



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
Second Session

Standing Committee  
on  
Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020  
Bill Pr. 1, The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Edmonton Repeal Act

Tuesday, November 17, 2020  
10 a.m.

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**Legislative Assembly of Alberta  
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Second Session**

**Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills**

Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP), Chair  
Schow, Joseph R., Cardston-Siksika (UCP), Deputy Chair

Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)  
Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)  
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)  
Neudorf, Nathan T., Lethbridge-East (UCP)  
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)  
Nixon, Jeremy P., Calgary-Klein (UCP)  
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)  
Sigurdson, R.J., Highwood (UCP)

**Bill 206 Sponsor**

Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)

**Bill Pr.1 Sponsor**

Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)

**Support Staff**

Trafton Koenig	Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Stephanie LeBlanc	Clerk Assistant and Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Philip Massolin	Clerk of Committees and Research Services
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Janet Schwegel	Director of Parliamentary Programs
Amanda LeBlanc	Deputy Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

**10 a.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

[Mr. Ellis in the chair]

**The Chair:** Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills to order and welcome everyone in attendance.

My name is Mike Ellis, MLA for Calgary-West and chair of the committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then I'll call on those joining by Skype. We'll begin to my right.

**Mr. Schow:** Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika.

**Mr. Neudorf:** Nathan Neudorf, MLA, Lethbridge-East.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Good morning, everyone. Chris Nielsen, MLA for Edmonton-Decore.

**Ms LeBlanc:** Good morning. Stephanie LeBlanc, Clerk Assistant and Senior Parliamentary Counsel.

**Dr. Massolin:** Good morning. Philip Massolin, clerk of committees and research services.

**Ms Rempel:** Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

I guess we'll ask those joining us via Skype to identify themselves. Maybe we'll start with Member Irwin.

**Member Irwin:** Janis Irwin, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Ms Ganley:** Kathleen Ganley, Calgary-Mountain View.

**The Chair:** All right.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Horner:** Nate Horner, Drumheller-Stettler.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Ms Glasgo:** Michaela Glasgo, Brooks-Medicine Hat.

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you very much.  
There are no substitutions.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Sorry. Member Jeremy Nixon.

**The Chair:** Oh, pardon me, Member Jeremy Nixon. Thank you very much, sir.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Member R.J. Sigurdson as well, Highwood.

**The Chair:** And Member R.J. Sigurdson. All right. Thank you very much.

I believe that's everybody. I don't believe I've missed anybody. Okay. Thank you very much.

There are no substitutions. A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand. Pursuant to the November 16, 2020, memo from the hon. Speaker Cooper I'd remind everyone of the updated committee room protocols, which require that, outside of the individuals with an exemption, those attending committee meetings in person must wear a mask at all times unless

they are speaking. Based on the recommendations from the chief medical officer of health regarding physical distancing, attendees at today's meeting are reminded to leave the appropriate distance between themselves and other meeting participants. Please note that the microphones . . .

**Ms Ganley:** Mr. Chair, sorry to interrupt. Just on the line there's, like, a feedback, echoey, ringing noise that's making it difficult to hear you.

**The Chair:** Well, thank you, Member Ganley. We have some tech folks that are going to look into that.

**Mr. Schow:** Anyone else experiencing that?

**The Chair:** Good question.

Is anybody else experiencing any feedback, or could it be . . .

**Member Irwin:** Yes. I'm experiencing the feedback as well.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Horner:** Same deal.

**The Chair:** Okay. Yep, we're good. Just hang tight, everybody. We've got folks looking into that.

[The committee adjourned from 10:03 a.m. to 10:12 a.m.]

**The Chair:** Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I've just been informed by tech services that although it is slightly annoying at the moment, they have identified what the problem is, and they are in the process of fixing it. They've indicated that we can proceed, and at some point, hopefully over the next few minutes – I'm making a huge assumption by saying a few minutes, hopefully soon, rather – this will be resolved. You can still hear me, again, although it is a slight annoyance, I guess, with the humming or the ringing you're hearing, but it shouldn't preclude us from moving forward.

With that, I'm going to ask those on the phone – I'll just go through the list – if you can identify yourself again so that I make sure I have everybody online who's supposed to be online.

Member Irwin.

**Member Irwin:** Yes. I'm here.

**The Chair:** Yeah. Thank you.

Member Ganley, you're here?

**Ms Ganley:** I am.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Member Lori Sigurdson.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yes. I'm here.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Member R.J. Sigurdson.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Yes. I'm here. Thank you, Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Member Horner.

