

OFFICE OF THE SENATE ETHICS OFFICER

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, June 9, 2009 – Senate Ethics Officer Jean T. Fournier today released his fourth annual report. The report was tabled in the Senate and covers the period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

“My approach is preventative, not punitive, said Mr. Fournier. I continue to believe that preventing conflicts from arising is preferable to conducting formal inquiries and investigations that are time-consuming and expensive, and that it is in the public interest to avoid conflicts rather than to attempt to deal with them once they have already arisen. The emphasis on prevention and education is one of the distinguishing characteristics and recognized strengths of the Canadian model of parliamentary ethics”.

The annual report reviews the main activities of the office over the past year, which include providing advice to individual senators on a confidential basis concerning their obligations under the Code, assisting them in remaining in compliance with the confidential and public disclosure requirements of the Code, conducting inquiries as may be necessary, and maintaining a Public Registry containing information that is required to be publicly disclosed.

“This past year, I provided over 200 opinions and advice, both formal and informal, of varying degree of complexity, said Mr. Fournier. I intend to continue to emphasize prevention by providing sound and timely opinions to senators and by meeting with individual senators at least once a year, whenever possible.”

The Senate Ethics Officer is an independent Officer of the Senate. His mandate is to administer, interpret and apply the Conflict of Interest Code for Senators.

For more information about the office and the annual report, please visit the Senate Ethics Office website: www.parl.gc.ca/seo-cse

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