



**COMMISSION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST
(ONTARIO)**

REPORT

of

**THE HONOURABLE GREGORY T. EVANS
COMMISSIONER**

**RE: MR. CHRIS STOCKWELL, M.P.P.,
ETOBICOKE WEST**

**TORONTO, ONTARIO
JANUARY 11, 1995**

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER

RE: MR. CHRIS STOCKWELL, M.P.P., ETOBICOKE WEST

BACKGROUND

Section 12(1) of the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1988* (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") provides:

"12(1) Every member shall, within sixty day days of being elected, and thereafter annually, file with the Commissioner a disclosure statement in the form prescribed by the regulations."

All members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly have complied with these requirements with the exception of the member from Etobicoke West, Mr. Chris Stockwell.

On August 17, 1994, all members of the Legislative Assembly were sent a letter enclosing the disclosure forms required to be completed and returned to the Commission on Conflict of Interest by October 3, 1994.

On September 26th, in order to assist members in complying with the legislation, my Executive Assistant, Lynn Harris, reminded the Progressive Conservative House Leader's office by fax of the October 3, 1994 deadline for filing disclosure forms, with a suggestion that they may wish to remind the members of their caucus.

On October 5, 1994, Lynn Harris sent by fax a memorandum to Mr. Stockwell advising if the completed disclosure form was not received by October 7th, it may become necessary for the Commissioner to proceed under s.17 of the *Act*.

The disclosure form was not received.

On October 11, 1994, Lynn Harris contacted Mr. Stockwell's office by telephone to advise if the completed disclosure form was not received by October 13th, she would

recommend to me that the member be reported to the Speaker pursuant s.17 of the *Act*.

Mr. Stockwell's disclosure form was received on October 13th.

On November 17, 1994, in accordance with s.13(1), I met with Mr. Stockwell to review his disclosure form.

On December 8th, during the preparation of Mr. Stockwell's Public Disclosure Statement, it came to my attention that the Private Company Disclosure Statement was incomplete. A blank copy of same was forwarded by same-day courier to Mr. Stockwell with the request that it be completed and returned to the Commission office by December 19th.

The completed disclosure form was not received.

Upon placing a telephone call to Mr. Stockwell's office on December 20th, we were advised the envelope had not been opened, however, upon opening it, we were informed the blank disclosure form was not enclosed. The disclosure form was sent immediately by fax to Mr. Stockwell's Queen's Park office with a request that it be completed and returned to the Commission office immediately.

The form was not received.

On January 3, 1995, Lynn Harris spoke with Mr. Stockwell's office advising the disclosure form had not been received and must be filed by Friday, January 6th, failing which there would be no further reminders or extensions and the matter would be dealt with by the Commissioner.

To date, the form has not been received and there has been no contact from Mr. Stockwell or his office.

FINDING OF FACT

Mr. Stockwell has refused to file a complete Private Company Disclosure Statement within the time provided by the *Act*.

OPINION

On numerous occasions, Mr. Stockwell has been granted extensions for filing the necessary information and despite attempts to have him comply, he has failed to cooperate fully with my office and has failed to file his Private Company Disclosure Statement, contrary to section 17 of the *Act*.

In my Remarks contained in the Commission's Annual Report, 1990-91, I stated:

"Good government and good ethics are inseparably intertwined. Only the most irresponsible legislator can fail to be impressed by the importance of ensuring that each individual member is accountable to the public for his or her actions. Upon the integrity of the member depends the integrity of the legislature and the trust and confidence of the electors."

One of the purposes of the *Act* is to restore and maintain public confidence in the integrity of our elected representatives to the Ontario Legislature. To continue to tolerate Mr. Stockwell's disregard of this legislation is tantamount to a breach of my duty as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to s.17(1)(a) of the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1988*, I hereby recommend that Mr. Chris Stockwell, M.P.P., Etobicoke West, be reprimanded for failure to comply with s.12 of the *Act*.

DATED at Toronto this 11th day of January, 1995.



The Honourable Gregory T. Evans,
Conflict of Interest Commissioner.