Stewart	SKP	Thunder Creek	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Mr. Len Taylor	NDP	The Battlefords	84,409	Opp. House Leader	12,560	96,969
Hon. Christine Tell	SKP	Regina Wascana Plains	84,409	Cabinet Minister	42,975	127,384
Hon. Don Toth	SKP	Moosomin	84,409	Speaker	42,975	127,384
Mr. Kim Trew	NDP	Regina Coronation Park	84,409	Deputy Committee Chair	6,280	90,689
Mr. Harry Van Mulligen	NDP	Regina Douglas Park	84,409	Committee Chair	12,560	96,969
Hon. Brad Wall	SKP	Swift Current	84,409	Premier	61,390	145,799
Mr. Randy Weekes	SKP	Biggar	84,409	Gov. Whip	12,560	96,969
Ms. Nadine Wilson	SKP	Saskatchewan Rivers	84,409			84,409
Mr. Trent Wotherspoon	NDP	Regina Rosemont	84,409			84,409
Mr. Kevin Yates	NDP	Regina Dewdney	84,409	Dep. House Leader, Opp.	6,280	90,689
TOTAL (*The government announced on Nov. 21 that legislative secretaries will not receive their \$12,560 entitlement)						\$5,858,647
Average (not counting vacant Cumberland riding)						\$102,783