

## ETHICS BULLETIN

*Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner  
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**To:** Members of the Legislative Assembly

**From:** The Honourable H.A.D. Oliver, Q.C.  
Commissioner

This is the second of what I hope will be a series of bulletins dealing with a variety of topical issues arising under or in connection with the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*.

### **USE OF CONSTITUENTS' NAMES, ADDRESSES, EMAIL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR PARTY POLITICAL PURPOSES**

Some constituents have sought guidance regarding the use of constituents' email addresses for party political purposes, resulting in the receipt by the constituents of newsletters and solicitations for financial support from a political constituency association.

Members are reminded that a constituency office represents all constituents in the riding and that the expenses of that office are paid by the Legislative Assembly. It is imperative that the office remain non-partisan at all times and in that respect it is inappropriate to permit any partisan political activities in the office. MLAs are entitled to participate in initiatives which are political in nature, however, such participation must be outside the constituency office, after hours and must not interfere with their responsibilities as MLAs.

A constituency office is permitted to compile lists of contacts made with the office either by organizations promoting or opposing their work, or by individuals who have sought assistance from the office. Such lists may be used for purposes of sending invitations for "information sessions" that are intended to keep constituents informed. This kind of activity is considered one of the responsibilities of a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

It is the Commissioner's opinion that such lists of addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. are confidential and that it is improper to provide such lists to Members' riding associations or any other outside organization and that to do so may violate the privacy of the constituents.