

Media Advisory

Annual Report on the *House of Commons Policy on Preventing and Addressing Harassment* 2015–2016

Ottawa – June 21, 2016 – The Annual Report on the House of Commons Policy on Preventing and Addressing Harassment 2015–2016 is now available on parl.gc.ca.

The Chief Human Resources Officer of the House of Commons Administration is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the <u>House of Commons Policy on Preventing and Addressing Harassment</u> and has provided the Board of Internal Economy with an annual statistical report on the number, nature and outcome of harassment complaints, as well as enquiries. This first report covers the period between December 10, 2014 (the date the policy came into effect) and March 31, 2016. Subsequent reports will be prepared by fiscal year (April 1 to March 31 of the following year).

The Board of Internal Economy adopted the policy during the 41st Parliament; it applies to Members and House Officers as employers and their employees, as well as to Research Office employees. The policy framework provides access to the following programs:

- Finding Solutions Together, a confidential program for informal conflict management resolution;
- Harassment Prevention Program, which focuses on increasing awareness and proactively stopping potential harassment at its earliest stages.

Information sessions have been held for Members and their employees in support of the implementation of the policy framework. Further work is being done to create an online training module that will allow the House of Commons to deliver just-in-time training to targeted groups anywhere in Canada.

The Board is strongly committed to supporting Members, House Officers, Research Offices and their respective employees in addressing complaints, but also in actively promoting and maintaining a harassment-free workplace.

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