**Mr. Horner:** Yes. I'm here, Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Member Nixon.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Here.

**The Chair:** Thank you.  
Member Glasgo.

**Ms Glasgo:** I'm here.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

All right. We'll continue on with those housekeeping items of note. We ended with: please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*. Members do not need to turn them on or off. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and being broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

We'll next go to the approval of the agenda. As we finalize our agenda for today, I'd remind everyone that Bill 206 needs to be addressed, and we currently have a motion on the floor regarding the consideration of this bill. However, Bill Pr. 1 also requires our attention to ensure it is reported to the Assembly in a timely fashion. I hope that we can still stay focused on our deliberations and allocate our time this morning to ensure both matters can be dealt with before we adjourn. Are there any changes or additions to the draft agenda? If not, would someone like to make a motion to approve the agenda? Mr. Neudorf would like to move that the agenda for the November 17, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills be adopted as distributed. All those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed, say no. Okay. Hearing none, that motion is carried.

All right. Next we'll go to the approval of the minutes. We have the draft minutes to review from our previous meeting. Are there any errors or omissions to note? If not, would a member like to make a motion to approve the minutes as distributed?

**Mr. Neudorf:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Sure. Mr. Neudorf again. Mr. Neudorf to move that the minutes of the November 3, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills be approved as distributed. All those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed, say no. Hearing none, that motion has been carried.

All right. Before we get to item 4, the review of Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, if I can make a recommendation to the committee. When we left the committee, we were on a motion, as put forward by Member Ganley, regarding the invitation of stakeholders. I would like to ask the committee, with the committee's permission, that we set that aside as some new information has been brought to our attention recently in regard to this bill and Mr. Barnes. Is anybody opposed to having this motion be set aside so that we can discuss we'll call it the issue surrounding Mr. Barnes?

**Ms Ganley:** Can I just ask a clarification question?

**The Chair:** Sure.

**Ms Ganley:** By "set aside," do you mean that it'll come back later in the same meeting?

**The Chair:** Yes.

**Ms Ganley:** Okay. Thanks.

**The Chair:** Oh, sorry. According to counsel here, I have to ask for a motion to adjourn debate.

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Chair, so moved.

**The Chair:** Okay. Mr. Schow is asking for the motion to adjourn debate. All those in favour, say aye. Okay. Any opposed, say no. Hearing none,  
we will adjourn debate on this.

There had been some discussion. It was brought to our attention, and a memo had been sent out.

**Dr. Massolin:** Ask for a motion to move in camera.

**The Chair:** Oh, sorry. I'm completely indifferent to this. If people would like to . . .

**Ms Ganley:** I'm sorry to be the one to interrupt again. It's just that the video is off in the room, so we can't see you, and the noise is getting louder and louder, so we can hardly hear you. I'm having a bit of a challenge participating.

**The Chair:** Hang on. They're coming back. I think that they're adjusting it. Whatever they did, they need to do the opposite, and that might help out. We'll just pause this for a moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, if this problem persists, I'm going to see if there's an option to join by phone. You might not be able to see anybody, but at least you might get less feedback there. Just hang tight for a second.

All right. Ladies and gentlemen online, I'm going to ask everybody if you could hang up and call in. Let me just make sure that you guys have a phone number.

**Mr. Horner:** Chair.

**The Chair:** Yeah. Go ahead, Mr. Horner.

**Mr. Horner:** Yeah. The ringing stopped on my end just now.

**The Chair:** Okay. How about now for the other folks online?

**Ms Glasgo:** Yeah. Mr. Chair, the ringing is totally gone. I don't know what you guys just changed, but it's way better. It's way more clear now.

**The Chair:** Okay. Well, maybe we don't have to go to the phone. They say that it's better. Okay. All right. I got a thumbs-up. I think that's good.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Yes. Go ahead.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yeah. I'm just wondering if there is a staffperson who is monitoring the chat just because there have been comments, and they're all along, and no one is really responding. So I just wanted to identify that.

**Ms Rempel:** Yes. Thank you. I am monitoring the chat as well as the input I'm getting . . .

**The Chair:** The clerk is monitoring the chat.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Okay. Thank you.

10:20

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Okay. It sounds like temporarily, I'll say, the problem may have resolved itself with the help of the tech support back there, so thank you very much to the folks in the back. It's greatly appreciated. We'll continue.

