

Introduction

Section 15(1) of the *Auditor General Act* requires the Auditor General to report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council instances the Auditor General becomes aware of during the course of an audit which may involve improper retention or misappropriation of public money or another activity that may constitute an offence under the *Criminal Code* or another Act.

A matter of this nature came to my attention during my review of the appropriateness of constituency allowance expenditures claimed by Members of the House of Assembly and the adequacy of supporting documentation.

As outlined by the Commission of Internal Economy, “*Each Member [of the House of Assembly] is entitled to an accountable constituency allowance. This allowance is for the payment of expenditures incurred in the performance of constituency business and may cover such items as office rental, equipment, supplies, secretarial and other support services, information material such as newspapers, advertising, purchase of flags, pins, etc..*”

Findings

On 8 January 2007, I reported through the Minister of Finance, to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, that a review of expenditures at the House of Assembly identified 20 instances totalling \$3,770 where Mr. John Hickey, M.H.A. submitted claims and received reimbursement for items that had already been claimed by him and reimbursed to him. These double billings were claimed by Mr. Hickey on Members Constituency Expense Claim forms signed and filed by him with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Assembly during the fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The attached schedule provides details on the double billings by Mr. Hickey.

Recommendation

I recommended that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council refer the matter of Mr. Hickey's double billings for fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006 to the Department of Justice.