



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Legislative Offices

Thursday, September 29, 2022
1 p.m.

Transcript No. 30-3-3

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Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Rutherford, Brad, Leduc-Beaumont (UC), Chair
Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UC), Deputy Chair
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Acting Chair
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UC), Acting Deputy Chair

Allard, Tracy L., Grande Prairie (UC)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UC)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)
Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UC)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)
Turton, Searle, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)*
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC)**

* substitution for Brad Rutherford

** substitution for Nicholas Milliken

Legislative Officers

Diane McLeod	Information and Privacy Commissioner
Terri Pelton	Child and Youth Advocate
Glen Resler	Chief Electoral Officer, Election Commissioner
Peter Sherstan	Acting Ombudsman, Acting Public Interest Commissioner
Marguerite Trussler, KC	Ethics Commissioner
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Christina Williamson	Research Officer
Warren Huffman	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications
Shannon Parke	Communications Consultant
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Lyndsay Tischer	Director of Human Resources
Janet Schweigel	Director of Parliamentary Programs
Amanda LeBlanc	Deputy Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

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[Mr. van Dijken in the chair]

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you. I will call this meeting to order, and I'd like to welcome members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices.

My name is Glenn van Dijken, the MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock and acting chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we will hear from those joining us remotely. Starting at my right.

Mr. Smith: Good afternoon. Mark Smith, MLA, Drayton Valley-Devon.

Mr. Dach: Good afternoon. Lorne Dach, MLA for Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Shepherd: Good afternoon. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton-City Centre.

Ms Tischer: Hi there. Lyndsay Tischer, director of human resources for the Legislative Assembly Office.

Dr. Massolin: Good afternoon. Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and director of House services.

Ms Rempel: Good afternoon. Jody Rempel, committee clerk with the Legislative Assembly Office.

The Acting Chair: Now going to those on remotely, I will call your name, and if you could introduce yourself. MLA Allard.

Mrs. Allard: Yes. Good afternoon. Tracy Allard, MLA for Grande Prairie.

The Acting Chair: MLA Ceci.

Member Ceci: Hi. Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo.

The Acting Chair: MLA Long.

Mr. Long: Good afternoon. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead.

The Acting Chair: MLA Loyola.

Member Loyola: Hello everybody. Rod Loyola, MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

The Acting Chair: MLA Rosin.

Ms Rosin: Good afternoon. Miranda Rosin, MLA for Banff-Kananaskis.

The Acting Chair: And finally, MLA Turton.

Mr. Turton: Yes. Good afternoon. MLA Searle Turton for the amazing riding of Spruce Grove-Stony Plain.

The Acting Chair: Thank you. I think we've got them all.

For the record I would note the following substitutions. Mr. Turton is substituting for the hon. Mr. Rutherford, and I will act as chair for this meeting. Mr. Yao is substituting for the hon. Mr. Milliken, and Mr. Smith will be acting deputy chair.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by

Hansard, so members do not need to turn them on and off. Unless we move in camera, committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Members participating remotely should ensure that they are prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconference participants are encouraged to have their cameras on if possible when speaking. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Moving on to the draft meeting agenda, would anyone like to propose any amendments?

Seeing and hearing none, would a member move a motion to approve today's meeting agenda?

Mr. Smith: So moved.

The Acting Chair: Moved by MLA Smith that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices approve the draft agenda for today's meeting as distributed. All those in favour in the room? Any opposed? Those in favour online? Any opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you.

We move on to approval of meeting minutes. The minutes from our last meeting were also distributed for consideration. Are there any errors or omissions to note?

If not, would a member move approval of the minutes as distributed? MLA Dach moves that the minutes of the July 5, 2022, meeting of the Standing Committee on Leg. Offices be approved as distributed. All in favour in the room? Any opposed? In favour online? Any opposed? That motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 4, officers of the Legislature annual compensation review. Moving on to our main agenda item, I would suggest the committee along with the appropriate Legislative Assembly Office staff consider moving in camera for our next discussion as we may touch upon specific details of the contracts of the officers of the Legislature. Is there a committee member willing to make such a motion?

Mr. Smith: So moved.

The Acting Chair: MLA Smith moves that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, including the appropriate Legislative Assembly Office staff, move in camera. All in favour? Any opposed? Online, those in favour? Any opposed? The motion is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 1:05 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.]

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you. Now we are back on the record. I will remind everyone at the table not to touch their microphones as *Hansard* will be operating them again.

With that, I will open the floor for any proposals or comments from committee members regarding agenda items 4(a) and 4(b). Perhaps we should begin by addressing the overall compensation strategy. A motion has been prepared by staff for us. In the room we're able to see it. I'm not sure if – looks like you're able to see it online there, the draft motion that

the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices replace the 2008 compensation strategy for the officers of the Legislature with a strategy that parallels and adjusts to what is provided to senior officials of the Alberta public service.

Do I have a member willing to – MLA Smith is willing to move that motion.

Any discussion on the motion as presented? MLA Smith.

Mr. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It would appear to me that moving towards a parallel strategy that goes with the senior officials of the Alberta public service makes sense, so I would speak in favour of this motion.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you, MLA Smith.

Any others that wish to speak to the motion at hand?

One thing that I do need to do is: MLA Yao, we need you to introduce yourself for the record.

Mr. Yao: Tany Yao, the MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

The Acting Chair: Thank you.

Seeing and hearing no other comments coming forward, all those in the room in favour of the motion that's been presented? No opposed. All those online, all those in favour? Any opposed?

That motion is carried.

Next I will open the floor for any comments or proposals regarding the specific compensation review for the officers of the Legislature for the fiscal year 2023-24. Staff, again, have prepared a motion for us to consider, that

the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices apply the 2022 compensation strategy for the officers of the Legislature, including a 3 per cent salary modifier for eligible officers available on April 1, 2023, and effective September 1, 2023, a cost-of-living adjustment paralleling what is provided to senior officials in the Alberta public service and that each officer be advised through the chair of their individual salary entitlement for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Do I have a member that is willing to move? MLA Smith moves the motion.

Any comments? MLA Smith.

Mr. Smith: Based on the previous motion that we passed, this just helps us to be able to enact that, so I would speak in favour of it and ask that we move on.

The Acting Chair: Any other questions or comments from the committee? Seeing and hearing none, I will call the question. All those in favour in the room? No opposed. All those in favour online? Any opposed online?

That motion is carried.

Thank you, everyone.

We move on to item 5, other business. Is there any other business for discussion at this time that committee members would like to bring forward?

Hearing and seeing none, we move on to item 6, next meeting date. The next meeting will be at the call of the chair, likely on a Friday in either late November or early December, for the annual review of the budget estimates submitted by the legislative officers.

Would a member move a motion to adjourn at this time? MLA Ceci moves a motion to adjourn. All those in favour? Online, in favour? Any opposed? That motion is carried.

Thank you for attending today's meeting, and thank you for your due diligence on this committee.

[The committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.]