We've adjourned debate. I'm just going to identify what has come to the attention of the committee, and then I will ask whether the committee wishes to move in camera or not, okay?

It was brought to my attention that Mr. Barnes may have a conflict of interest regarding Bill 206. This is a letter that was given to me and has been passed to all the committee members. Is there a desire for committee members to go in camera? Okay. I'm hearing none. Okay. If anybody would want to make a motion, this would be your opportunity to make a motion to go in camera. Okay.

All right. Ladies and gentlemen, let me just explain, I guess, technically, what has transpired. As many of you know, I am also the chief government whip for the government, and it was brought to my attention that Mr. Barnes might be in a conflict of interest regarding 206. I did contact Mr. Barnes. I asked him to provide me a letter, which he did, and it was distributed to all the members of the committee this morning. Then I have consulted with Parliamentary Counsel. I've certainly discussed with other folks who are much more intelligent than I am in regard to parliamentary procedures and how a bill can or cannot move forward within the House. We will not ever presuppose any outcome of a committee, nor will we presuppose any outcome of the Chamber, but in the efforts to explain . . .

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Yes.

**Mr. Schow:** May I? While I appreciate the comments you're making right now and I know that your suggestion to go in camera might not have been voted on, I do think that now that we are having a conversation about this, on second thought I think it might be wise for the committee to at least have a conversation about the circumstances surrounding this alleged case being discussed in camera and ask that other members of this committee join me in voting in favour of going in camera so we can at least discuss the details of this before we have a motion that's put on the floor.

**The Chair:** Very well. You're making a motion to go in camera?

**Mr. Schow:** Yes, Mr. Chair. I move that we go in camera.

**The Chair:** All right. Mr. Schow is making a motion to go in camera.

**Ms Ganley:** Sorry, Mr. Chair. I have some comments if we're moving to the discussion phase.

**The Chair:** Sorry. Go ahead, Member Ganley.

**Ms Ganley:** I feel like I require a bit more of an explanation. The Conflicts of Interest Act in Alberta is quite narrow. It's restricted to very specific financial interests of very specific individuals, all of whom tend to be sort of publicly accessible. So I guess I'm a little bit curious, especially in light of the letter with virtually no detail in it. I'm just a little curious why we have to go in camera, because I think this is something that is of interest to Albertans. I think, you know, that if there is nothing untoward going on here, I'm not sure I understand why we need to have the conversation in camera. Perhaps if someone can give me just a little bit more of an explanation of that.

**The Chair:** Sure.

Member Schow.

**Mr. Schow:** Certainly. Well, as you know, Member Ganley, to you through the chair, we deal both in this Chamber and also in the court

of public opinion, and this is a case of alleged conflict of interest. Given that our committee has to make some decisions about whether or not this bill should proceed and maybe possible other avenues of how to address this alleged instance of conflict, I think that if we're going to have that conversation, we should do it in camera to ensure that, you know, we are making the best decisions here for the future of this bill without involving the public where there's an alleged conflict. If there was something that was a prima facie case of conflict, then that would be a different case, I believe, but right now we have some conversations to have that I believe are best done in camera.

**The Chair:** Any further comments or discussion?

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Member Sigurdson, I believe that's you.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yeah. That's right.

**The Chair:** Yeah. Go ahead.

**Ms Sigurdson:** I certainly would like to echo the comments of . . .

**The Chair:** Sorry. Member Sigurdson, I'm sorry. I think we're catching every third word you're saying at the moment here. Maybe you can – I don't know if there's anything you can clarify on your end, and we'll try again.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Did something happen where [inaudible] with my audio? Is that what happened?

**The Chair:** Yeah. It's your audio.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yeah. Your audio is not working for me either.

**The Chair:** Yeah. Just try saying something again. That last sentence you said was clearer. I could understand that.

**Ms Sigurdson:** I'd like to . . .

**The Chair:** No. Sorry. I'm going to ask you to pause for a second. They're going to look into it. Just a moment, please.

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen online, just to avoid any more of these technical difficulties, if you guys could just hang up, we'll get a phone number for you to call.

Are you sending one out?

**Ms Rempel:** We will send one. It is not the one that's currently connecting that.

**The Chair:** Let's take a five-minute recess here. They will be sending to your e-mails a phone number for you to call in, and then once everybody is online, we'll resume. It shouldn't take longer than five minutes. With that, we'll take a recess.

Thank you.

