



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Monday, May 1, 2017
9 a.m.

Transcript No. 29-3-2

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The 29th Legislature
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)
McKitrick, 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

MacIntyre, Don, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)

Bill Pr. 1 Sponsor

Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (ND)

Bill Pr. 2 Sponsor

MacIntyre, Don, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W)

Support Staff

Trafton Koenig
Aaron Roth
Janet Schwegel

Parliamentary Counsel
Committee Clerk
Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Participants

Bill Pr. 1, Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017PB-26
Bruce Libin, President, Calgary Jewish Federation, Chair, Calgary Jewish Centre

Bill Pr. 2, Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act.....PB-28
James Anderson, Private Citizen
Paula Jean Anderson, Private Citizen

9 a.m.

Monday, May 1, 2017

[Ms McPherson in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to call the meeting to order.

I'd like to welcome everyone to the meeting and ask that you introduce yourselves for the record, starting on my right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Rosendahl: Morning. Eric Rosendahl, West Yellowhead.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Good morning. Jamie Kleinsteuber, MLA, Calgary-Northern Hills.

Ms McKittrick: Bonjour. Annie McKittrick, Sherwood Park.

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

Mr. Koenig: My name is Trafton Koenig, with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

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

The Chair: Karen McPherson, MLA for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill and chair of the committee.

Could the people on the phone please introduce yourselves for the record.

Ms Babcock: Erin Babcock, MLA for Stony Plain.

The Chair: Thank you, Erin.

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

The Chair: Thank you.

Drever: Deborah Drever, MLA for Calgary-Bow.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Just a couple of reminders. The microphone consoles are operated by *Hansard*. If you have a phone or other electronic device, you could mute that, please.

I'd like to have someone move a motion that the agenda for the May 1, 2017, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be approved as distributed. Moved by MLA Drysdale. All in favour? Opposed? And on the phone, all in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

There were minutes of our last meeting posted to the internal committee website. I would like someone to move a motion that the minutes for the March 21, 2017, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be approved as distributed. Moved by Mr. Rosendahl. All in favour? Opposed? On the phone, all in favour? Opposed? Great. The motion is carried.

Parliamentary Counsel's report on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 104 was distributed to members last week. Today

we will proceed with the hearings. The petitioners will appear as well as other interested parties, and they will be sworn in. Following the presentations committee members will be provided the opportunity to ask questions of the petitioners.

Once the hearings have been completed, the committee will deliberate on the bills and make one of three recommendations: either that the bill proceed as is, that it proceed with amendments, or that it not proceed. Once we have made those determinations, I will then report on behalf of the committee to the Assembly. Depending on the decision with respect to the bill, it will follow the same process as any other bill in the House; namely, proceeding through second reading, Committee of the Whole, third reading, and Royal Assent.

Are there any questions before we invite in our petitioners?

I'll ask Mr. Koenig to call in the petitioner for Bill Pr. 1, Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017.

[Mr. Libin was sworn in]

The Chair: Good morning.

Mr. Libin: Good morning, Madam Chair and others.

The Chair: I think we'll take a moment to go around the table and introduce ourselves to you, and we do have three members joining us on the phone as well.

My name is Karen McPherson. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill, and I'm the chair of the Private Bills Committee.

Connolly: Good morning. I'm Michael Connolly, MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood and deputy chair.

Mr. W. Anderson: Good morning, Bruce. Wayne Anderson, MLA, Highwood, just south of Calgary.

Mr. Strankman: Good morning, sir. Rick Strankman, Drumheller-Stettler.

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

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

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

Mr. Rosendahl: Morning. Eric Rosendahl, MLA, West Yellowhead.

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

Ms McKittrick: Annie McKittrick, MLA for Sherwood Park.

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

Mr. Koenig: Of course, I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Mr. Roth: Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

The Chair: If you could just take a moment to introduce yourself, and I have a couple more comments for you.

Mr. Libin: Thank you. Good morning, and thank you all for being here and for this opportunity. My name is Bruce Libin. I'm the president of Calgary Jewish Federation, which is the senior organization within the Jewish community of Calgary, the parent

body of the Calgary Jewish Centre, and I'm very pleased to have the opportunity this morning to explain to you what it is we're asking of this committee.

The Chair: Thank you. I just have a couple of housekeeping kind of items for you. You don't need to operate the microphone. It's operated by *Hansard*, so they'll turn it off and on for you. Everything is recorded by *Hansard*, and the audio and video of this hearing are being streamed live on the Internet.

I'd like to invite you to please go ahead with your presentation.

