



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
7 p.m.

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Third Session**

Standing Committee on Private Bills

McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (ND), Chair
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND), Deputy Chair

Anderson, Wayne, Highwood (W)
Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (ND)
Drever, Deborah, Calgary-Bow (ND)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Hinkley, Bruce, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (ND)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)
Kleinstauber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)
McKittrick, Annie, Sherwood Park (ND)
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (ND)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (ND)

Also in Attendance

Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)

Support Staff

Trafton Koenig
Aaron Roth
Janet Schwegel

Parliamentary Counsel
Committee Clerk
Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

[Ms McPherson in the chair]

The Chair: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to welcome all members and staff in attendance to the organizational meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills for 2017. I'll call the meeting to order and ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record. We can start to my right, please.

Connolly: Michael Connolly, MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood and deputy chair of this committee.

Mr. Drysdale: Wayne Drysdale, MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

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

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

Mr. W. Anderson: Wayne Anderson, MLA, Highwood.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Jamie Kleinsteuber, the MLA for Calgary-Northern Hills.

Drever: Deborah Drever, MLA for Calgary-Bow.

Mrs. Schreiner: Kim Schreiner, MLA for Red Deer-North, substituting for no one. I just needed somewhere to be tonight.

Mr. Sucha: Graham Sucha, MLA for Calgary-Shaw.

Ms Babcock: Erin Babcock, Stony Plain.

Mr. Rosendahl: Eric Rosendahl, West Yellowhead.

Mr. Hinkley: Bruce Hinkley, MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Ms McKittrick: Bonjour. Annie McKittrick, MLA, Sherwood Park.

Ms Kazim: Anam Kazim, MLA for Calgary-Glenmore.

Mr. Koenig: Good evening. I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Mr. Roth: Good evening. Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

The Chair: Mr. Fraser, would you like to introduce yourself?

Mr. Fraser: Sure. Rick Fraser, Calgary-South East.

The Chair: Thank you.

I'm Karen McPherson, MLA for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill and the chair of the committee.

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The agenda has been distributed. Does anyone have any changes or additions to propose? Okay. I'll ask for a motion, then, to approve the agenda. Could I ask a member to move the following motion . . .

Mr. Rosendahl: So moved.

The Chair: Please let me finish it.

. . . that the agenda for the March 21, 2017, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be adopted as circulated.

Mr. Rosendahl: So moved.

The Chair: So moved by Mr. Rosendahl. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried.

The draft minutes of the April 12, 2016, meeting have been distributed as well. Does anyone have any changes or additions to propose? Member Connolly.

Connolly: Thanks, Chair. Item 9 of the minutes from April 12, 2016, misspells my name. It spells it as Connelly, and it's supposed to be Connolly.

The Chair: Okay. Could I ask a member to move the following motion, that the minutes for the April 12, 2016, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be adopted as amended. So moved by Member Connolly. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried.

The organizational meeting memo from Parliamentary Counsel was delivered to members' desks in the Assembly. I invite Mr. Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel, to provide you with an overview of the committee's mandate and processes as a refresher.

Mr. Koenig: All right. Thank you, Chair. I'll keep this brief unless there are questions from any of the committee members. Of course, we're here tonight to deal with private bills. Just as a quick overview a private bill stands apart from other public bills that you're probably more familiar with. A private bill provides powers or benefits to a specific person or an organization whereas a public bill has general application to all members of the public.

The rules regarding private bills are found in chapter 8 of the Standing Orders. Basically, what this committee is tasked with doing is that once petitions have been referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills, the committee will make one of three recommendations. It can recommend that a private bill proceed, it can make a recommendation that a bill proceed with amendments, or it can recommend that a bill not proceed.

Just in terms of laying out what will happen after today's organizational meeting, under standing orders 98 and 99 petitions for private bills are referred to the chair of the committee, and the chair will present them to the Assembly and indicate whether they comply with the standing orders or not. Then the petitions stand referred to this committee for hearing and deliberation.

I think that is basically just a brief overview of the process unless there are any questions.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions from anyone? No? Okay.

A list with the two petitions received for the committee's consideration has been distributed to members in a memo. I would like to again invite Parliamentary Counsel to provide a brief overview of the petitions.

Mr. Koenig: All right. Excellent. Thanks again, Chair. Just going back to that point about whether the petitions are in compliance with the standing orders, the standing orders that apply to the petitions that have been submitted this year are that they have to include two letters of petition. One is addressed to the Lieutenant Governor, and one is addressed to the Legislative Assembly. Petitioners also have to provide a statutory declaration confirming that they have advertised a public notice of their bill, and that has to happen once a week for two consecutive weeks in a daily

newspaper in Alberta. Then they also have to submit a \$500 fee. Those are basically the requirements in the standing orders at this juncture.

We have received two petitions for private bills this year. The first one is the Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017, and that is being brought forward by three individuals, my understanding is, on behalf of the Jewish Centre. They have, in my opinion, fulfilled the requirements of the standing orders. The notice was published in the *Calgary Herald*, and we received the statutory declaration to that effect. They also provided the letters to the Assembly and to the Lieutenant Governor and the cheque. So I can advise the committee that that appears to be in order.

The second petition, Pr. 2, is the Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act. That petition is to terminate an adoption order that was issued in 1974. That petitioner has also, in my opinion, fulfilled the standing order requirements. In that case I can advise the committee that she advertised in the *Red Deer Advocate*, where she lives, and she also advertised in the *Calgary Herald* because people who may be implicated in this private bill live in Calgary. We have received the statutory declarations confirming that those ads did go out. We also received the required petition letters and the cheque for \$500.

I'm happy to answer any questions about either of the petitions if any members have any questions.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Koenig.

Are there any questions? No? Okay.

A proposed schedule for the hearings and deliberations has been distributed to committee members. Are there any questions about the schedule? I'll, then, ask for a motion on the proposed schedule of hearings and deliberations. Would a member move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills adopt the proposed schedule of hearings and deliberations, outlining the committee's meetings on Monday, May 1, 2017, and Tuesday, May 2, 2017, to hear the private bill petitioners and to hold deliberations.

Ms McKitrick: I so move.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms McKitrick. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried.

Are there any other items of business to discuss? Okay.

Well, then, the date of the next meeting is May 1, 2017, as we just discussed.

I would like to ask for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rosendahl: So moved.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Rosendahl. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Thank you, all, very much.

[The committee adjourned at 7:09 p.m.]