[The committee adjourned from 10:28 a.m. to 10:34 a.m.]

**The Chair:** Okay. I know the e-mail has been sent out regarding the phone numbers. I just want to make sure that we have all committee members. Member Ganley has now joined us in person. Thank you very much for being here. I did hear that Mr. Nixon had joined by phone. Is that correct, sir?

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Yeah, I'm here.

**The Chair:** Okay. Member Glasgo has now joined in person. Member Horner, I heard you join by phone. Is that correct, sir?

**Mr. Horner:** Yes, I'm here, Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you. Member R. J. Sigurdson, are you on the phone? Okay. I don't hear him.

Member Lori Sigurdson, are you on the phone? No.

Member Irwin, are you on the phone?

**Member Irwin:** You bet I am, Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay. Great. Thank you. Looks like we're missing the two Sigurdsons, Lori and R.J.

**Ms Glasgo:** Mr. Chair, Mr. Sigurdson told me that his Internet is not going so well today.

**The Chair:** Yeah, apparently Internet is . . . [An electronic device sounded] Oh, there we go. Member R.J. Sigurdson.

Maybe I'll ask again. Member Lori Sigurdson, are you on the phone? [An electronic device sounded] Ah. Great. Fantastic. Member Lori Sigurdson, thank you very much for joining us. It looks like all of us are now on the phone.

I've just been advised by the clerk's office that, although I opened it up for debate on the particular motion, normally that has to be put forward to a vote immediately, although there is a little bit of leeway, so I am going to allow a little bit of leeway there. I will allow for a couple more comments; however, I'm not going to allow for a drawn-out debate on this.

I believe, Member Lori Sigurdson, you were in the process of speaking. I think we should be able to hear you now. Go ahead.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to cede my time to a member that has come down to the room, so Member Ganley will speak.

**The Chair:** Oh, okay. Thank you very much.

Member Ganley, go ahead, please.

**Ms Ganley:** Yeah. I think my take on this is just that I don't really understand the need to go in camera. This is all public information, in any event. The disclosure that we make, like any potential conflicts of interest, are online, and the only reason we know it may be because the member didn't seek advice from the Ethics Commissioner when he ought to have done so. He waited for Member Sigurdson to raise it here in the committee, presumably which is why we now have him saying that it may be a conflict of interest.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you for your comments.

I'll allow Mr. Neudorf, and then I'm going to put this to a vote.

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, even the opposition asked for further details. I would be interested in knowing those details, but because of the alleged status of this, I think it would be appropriate to have this conversation in camera until we understand that more fully.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay.

All right. I'll put this to a vote. All those in favour of moving in camera, say aye. On the phone? Okay. Thank you. All those opposed, say no. On the phone?

**Ms Ganley:** Recorded vote, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Yeah. Okay. I hear noes on the phone as well, and a recorded vote has been asked for. Oh. Sorry. Yes, it appears as though the motion has been passed to go in camera, but a recorded vote has been asked for, so thank you very much.

All right. The process for the recorded vote. I remind committee members that the standing orders now permit members to abstain from voting; therefore, during a recorded vote I'll ask members in the room who are in favour of the motion to raise their hands, and then I will state for the record the names of those in favour. Then I will go to the folks on the phone.

That being said, all those in favour just raise your hands, please. I have Mr. Schow, Mr. Neudorf, Member Glasgo. On the phone: I don't want to presuppose folks on the phone there, but if you can just chime in and identify yourselves.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Yeah. Jeremy Nixon.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** MLA Sigurdson, aye.

**The Chair:** Okay.

**Mr. Horner:** Horner, aye.

**The Chair:** Anyone else? Thank you. Okay. All those opposed, please raise your hands in the room. Thank you very much. We have Member Nielsen and Member Ganley. Again I ask those on the phone to just identify yourselves for the record, please.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Lori Sigurdson, no.

**Member Irwin:** Janis Irwin, no.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much. That has been carried six to four

I will confirm, with the consensus, of course, of the committee, that Parliamentary Counsel remain during the in camera as well, including the clerks. Thank you. I've got nodding of the heads from everybody there, so we're going to go in camera here, please.

[The committee met in camera from 10:40 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.]

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you very much. We have now returned from the in camera session.

**Mr. Schow:** Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Yes, Mr. Schow.

**Mr. Schow:** I'd like to request a five-minute recess.

**The Chair:** Okay. We are limited on time. Hopefully, we can still get through this agenda. However, I will allow the five-minute recess.