Bill Pr. 1

Calgary Jewish Centre Amendment Act, 2017

Mr. Libin: Thank you. The Calgary Jewish Centre is a cultural, recreational, and communal social facility in southwest Calgary. Many members of our committee this morning are from Calgary, so you'd appreciate the importance of this facility in southwest Calgary. The facility is owned and operated by the Jewish community. It's open to all of our community a hundred per cent of the time, and it's, in fact, that very essence of being open that gives us the community relationship and the community support that we enjoy.

In 2016 Calgary city council approved a land-use amendment, essentially, the zoning for what we're trying to do for our campus facility. The reason I mention that is that our surrounding community, the Palliser-Bayview-Pumphill Community Association, supported that application to the city and came to the city council hearing and spoke in favour of it. It's just an indication of the support that we have and the situation of our facility in the southwest quadrant.

The building was opened in 1979, and we have been operating successfully since then. Since 1979 there have been aspirations within our community to expand our facilities. There's always been talk of a nursing home and other things that we might be able to do on that land. In 2002, with the passing of the woman who owned the two adjacent, vacant pieces of land, we were able to buy those pieces of land, and we now have the necessary geographic spread to carry on with our aspirations.

In 1983 I appeared before a predecessor of this committee, and we petitioned the Legislature for the incorporation of Calgary Jewish Centre. That led to the Calgary Jewish Centre Act of 1983. The principal motivation at that time was seeking an exemption from municipal property taxes. In 1906 and 1907 this Legislature passed the YMCA Calgary act and the YWCA of Calgary act, which had the effect of giving those institutions exemption from municipal property taxes. We were simply asking that the Jewish Y be treated the same way as the YMCA, and in 1983 that legislation was passed. The legislation had the effect of creating a corporation and providing for a municipal property tax exemption for the land that we then owned.

9:10

Moving forward with this petition, the essence of which I'll come to in just a moment, we're not asking for further property tax exemption. That's not an essential piece of what we're doing. We do, however, now have this corporation. It has the land in it, it has the building in it, so it's the logical entity within which to do our expansion and move down the path to our campus aspirations.

The intent, assuming that this committee approves and the Legislature enacts this legislation, would be to amend the Calgary Jewish Centre Act, 1983, to enable us to move forward with our campus plans. First would be the change of the name of the entity to one that reflects the fact that it will be governing the campus as

a whole, the Calgary Jewish community campus corporation, and then, secondly, to broaden the objects to enable us to do greater things on the land than what are now in the objects passed in 1983. If I'd had the foresight in 1983 to think about those things, I wouldn't have to be here now, but that's not the way the world works.

We've spent a considerable amount of time with Canada Revenue Agency on the objects that are before you in the proposed amendment to the legislation, and they've been accepted by CRA, so we're comfortable that in this whole process all of the pieces are fitting together and that the puzzle will in fact work for us from a technical, legal, taxation perspective.

Our intention is to build out our campus in phases. Our first phase – and we're just into the fundraising process for that – would be to expand the existing Jewish community centre building and spend some money fixing it up. We've made a determination that for our campus process the existing building is going to serve us for the next 20-plus years, so we need to spend some money making sure that the infrastructure is solid and sound, and we want to have an expanded daycare.

We have a remarkable daycare now, with 80 children and about a 200-person waiting list, and that seems to be consistent. We run an excellent daycare, and it serves for us – it's a core operation and a wonderful entry point for the community and for families to start using our facilities. By expanding the daycare, we'll build a new building on the east end of where we are now instead of where it is because on the west end that will give us capacity for 160 children and will also free up the space that's now occupied by the daycare for us to move into phase 2, which would be a theatre, multipurpose facility, which would let us repurpose existing space inside the Jewish centre and move to a greatly enhanced facility.

Our third phase is for a seniors' care centre, a combination of assisted living and nursing home beds and independent living. We're essentially ready to go on that. Our plan is to have a 200-bed care facility and then another 30 to 70 rooms for independent living. I could go down the blockage and the problems in the health care system – that's not this committee's purview – but we're ready and eager to move forward and to help solve some of the issues that the health care system is facing if we can get the necessary financing and move ahead with that.

So the essence of the petition this morning is to ask this committee to consider and support two actions that we would be taking. One is the change of name and, two, the expansion of objects, all of which give us the opportunity, then, to move down our path for our campus plans.

I think, Madam Chair, that's probably as much as I can prattle on.

The Chair: Great. Well, thank you very much.

Okay. Is there anyone here that would like to ask questions? Go ahead.

Mr. Strankman: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not trying to be obtuse here because I think that you have a wonderful prospect there, but one of the ones I wanted to ask – and maybe this is partly because I have some white hair and some skin-coloured hair. Going forward here, I see that there are only the three people who are named in the bill here. Should something untoward happen to any of the people that are named here, how would you have continuity to something going forward? Like, I don't fully understand that. Maybe I'm missing something here.

