



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
Second Session

Standing Committee  
on  
Public Accounts

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
10 a.m.

Transcript No. 30-2-18



10 a.m.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

[Ms Phillips in the chair]

**The Chair:** Okay. Good morning, everyone. I have 10 a.m. I'd like to call this meeting of the Public Accounts Committee to order and welcome everyone in attendance.

My name is Shannon Phillips. I am the MLA for Lethbridge-West. I'm the chair of this committee. I'd like to begin with those seated at the committee table to introduce themselves. I'll then ask the clerk to read into the record those participating remotely either via teleconference or videoconference. We have two substitutions to note this morning. We have Member Neudorf for Member Stephan and Member Pancholi for Member Dach. With that, I will ask folks to introduce themselves in the room, and the clerk will read others into the record.

Thank you.

**Ms Pancholi:** Good morning. Rakhi Pancholi, MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Marlin Schmidt, MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

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

**Mr. Roth:** Good morning. Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

Joining via telephone: Member Rosin, Member Barnes, Member Rowswell, Member Renaud, Member Neudorf, Member Guthrie, Member Gotfried, Member Reid, and from the Auditor General's office are Mr. Wylie and also Ms Zoltenko. I believe that is all I see, Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Now we will just move on to a few housekeeping items. I will ask members participating via videoconference or teleconference to ensure that your microphones are muted unless you're recognized to speak. Once you unmute, just wait a second or two before speaking to ensure that the audio captures what you're saying as you begin speaking.

If you wish to abstain from a recorded vote, please send the committee clerk a private instant message, e-mail, or text. Committee proceedings are live streamed on the Internet, broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. The audio- and videostream and transcripts of our meetings can be accessed via the Legislative Assembly website.

We will now move on to item 2 of our agenda, which is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda?

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Chair, I'd like to make a motion, please.

**The Chair:** Okay. Is it a change or an addition to the agenda?

**Mr. Reid:** No. I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn this meeting until the next scheduled meeting of the PAC, on April 6, 2021.

**The Chair:** Okay. This is an agenda to discuss scheduling. So we are going to move forward with this agenda and essentially vote on this agenda, Member. I think that's generally how these things go, right? I'm looking to the table for a little bit of guidance here, but we are voting on – well, first, we are asking a member to move. We need a motion, first, on the floor that the agenda of February 16 be approved, and then what we'll need is an amendment to this agenda. I think, Member, that is the right way to proceed here. I'm just looking for guidance from the table.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Madam Chair, a point of order.

**The Chair:** I'm going to ask for guidance from the table first, before we proceed to a more confrontational style of running this meeting. I'm looking to the table for some guidance here.

**Mr. Roth:** Pardon me, Chair. Just a clarification. Did Member Reid move a motion to adjourn the meeting? Thank you.

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, I did.

**The Chair:** I'm looking to the table with a query as to whether that is in order.

**Mr. Roth:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, under the standing orders a motion to adjourn is in order.

**The Chair:** All right. A member has moved that we adjourn the meeting. Is there any discussion on this motion?

**Mr. Gotfried:** I don't believe, Madam Chair, that there is any discussion on the motion. I would like the motion to be restated, please.

**The Chair:** Member, it's your motion.

**Mr. Reid:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I make a motion that we adjourn this meeting until the next scheduled meeting of Public Accounts, scheduled for April 6, 2021.

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you, Member Reid.  
Is there any discussion on this motion?

**Mr. Reid:** I don't believe a motion to adjourn is debatable, Chair.

**The Chair:** I'm looking to the table for guidance.

**Mr. Roth:** Chair, yes. A motion to adjourn is not debatable.

**The Chair:** All right. I guess we'll move to a vote. This meeting will be decided before it is even decided, and the chair's prerogative to call meetings to discuss scheduling will be abrogated if it passes. Please, members, go ahead and vote.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Madam Chair, can we call a recorded vote on that motion?

**The Chair:** Yes. I am recognizing a request for a recorded vote.

We'll just do a recorded vote – I'm looking at the table – as we did the recorded votes last time, whereby the members' names are read out and then they state their preference. I mean, I suppose I could go through the list.

**Mr. Roth:** Thank you, Chair.

If the individual members that are online can just indicate whether they are in favour by stating their name and how they wish to vote.

**Mr. Rowswell:** Garth Rowswell. I vote in favour. Aye.

**Mr. Guthrie:** MLA Guthrie. Yes.

**Mr. Barnes:** Drew Barnes. Yes.

**Mr. Toor:** Devinder Toor. Yes.

**Mr. Neudorf:** Nathan Neudorf. Yes.

**Ms Rosin:** Miranda Rosin. Yes.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Richard Gotfried. Yes.

**Ms Renaud:** Marie Renaud. No.

**Mr. Schmidt:** I don't think we've heard from everybody on the call.

**The Chair:** I don't think we have.

**Mr. Roth:** I have members Rowswell, Guthrie, Barnes, Toor, Neudorf, Gotfried, Rosin, and Renaud as having voted from online, Chair.

**Mr. Reid:** MLA Reid. Yes.

**The Chair:** All right. I suppose that's everyone.

**Mr. Roth:** Pardon me, Chair. Those in the room haven't voted yet.

**Ms Pancholi:** MLA Pancholi. No.

**Mr. Schmidt:** Marlin Schmidt. No.

**Mr. Roth:** Chair, total for the motion, eight; total against, three.

**The Chair:** All right. That motion is passed. So this meeting is apparently adjourned.

I will ask members to perhaps return to their duties for the day and consult something that approaches a history and precedent of how public accounts committees work and ask themselves whether this is appropriate oversight for government business and appropriate execution of one's duties as the legislative branch.

With that, my friends, this meeting is adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 10:09 a.m.]







