



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Tuesday, April 22, 2014
8:32 a.m.

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC), Chair
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC), Deputy Chair
Allen, Mike, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (Ind)
Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (PC)
Cusanelli, Christine, Calgary-Currie (PC)
DeLong, Alana, Calgary-Bow (PC)
Fenske, Jacquie, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (PC)
Fritz, Yvonne, Calgary-Cross (PC)
Jablonski, Mary Anne, Red Deer-North (PC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND)
Olesen, Cathy, Sherwood Park (PC)
Rowe, Bruce, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)

Bill Pr. 2 Sponsor

Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)

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Tuesday, April 22, 2014

[Mr. Xiao in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I'd like to welcome all the members and staff to this organizational meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills. I'd also like to call the meeting to order and ask everyone at the table to introduce themselves for the record. We can start with our Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Dean: Good morning. Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel and director of House services.

Mrs. Leskiw: Genia Leskiw, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake, and I'm told that I'm co-chair of this meeting.

Ms Olesen: Good morning. Cathy Olesen, MLA, Sherwood Park.

Mrs. Jablonski: Good morning. Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA, Red Deer-North, and I'm not any co-chair.

Ms Calahasen: Pearl Calahasen, Lesser Slave Lake. Never a co-chair.

The Chair: So far away.

Ms Calahasen: I'm a guest today. I'm not part of the team.

Mrs. Fritz: You're always part of the team.

Dr. Swann: A big part of the team.
David Swann, Calgary-Mountain View.

Mr. Strankman: Rick Strankman, MLA, Drumheller-Stettler.

Ms Fenske: Hello. Jacquie Fenske, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mrs. Fritz: Good morning. Yvonne Fritz, Calgary-Cross.
Mr. Chair, if you don't mind, I'd like to congratulate Roger Brewer, our *Hansard* console operator, who's here with us today. He and his wife celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Easter Sunday.

Mrs. Dacyshyn: I'm Corinne Dacyshyn, the committee clerk.

The Chair: My name is David Xiao. I'm the chair of the committee and the MLA for Edmonton-McClung.
We've got another lady.

Ms DeLong: Alana DeLong, MLA for Calgary-Bow.

The Chair: Then we've got another gentleman.

Mr. Stier: Pat Stier, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod.

The Chair: Thank you. Anybody else?
Okay. Good. We don't have any members teleconferencing today, but I'd like to advise that this committee unanimously passed a motion on April 23, 2013, permitting teleconferencing for the life of the 28th Legislature "subject to the proviso that the committee may require members' attendance at a particular meeting upon passage of a motion at a previous meeting to that effect."

The microphone consoles are operated by *Hansard* staff, so there's no need for members to touch them, and please keep all your electronics, mobile phones off the table because they may interfere with the audiofeed.

Audio of the committee proceedings is streamed live on the Internet and recorded by *Hansard*. Audio access and meeting transcripts are obtained via the Legislative Assembly website.

Our agenda for today has been distributed. Does anyone have any change or addition to propose?

I see none, so I would like to ask, then, for a motion to approve the agenda. Yvonne, go ahead.

Mrs. Fritz: I'm moving approval of the agenda for today's meeting.

The Chair: Moved that the agenda for the April 22, 2014, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be adopted as circulated. We don't require a seconder for any motion of the committee. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried.

The minutes of the last meeting have been distributed. Does anyone have any changes or additions to propose? I would ask, then, for a motion to approve the minutes. Mary Anne.

Mrs. Jablonski: I move that we approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The Chair: Sure. Moved by Mary Anne Jablonski that the minutes for the May 13, 2013, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be adopted as circulated. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried.

Ladies and gentlemen, since this is our first meeting this year, I'd invite Ms Dean, our Parliamentary Counsel, to provide you with an overview of the committee's mandate and process. Shannon Dean is the Senior Parliamentary Counsel assigned to assist our committee.

Ms Dean, go ahead.

Ms Dean: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be quite brief because we've gone through this before and I think there are a lot of veterans on this committee.

As you know, private bills are not like regular public bills in the sense that they don't affect all Albertans. They either affect a specific individual or an entity that's named in the bill.

The process occurs once a year. First the Clerk publishes the deadline for the receipt of private bill petitions once we have the sessional calendar published in January. The deadline is 15 days following the commencement of session, so this year it was March 18.

The key requirements for the petitioners are two petitions, a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and a petition to the Assembly, both of which have to outline the nature of the private bill that's being requested. The petitioner must also provide statutory declarations that confirm that public notice of the proposed private bill has been published in a newspaper in Alberta on two occasions.

Following the deadline the petitions stand referred to the chair of the committee, and the chair then presents them to the Assembly, which occurred last week, and now they stand referred to this committee.