Ladies and gentlemen, we'll take a five-minute recess. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned from 11:08 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.]

**The Chair:** Okay. Let's return here. We've taken a five-minute break or slightly longer than that. We are now going to return to decisions on a stakeholder presentation, which is the motion that has been brought forward. At our last meeting we were discussing how to proceed with the review of Bill 206. At that time of adjournment we were considering the following motion: moved by Ms Ganley that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills invite stakeholders to make

presentations regarding Bill 206, the Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, at an upcoming meeting.

Several committee members had commented on the motion previously before we ran out of time. Is there any further discussion on that? Mr. Nielsen.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Well, thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess that when we're looking at the potential here for stakeholders, I think it would be in the best interests of the committee in terms of doing our due diligence. We weren't able to be provided with a technical briefing in terms of what the bill might affect, how it might affect. You know, some of the pointed questions that we did ask, the sponsor of the bill was not able to answer.

I have reservations about, I guess, sending it back to the House with a recommendation just at this moment without maybe at least hearing from stakeholders to get some certainty. I guess that as a member of the opposition I'd almost be shirking my responsibility to ensure that that didn't happen. I would definitely say that we need to invite some stakeholders, just to kind of tick that little box and then send it back to the House.

**The Chair:** Just as a friendly reminder and as advice provided to me by the clerk's office and, of course, counsel, remember that we do have to report back to the Assembly tomorrow, so if the committee does choose to hear from stakeholders, it's a very quick turnaround. We'd have to have them come tomorrow morning. Just to let you know. Okay?

All right. Member, go ahead.

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Chair. Just very quickly, I believe that there's a substantial difference between a private member's bill and a government bill. Government bills, I believe, would need to have a significant amount of research provided in terms of briefings, that kind of thing. Private members have this committee to do so. I think this is a highly developed issue that has been discussed in the public for years by both legacy parties of the UCP. I think it's very well documented that that information is readily available, and I do not feel the need at this time to call stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

I know we had a good discussion on this last time. I may allow a few more comments here.

**Ms Ganley:** I'll be brief on this issue. I think the concern continues to be that the member couldn't answer questions. Now we potentially have a different sponsor. There was no technical briefing provided. The bill does touch on an issue that's been in the public a lot. It does touch on the issue with respect to the rights to one's property, but it touches on a lot of issues. I think that's my concern, that it doesn't just deal with adverse possession. It deals with several other substantive issues. The adverse possession issue has been in the public. There is an Alberta Law Reform Institute report on that I myself requested, so I'm reasonably familiar with that issue, and I'm reasonably comfortable with that portion of the bill. It's the other portions of the bill that I'm more concerned about. I mean, I don't feel like I have a sufficient grounding in them.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

Maybe I'll allow for one or two more comments, and then we'll go to the questioning. Go ahead, Mr. Nielsen.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, I remember when this committee was first formed. The whole premise was around that private members' bills in the past didn't seem to get the

type of discussion that some felt they should, the opportunity to bring in stakeholders to make comment on that. It was my understanding that this committee was formed in order to allow for those processes to happen. Unfortunately, what we've seen, though, is that on a regular basis we have been taking those technical briefings out of the mix. We've been taking those stakeholder meetings out of the mix. I have to start wondering: what is, then, the purpose of this committee if not to be able to provide those things to private members? That also, then, starts to lead me to: what is the point of continuing with the committee? We might as well just leave everything in the House. That's the reason for this committee. We need to bring in the stakeholders, do our due diligence, and be able to send this back to the House with all confidence that we've exercised what this committee was designed to do in the first place.

11:20

**The Chair:** Any further comments?

All right. Thank you. I'll read the motion as put forward by Member Ganley. Moved by Ms Ganley that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills invite stakeholders to make presentations regarding Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, at an upcoming meeting.

All those in favour, say aye. On the phones? Okay. All those opposed, say no. On the phone? Okay. That motion has been defeated.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Recorded vote, please, Chair.

**The Chair:** Recorded vote, absolutely.

**Member Irwin:** Sorry, Chair. There was an aye, but I was muted. My bad. Just for your own knowledge.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you, Member. We are going to go to a recorded vote, so you'll have an opportunity once again to be on the record.

Okay. All those in favour, as per the convention, please raise your hand. I see Mr. Nielsen, Member Ganley. On the phone, I guess I'll ask you to step in and identify yourself.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Lori Sigurdson.

