



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
BUREAU DE RÉGIE INTERNE

Media Release

Modernization and Posting of the By-laws Made by the Board of Internal Economy

OTTAWA (April 2, 2012) – In 2010, the Board of Internal Economy agreed to proceed with a project to update and consolidate its by-laws. The revised by-laws were approved by the Board on November 21 and December 5, 2011, and came into force on April 1, 2012.

The by-laws are key governing documents of the House of Commons. Together with the *Parliament of Canada Act*, they form the basis of all policies and guidelines regarding the use of resources that are available to Members for them to carry out their parliamentary functions.

The revised by-laws simplify the structure by combining the 14 existing by-laws into four new by-laws.

1. [Members By-law](#)
2. [Committees By-law](#)
3. [Governance and Administration By-law](#)
4. [Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Board of Internal Economy](#)

The Board also made policy changes that will have an impact on the use and provision of resources to Members and House Officers. The policy changes affect the following areas and are further described in the attached document. Otherwise policies have not changed.

- Definition of parliamentary functions
- Governing principles
- Members' Office Budgets
- Travel
- Definition of immediate family
- Contracting
- Party resources for House Officers

The Board approved transition strategies, also further described in the attached document.

The Board is responsible for establishing the by-laws, policies and guidelines relating to expenditures and resources provided to Members and House Officers. It has the exclusive authority to determine whether expenditures are proper and in accordance with the by-laws, policies and guidelines that have been established. This authority is given to the Board by the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

The Board places a high priority on rigorous rules and transparency regarding the oversight of the House of Commons. The revised by-laws are posted on www.parl.gc.ca.

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