Today we'll review the two petitions that we've received, and the committee will also be charged with approving a schedule for hearings. Following today's meeting the chair will report with respect to the committee's consideration of the petitions, and then I anticipate that the private bills will be introduced in the Assembly tomorrow by the sponsors. Once the private bills are introduced, they stand referred to this committee.

That concludes the process, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thanks, Ms Dean.

As you know, Parliamentary Counsel's report was hand delivered to committee members on April 16, 2014. The report included a description of the petitions on the bills that will be introduced. Drafts of the bills have been posted on the committee's internal website. A list of the petitions for the committee's consideration has been distributed to the members.

Now I would like to invite our Parliamentary Counsel to provide a brief overview of the petitions.

Ms Dean: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first petition that was received was from two directors of the Rosebud School of the Arts, one of whom will be familiar to most of you, Dr. Lyle Oberg. The second petitioner is Dr. Terrence White. They are requesting amendments to the incorporating act for the Rosebud School of the Arts to accomplish a number of things: to update definitions, to change the board of directors qualifications and the number of board directors, to change the school's fiscal year-end, and to add a number of miscellaneous wording changes.

I can advise that the petitioners have fulfilled the standing order requirements.

Now, for the second petition that was received, I'll call upon the sponsor of the bill for the correct pronunciation of this entity. If I can call upon you, Ms Calahasen.

Ms Calahasen: Mask-wa-chees.

8:40

Ms Dean: This cultural college is seeking a name change, and they do have to go through this process because they were incorporated by private act a number of years ago. They're requesting a name change.

Ms Calahasen, can you pronounce the name change for me?

Ms Calahasen: It's actually a similar sound; just the spelling is different. When it was first incorporated, the spelling wasn't according to what is the written language. Therefore, what they want to do is just make sure that the way it is written is now following suit in the legislation. It's just a change in the way it's written.

Ms Dean: Okay. Thank you very much.

Ms Calahasen: You're most welcome.

Ms Dean: The petitioners involved are the executive director, Patricia Goodwill-Littlechild, and the counsel, Dennis Callihoo, and I can confirm for the committee that the petitioners have fulfilled all of the standing order requirements.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you, Ms Dean.

Now we move to the schedule of hearings and deliberations. The proposed schedule of hearings and deliberations has been distributed to everyone on the committee. You should be looking at the one that says revised. I think there's a document that has "revised" at the top of the document.

I have attempted to accommodate all members by changing the meeting time to 8 a.m. As you know, the chair has to drive quite a ways from the west end of Edmonton to get here. I understand that everybody has a caucus meeting, especially opposition parties, so we tried to accommodate that.

Go ahead, Yvonne.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a question. I wonder why we couldn't do the deliberations and decisions on the same day that the presentation is made, especially if it's at 8 in the morning. I ask this question every time, I know. It may change.

Ms Dean: It's certainly an option available to the committee. I would suggest that you set a separate meeting date just for deliberations. In the event, following the hearing, that there are no outstanding issues that require follow-up for me or for the committee members, then you can at that point in time decide to proceed directly to deliberations once the petitioners depart the meeting room.

Mrs. Fritz: So we can do that?

Ms Dean: You could do that. The committee has done that in the past. It's just really a matter of whether there are any follow-up items.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you.

The Chair: As the chair I always like to get all the business done in one meeting if that's possible.

Any other proposals or questions?

Ms DeLong: I have a question, but I don't know that this fits in here. I wonder if you could send us documentation for the complete bill that we're making the changes to. Right now it's got sort of the outline of whatever is changed, which is quite normal for how we do things.

Ms Dean: We'll provide the original legislation and post it to the committee site, certainly.

Ms DeLong: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Thank you.

I probably need a motion to adopt this schedule for hearings and deliberations. Who would like to move that? Ms DeLong.

Ms DeLong: Yes.

The Chair: Okay. It's moved by Ms DeLong that the proposed schedule for hearings and deliberations be adopted as circulated.

All in favour?

Yeah, go ahead.

Mr. Stier: I apologize. My assistant may not have provided me with this schedule you're referring to. What is that, please?

The Chair: It's on our internal website.

Mr. Stier: I have no idea when – okay. All right. That's fine. Thank you.

The Chair: It's okay?

All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried. That's good.

Does anyone have items of other business to raise?

Dr. Swann: Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Yes. Go ahead.

Dr. Swann: I'm just checking to see that we can connect in by telephone.

The Chair: Yes. Like I said at the very beginning, we unanimously agreed to allow teleconferencing during the life of the 28th Legislature. So that's no problem.

Dr. Swann: Thank you.

Dr. Swann: So moved.

The Chair: Any other issues?

The Chair: Moved by Dr. Swann.

Seeing none, as we agreed, the next meeting will be held on
May 6, 2014, at 8 a.m. sharp.

The meeting is adjourned.

Now I would like to ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

[The committee adjourned at 8:46 a.m.]

