



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 – Board Decision

**Ottawa – August 12, 2014** – The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, has confirmed that, further to its statement of [April 8, 2014](#), the Board has determined that some New Democratic Party Members inappropriately used parliamentary resources for certain employment, telecommunication and travel expenses. Individual Members' Office Budgets were used to supplement the NDP Caucus Research budget.

After reviewing the information relating to place of work and duties, the Board concluded that the employees in question were not working in a parliamentary office or a constituency office, and therefore the use of parliamentary resources for employment, telecommunication and travel expenses contravenes the [Members By-law](#). Further to this conclusion, the Board:

- Notes that the House Administration has provided the Board with evidence that several Members of the NDP submitted false information about the place of work of certain employees;
- Notes that the House Administration has provided an analysis of information provided by Nycole Turmel, M.P. on July 22, 2014, and that this analysis pertains only to the type of work performed in satellite offices, and does not address concerns about engaging staff to work in locations not authorized by the *Members By-law*;
- From a review of the actual information relating to the place of work, the Board concludes that the employees were not working in a constituency office or parliamentary office and therefore expenditures for employment and related expenses were not a proper use of parliamentary funds as being contrary to the *Members By-law*, which requires staff to be employed in a constituency office or a parliamentary office;
- Notes that the NDP continues to engage in the practice of hiring staff to work in locations not authorized by the *Members By-law* despite the ongoing review of this matter by the Board;
- Directs the House Administration to prepare for the consideration of the Board a range of specific options for remedy with respect to each of the Members who contributed to the employment or remuneration of pooled staff who were not located in a constituency office or a parliamentary office. These options should take into consideration information relating to salaries, travel, hospitality, furniture, equipment, materiel or other goods or services provided to those Members and their employees;
- Notes that the Board and the Administration do not have the capacity to verify the NDP submissions asserting that the nature of work performed in satellite offices was exclusively parliamentary in nature;

- Notes that the question of whether work performed in satellite offices may have constituted an “in kind” donation to a political party contrary to the *Canada Elections Act* is a matter for Elections Canada, not the Board, and therefore directs the Speaker to refer all relevant information in the possession of the Board to the Chief Electoral Officer, as he did in the case of the NDP mailings earlier this year.

The Board has directed the House of Commons Administration to provide advice on appropriate remedies at its next meeting.

Please consult the [backgrounder](#) for detailed context on this decision.

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