**The Chair:** Member Lori Sigurdson? Okay. Thank you.

**Member Irwin:** Yes. Member Irwin.

**The Chair:** Member Irwin.

Anybody else? Okay. Thank you. All those opposed, please raise your hand: Member Schow, Member Neudorf, Member Glasgow. On the phone, if you can just chime in, please.

**Mr. Jeremy Nixon:** Yeah. MLA Jeremy Nixon.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** MLA Sigurdson. Nay.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Horner:** MLA Nate Horner. Opposed.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Anybody else? Thank you.

That has been defeated 4 to 6.

Thank you very much. We will now move on to deliberations and recommendations. The committee will now begin its deliberations

on Bill 206 pursuant to Standing Order 74.2(1). At this time the committee must consider its observations, opinions, or recommendations with respect to Bill 206, including whether or not the bill should proceed. The committee's process allows for up to 60 minutes of deliberations on the bill although members may extend this time limit if there is a consensus that the additional time is necessary.

I will now open the floor to discussion on the committee's recommendations.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Chair?

**The Chair:** Go ahead, sir.

**Mr. Sigurdson:** Would this be the appropriate time to bring a motion that this bill proceed to the House?

**The Chair:** Yes. You can make that motion. We'll still have further discussion, but that's fine. You can put that motion on the floor. You're making a motion that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, proceed. Does that sound like something you wanted to say?

**Mr. Sigurdson:** You took the words right out of my mouth. Thank you, Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay. All right. Thank you.

I'll open up the floor to further conversation. Yeah, I see Member Nielsen.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Well, thanks, Mr. Chair. It's unfortunate that we weren't able to get a technical briefing on this bill. It's unfortunate that we weren't able to consult with stakeholders, which is the whole premise around the private members' committee, but, of course, I don't see any reason why this shouldn't proceed back to the House although there might be some challenges, you know, without presupposing anything further within the committee. We'll have to see what happens. I think it's important that committee members know that we are sending this back to the House not having done our due diligence and not potentially providing any important information that the House might need to be able to make an informed decision.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Member Nielsen.  
Anybody else want to make a comment?

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yes.

**The Chair:** Okay. Member Lori Sigurdson, go ahead, please.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Yeah. I guess I'm just asking for direction from the chair or Parliamentary Counsel perhaps. It's been clearly identified that this bill needs – oh, maybe I can't say this on the record right now.

**The Chair:** Member, I think – go ahead, Member.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Oh, sorry. Well, I don't want to be out of order, but there is a concern I have regarding the bill being brought forward. It was something that we spoke of in camera, so I want to make sure that that's okay.

**The Chair:** Yeah. I mean, what has already been identified on the public record, of course, is that Mr. Barnes has provided this committee a letter which indicates that he may be in a conflict of interest. The committee itself has a few options available to them,

one being that, again, if it is the desire or the will of the committee, this bill can proceed or the will or desire of the committee for the bill not to proceed. The other option, of course, is to allow this motion to proceed as it stands. You can certainly make an amendment to this particular motion, which could ask for a potential recommendation, or we can allow this motion to sit as it is on the floor and have a separate motion of a recommendation. These are the options that the committee has presented before us.

**Ms Sigurdson:** Okay. Thanks for the clarity, Mr. Chair. I think it's up to the government to decide how this should go forward, so I'll end my comments there.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.  
Mr. Neudorf.

**Mr. Neudorf:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can appreciate the comments by the previous member. I would like to propose that we address that in a separate motion. If we're able to vote on this, the government might be able to put forward a motion to address her concerns.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.  
Mr. Nielsen.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Maybe just to segue right off that – and perhaps Parliamentary Counsel can help out – are there possibly any challenges going forward that the House might face should nothing change other than the bill proceeds with a recommendation for it to proceed?

**The Chair:** Sorry. Maybe I didn't quite – Ms LeBlanc, if you want to answer that, or I'd have to hear the question again.  
I'm sorry, Mr. Nielsen.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I guess what I'm asking, Chair, is: are there any challenges that the House might face should we recommend that this bill proceed and nothing else is added?

**The Chair:** My understanding is that the House itself would not be facing the challenge. It would be the member himself who is facing the challenge.