Mr. Libin: If I may, the three names are simply petitioners. As I understand the process that we go through for me to be able to sit

here before you this morning, we need people to petition the Legislature to amend the legislation. I represent a body that is large and a board that has as many as sit here; I'm not one alone if that's the point of your question. The names are petitioners to enable us to be here, and then it's our organizations that will carry out the mandate and try and fulfill our building aspirations.

Mr. Strankman: Yes. Thank you for that. I just wanted to be assured that there was continuity going forward, Madam Chair. Thank you.

The Chair: Do any other members have questions? Please.

Ms McKittrick: Thank you. Through the change of this act you're planning to take on a major undertaking, really increasing the scope of the organization and really diversifying the organization, right? I probably should have done a little bit more research on it, but I'm just wondering about the governance of your organization. Is your governance changing to facilitate the expanded role that this bill will enable you?

Mr. Libin: Thank you. It's a fine question. It's one that we've spent a great deal of time on internally within our community. We have organizations – and I won't bore you with the alphabet within the Jewish community of Calgary – we have the governance structure, we have the leadership at a lay level with which to handle all of our oversight and aspirations. We then turn to expertise for carrying on the activities, the operations. For example, we have a board of the Jewish Centre that conducts and oversees the operations; in turn, that board hires experts in child care and aquatics and all of the things that we do.

For the seniors' facility we have members of our community and of our committee who have great experience, if I may, in the nursing home industry, and they will be part of the lay panel that will oversee operations. We've had conversations with operators, both not-for-profit operators and for-profit operators, to actually run the day-to-day operation of our care facility. We know that it requires a great deal of expertise; for example, we're in a discussion with the Brenda Strafford Foundation – they run a number of facilities in the province and are excellent at what they do – with the notion that they would be our contract managers. So our job would be, then, to oversee and manage the manager, whose job would be to deliver on a daily basis.

The Chair: Are there any questions on the phone?

Ms Babcock: No. Thank you.

The Chair: Okay. I actually have a few questions of my own. With the amendment that was passed by the city of Calgary to change the land use, do you see that you need to have any further conversations with the city in order to move forward with your plans?

9:20

Mr. Libin: We have zoning which enables us, with a broad stroke, to do all of the things that we would like to do. Inevitably, in a process like that with city council, city administration, the neighbourhood, there were some compromises made along the way. We accept and live with those. We must go back to the city for a development permit when we want to have a spade hit the ground, so the city process, again, gives the opportunity for community to have input and make observations. We're not now at the development permit stage because we need first to get all this infrastructure under the scene in place, but it's our hope that this is a process that will be at the city sometime in the fall for the

development permit for the daycare facility, which is, as I mentioned, phase 1.

The Chair: Thank you for that.

In the current Jewish community centre – I've been there on a couple of occasions. It's a great, great facility. How old is the building? How long has it been there?

Mr. Libin: We opened in 1979, and then in 1992 we put the daycare wing on it. If you're familiar with the facility, that's the building that sticks out to the west.

The Chair: Right. Okay.

And then the final question has to do with your expansion plans. Is that the field where the horse stood, on 90th Avenue and 14th Street?

Mr. Libin: Thank you. I wondered whether I should mention the horses, but exactly. The Patterson family owned that land for millennia – I don't know how long – and Mrs. Patterson passed away around 2000, 2001. Yes, there was a home, a barn, and that's where the horses were pastured, and that's how many of us still refer to the land: where the horses were. That's exactly the land. Our property extends from 14th Street to 16th Street, from 90th Avenue to 92nd Avenue. Again, as part of the process with the city we lost a considerable amount of land on the corner for their traffic things. It's what we do. But yes.

The Chair: All right. Well, thank you very much.

Well, thank you for your submissions – oh, I'm sorry. You had another question.

Mr. Drysdale: Well, just a comment more than a question. I guess I just want to thank you, Bruce, for being here today. The community in Calgary is lucky to have your organization there. That's how communities look after themselves, and the strength is from – I know there's probably lots of volunteer work involved in that. You know, every community wishes they had an organization like you, so thanks for all the work you do. The government doesn't have to do everything for people. They can look after themselves as well, so thanks for that.

Mr. Libin: Thank you for that comment. Much appreciated.

The Chair: Any other questions or comments? All right.

Well, again, thank you, Mr. Libin, for coming here today and for your submission. We will contact you after our deliberations.

Now the committee will proceed to the next petitioner.

Mr. Libin: Thank you for your time.

The Chair: I will ask Mr. Koenig to call in the petitioners for Bill Pr. 2, Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act.

[Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Anderson were sworn in]

The Chair: Good morning.

Mrs. Anderson: Good morning.

The Chair: Before we get started, I'd just like to advise you that you don't need to operate the microphones – they're operated by *Hansard* staff – and that the meeting is recorded by *Hansard* and the audio and video are streamed live on the Internet.

I'd now ask you to please introduce yourselves.

Mrs. Anderson: My name is Paula Jean Anderson.

Mr. J. Anderson: I'm James Anderson. I'm her husband.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you very much.

My name is Karen McPherson. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill, and I'm also the chair of the Private Bills Committee. We'll just go around the table and introduce ourselves to you.

Connolly: Good morning. I'm Michael Connolly, MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood and deputy chair of the committee.

Mr. W. Anderson: Good morning. Wayne Anderson, MLA for Highwood.

Mr. Strankman: Good morning. I'm Rick Strankman, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler.

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

Mr. MacIntyre: Don MacIntyre, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake.

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

Mr. Hinkley: Welcome. My name is Bruce Hinkley, MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

Mr. Rosendahl: Good morning. Eric Rosendahl, MLA, West Yellowhead.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Welcome. My name is Jamie Kleinsteuber, MLA, Calgary-Northern Hills.

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

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

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

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

The Chair: Thank you.

Do you prefer Ms or Mrs. Anderson?

Mrs. Anderson: Mrs.

Bill Pr. 2

Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act

The Chair: Mrs. Anderson. Thank you.

I understand that some of the information that you're providing to the committee this morning could be of a very personal nature. Is that right? Okay. I'm going to move a motion that we go in camera, so what that means is that it won't be recorded, and it won't be streamed on the Internet.

Mrs. Anderson: Okay.

The Chair: Are you okay with that?

Mrs. Anderson: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: I'd like someone to move a motion that the Standing Committee on Private Bills go in camera with the committee clerk, Parliamentary Counsel, the petitioner, and interested parties.

Can I have someone move that motion, please? MLA Drysdale. All in favour, say aye. Opposed?

Oh, goodness. I'm so sorry. I forgot to introduce the people on the phone. We need to have, like, an avatar or something when they're on the phone. We're going to just suspend the vote for a moment and have the people – oh, okay. Sorry. I can't do that. I thought I was more powerful. We're going to ask the people on the phone to vote, and then I'll have them introduce themselves.

On the phone, all in favour, please say aye. Opposed? The motion is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 9:28 a.m. to 9:39 a.m.]

The Chair: Great. Okay. I want to thank you for your submission and your attendance here today. We will contact you following our deliberations.

The committee will now proceed to deliberations.

Thanks again.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

The Chair: Great. Okay. The committee will now deliberate and make its recommendation on these private bills. The committee can decide whether the bills proceed in the Assembly as they are, proceed with amendments, or that they do not proceed. Once we've made those determinations, I will report again on behalf of the committee to the Legislature. Depending on the decision with respect to the bill, it will follow the same process as any other bill in the House; namely, proceeding through second reading, Committee of the Whole, third reading, and Royal Assent.

Are there any questions or comments on this process? On the phone?

Is the committee ready to proceed? I'm sorry. You've got to, like, throw up a flare or something.

Mr. Drysdale: I don't know if you need to do them separately. I could do them both at once. I move that the bills both proceed going forward. If you want them broken up, I'll do Bill Pr. 1, but I'm not sure if you can do them both.

The Chair: We have onesy, twosy.

Mr. Drysdale: I move that

Bill Pr. 1 proceed as recommended.

The Chair: All in favour, please say aye. All opposed, please say no. On the phone, all in favour, please say aye. All opposed, please say no. The motion is carried.

Okay. Do you mind if I read a motion and then you move it? Moved that

Bill Pr. 2, Paula Jean Anderson Adoption Termination Act, proceed in the Legislative Assembly.

Can I get a mover?

Mr. Drysdale: I will.

The Chair: Okay. MLA Drysdale. All in favour, please say aye. All opposed, please say no. On the phone, all in favour, please say aye. All opposed, please say no. The motion is carried.

That concludes the committee's business for 2017.

Is there any other business committee members wish to raise?

Ms McKittrick: I just want to understand. The meeting tomorrow: we're not meeting tomorrow night?

The Chair: No, we will not.

Ms McKittrick: I just wanted to have it on the record.

The Chair: The date of the next meeting will be at the call of the chair in 2018. It's been a great year.

I would like someone to move that the meeting be adjourned. MLA Sucha. All in favour, please say aye. All opposed? On the

phone, all in favour, please say aye. All opposed, please say no. That's been carried.

Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 9:42 a.m.]

