



Fact Sheet

Role of Chamber Staff

During sittings of the Legislative Assembly, a number of positions provide services to the Speaker, Members and the Table Officers.

Sergeant-at-Arms

The position of Sergeant-at-Arms is formally provided for in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. A prestigious, but primarily symbolic position, its main function is to safeguard the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and provide protection to Members during sittings of the House.

At the beginning of each day's sitting, the Sergeant-at-Arms carries the Mace into the Chamber at the head of the daily procession, in front of the Speaker and Table Officers. The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for managing the Mace's position on its pedestal, depending on whether the House is in formal Session or sitting as the Committee of the Whole. The Sergeant-at-Arms escorts witnesses to and from their assigned seats at the witnesses' table.

In the event of a disruption on the part of a visitor in the Gallery, the Sergeant-at-Arms is expected to take action. In the event that the Speaker were to name a Member and suspend him or her for the remainder of the sitting day, the Sergeant-at-Arms would be directed to escort the Member out of the Chamber.

The position of Sergeant-at-Arms has been filled during Sessions on a rotating basis. Members have had the opportunity to nominate prominent individuals from their communities to fill the position. Often, the position has been filled by former members of the Canadian Rangers, or by respected community Elders. Both men and women have served in the position in Nunavut.

Pages

Pages serve primarily to deliver House documents and water to the Speaker, Members and Table Officers. Pages also deliver notes between Members or messages to staff outside of the Chamber. They also assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in the smooth functioning of the Chamber floor.

Pages are normally secondary school students. The Legislative Assembly's Page Program provides Members with the opportunity to sponsor youth from their communities to travel to Iqaluit to work as Pages during sittings of the House.