**Mr. Nielsen:** He wouldn't be able to introduce it?

**The Chair:** Pardon me?

**Mr. Nielsen:** He wouldn't be able to introduce it in the next reading?

**The Chair:** No. The alternative for that particular member would be that for the bill itself to proceed, it would require that – and I think this may be. I don't want to presuppose what Mr. Neudorf was thinking, but the change in sponsorship of the bill would be the only way for that bill to proceed.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Any further questions? Okay. Let's move on. The motion as is and recommended by Mr. R.J. Sigurdson is that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, proceed.

All those in favour, say aye. Any opposed? On the phone? Sorry. I apologize. Any ayes or nays? Ayes. Any nays? No.

It looks like that motion has been passed.

Okay. Thank you very much.



Okay. Hon. members, with the committee having finished its deliberations on Bill 206, the committee should now consider directing research services. Again, I don't want to presuppose, but I thought Mr. Neudorf might have had another motion he wanted to put forward.

11:30

**Mr. Neudorf:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Neudorf:** I would like to address some concerns. I move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that the chair of the committee write a letter to the current sponsor of Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, recommending the sponsor seek unanimous consent in the Legislature to change the sponsorship of Bill 206.

**The Chair:** Any further discussion? I'll open the floor to discussion on this.

Hearing none, we'll let the clerk put it up there. Okay. Mr. Neudorf to move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that the chair of the committee write a letter to the current sponsor of Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, recommending that the sponsor seek unanimous consent in the Legislature to change the sponsorship of Bill 206.

Any further discussion? No?

Okay. All those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed, say no. Hearing none, that motion is passed.

All right. We'll just move on right here. Would a member wish to move a motion to direct research services to prepare the committee's draft report?

**Mr. Nielsen:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Mr. Nielsen. Mr. Nielsen would move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills direct research services to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill 206, Property Rights Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, in accordance with the committee's recommendations and authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly on or before noon on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Any further discussion?

Seeing or hearing none, all those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed, say no. Okay. Thank you very much.

That motion has been passed.

Just checking the time here, ladies and gentlemen, we just have The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Edmonton Repeal Act, which, speaking to both sides, appears to be in somewhat agreement. I would ask unanimous consent of this committee to continue for the next, we'll say, 15 minutes to get this done as these folks have been actually waiting quite some time. Anybody opposed? Okay. Thank you very much. I really appreciate the co-operation.

An update from Parliamentary Counsel on Pr. 1. Thank you. Mr. Koenig – awesome – thank you for joining us.

**Mr. Koenig:** All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just going to get my notes out. This should be fairly brief. Committee members may recall that this matter was last dealt with by the committee on June 23. I don't have a lot of comments at this point unless members

have questions, but I will just note that supplementary information has been provided for the attention of committee members by the petitioner, and that has been circulated.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you very much.

I think, Mr. Nielsen, you wanted to speak to this.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Yeah. Just in the interest of time, you know, all members have gotten the information with regard to Pr. 1. I think everything has been satisfied. There's no reason to hold this up, so I would be happy to make a motion that this proceed to the House.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you very much.

Any further discussion or comments?

Hearing none, we'll put the question before us here. Mr. Nielsen would be moving that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that Bill Pr. 1, The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Edmonton Repeal Act, proceed.

Any further discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favour, say aye. Any opposed, say no. On the phone? All ayes. Hearing no noes. All right.

That motion has passed.

Thank you very much.

**Ms Rempel:** We need the report.

**The Chair:** Which one? Oh. Okay. There we go. All right. We were so efficient, we had to skip over a couple of pages. Thank you very much for being very efficient here.

All right. Now, we need a motion to direct research services to prepare a draft report, including the committee's recommendations on Bill Pr. 1. Would a member wish to move the motion to direct research services to prepare the committee's draft report?

**Mr. Neudorf:** So moved.

**The Chair:** All right. Mr. Neudorf is going to move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills direct research services to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill Pr. 1, The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Edmonton Repeal Act, in accordance with the committee's recommendations and authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly on or before noon of Thursday, November 19, 2020.

Anybody have any further questions?

Seeing or hearing none, all those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed? Okay.

That motion has passed.

Thank you very much.

Other business. Are there any other issues for discussion before we wrap up today's meeting?

Seeing or hearing none, the date of the next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

With that, I look for a motion to adjourn.

**Mr. Nielsen:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Mr. Nielsen. Thank you very much, sir.

All those in favour, say aye. Any opposed? All right. Hearing none, that motion to adjourn is good. Thank you.

Have a great day, everybody. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 11:37 a.m.]





