



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Legislative Offices

Wednesday, June 11, 2008
12:05 p.m.

Transcript No. 27-1-3

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Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Mitzel, Len, Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC), Chair
Lund, Ty, Rocky Mountain House (PC), Deputy Chair

Bhullar, Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Montrose (PC)
Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (L)
Campbell, Robin, West Yellowhead (PC)
Horne, Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)
Lukaszuk, Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)
MacDonald, Hugh, Edmonton-Gold Bar (L)
Marz, Richard, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)
Webber, Len, Calgary-Foothills (PC)

Legislative Officers

G.B. (Gord) Button	Ombudsman
Fred Dunn	Auditor General
Lorne R. Gibson	Chief Electoral Officer
Donald M. Hamilton	Ethics Commissioner
Frank Work, QC	Information and Privacy Commissioner

Support Staff

W.J. David McNeil	Clerk
Louise J. Kamuchik	Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services
Robert H. Reynolds, QC	Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Shannon Dean	Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Corinne Dacyshyn	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Karen Sawchuk	Committee Clerk
Philip Massolin	Committee Research Co-ordinator
Liz Sim	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

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[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

The Chair: I think we'll get started now. We've got two hours. Depending how long discussion takes, we've got to kind of keep it on track because I know some of people have other commitments, certainly, after 2. So I think we should probably get started.

I will call the meeting to order. Does everyone have a copy of the agenda? Are there any additions to the agenda? Any amendments? If not, would someone move that the agenda be adopted? Ty Lund. All in favour? That's carried.

The minutes. You had the minutes circulated electronically, certainly, from the May 26 meeting. Any errors or omissions on those minutes? Acceptance moved by Richard. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

I think what we're going to be doing now is that this is going to be a continuation of our May 26 meeting. You had some briefing documents for the May 26 meeting, and we'll also probably be referring to those today.

Since our discussions are on salary schedules in general but more specifically salaries under classifications of the officers, I'd ask for a motion to move in camera so that we can discuss these a little more freely. Moved by Thomas. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 12:06 p.m. to 1:57 p.m.]

The Chair: We're on the record now to move a motion respecting the 2008-2009 salary increases for the officers, and this is also the compensation strategy. This is effective as of April 1, 2008.

Mr. Lund: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Standing Committee on Leg. Offices

adopt the compensation strategy for the officers of the Legislature effective April 1, 2008, providing for an annual cost-of-living adjustment parallel to that provided to public service management employees, as well as a salary modifier of 5 per cent not to exceed the maximum of the position salary range, and a long-service lump sum payment of 3 per cent to any officer who has served a minimum of five full years in that position as of April 1 of that year.

The Chair: On the motion. All in favour? Opposed? That motion is carried.

Now I would like to ask for a motion respecting the position classification of the Ethics Commissioner.

Ms Blakeman: I would move that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

designate the position of Ethics Commissioner as 70 per cent of full-time.

The Chair: You've all heard the motion. All in favour of that motion? Opposed? That's carried.

Robin, I'd like to ask for a motion respecting the retention payment awarded to the public service in 2007.

Mr. Campbell: Okay. I move that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

authorize the officers of the Legislature to receive a one-time lump-sum payment of \$1,500 in keeping with the retention payment made to members of the public service of Alberta in 2007.

The Chair: You've all heard the motion. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

Mr. Marz: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

confirm that the position of Auditor General, Information and Privacy Commissioner, and the Ombudsman be classified within schedule D and that the Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer be classified within schedule C of the salary range of the official salary schedule for the public service of Alberta.

The Chair: All in favour of that motion? Opposed? That's carried.

I guess that for the record the committee will be inviting Mr. Button to attend a future meeting to address the concerns he has in regard to the role of the Ombudsman.

Is there any other business? With regard to future dates, members will all be polled respecting the possible dates for the next meeting.

Ms Blakeman: Do we have any idea?

The Chair: I guess that if we're going to have the Ombudsman come, we should probably contact him.

Another point I just thought of: now that this is out, the letters will be sent to the officers regarding their respective classifications? Okay.

So it will be polled. As soon as possible we'll get something back from the Ombudsman and then determine when we can potentially have another meeting and give enough advance time as well so that we can fit it into our schedules.

Motion to adjourn? Ty. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

[The committee adjourned at 2:01 p.m.]

