

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!

## From the Legislative Assembly of BC., Member's Handbook B.C. MLA's pay, allowances and additional benefits.

Each caucus member of the Legislature is paid \$72,100 annually but voted for a five percent salary cut which brings their salary to \$68,500, effective April 1st, 2002. There is, however, a standard annual increase each April.

The office of each member in the Parliament Buildings is provided with furniture, and the usual office equipment in addition to standard consumable office supplies. Personalized stationery, envelopes and business cards are free, as is parking, postage, courier service, fax, long distance phone calls, cell phone charges and calling card services. Each member may have 75 personal photographs taken each year. Additionally there is an allowance of \$84,000 for a constituency office and a constituency assistant, plus the employer's share of compulsory payroll deductions. Office furniture, equipment, computers, telephones, printers, fax, photocopy equipment, heat, apportioned property taxes, common area expenses, parking and other costs are paid by the Legislature, as well as blanket insurance coverage for fire, theft, vandalism and personal liability.

After each election, new members are allowed \$2,000 for constituency office equipment; returning members are eligible for \$1,000. Members who live outside Victoria receive \$150 for each sitting day. Members who live in Victoria and those who return to their constituencies overnight are entitled to \$51.50 for each sitting day.

Members, their assistants, spouses and dependents share a total of 52 paid economy air travel return trips (including air travel insurance) between the capital and their constituency. In addition members receive –depending on location - in-constituency travel allowances, ranging from \$3,190 for urban constituencies to \$8,580 for coastal or remote regions. The latter allowance may be supplemented by an additional \$8,580 for personal travel, meals and accommodation. Constituency assistants are entitled to an allowance one third that of their member's allowance. Other special allowances range from \$3,000 for a deputy chair of select or special committees up to \$45,000 for the Premier.

As well, members have CPP, the Medical Services Plan of BC, a 100% employer paid taxable benefit, an extended health care and dental plan, 100% paid for by the government; and a group life insurance plan, expendable to dependants. The premium on the first \$80,000 is paid by the Legislature which also contributes nine percent of the members' contribution to the MLA group RRSP.