



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

Bill 207, Reservists' Recognition Day Act

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
8 a.m.

Transcript No. 30-2-10

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The 30th Legislature
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)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)*
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)
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Bill 207 Sponsor

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8 a.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2020

[Mr. Ellis in the chair]

The Chair: All right. Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call the 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 like to ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then I'll call on those joining in by Skype. We'll begin to my right.

Mr. Schow: Joseph Schow, Cardston-Siksika.

Mr. Neudorf: Nathan Neudorf, Lethbridge-East.

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

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

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

The Chair: Okay. I'll just name the members, and if you could say who you are and what constituency you're from.

Mr. Horner, I believe you're on the line.

Mr. Horner: Here.

The Chair: The constituency you represent, sir?

Mr. Horner: Pardon me. Drumheller-Stettler.

The Chair: All right. Thank you very much.

Member Goehring.

Ms Goehring: Good morning. Nicole Goehring, MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Member R.J. Sigurdson.

Mr. Sigurdson: MLA Sigurdson, Highwood.

The Chair: Thank you.

Member Irwin.

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

The Chair: Thank you very much. Welcome.

Member Nixon.

Mr. Jeremy Nixon: Jeremy Nixon, Calgary-Klein.

The Chair: Okay. We have another person joining us by telephone but who doesn't appear to be showing up on the screen. Is it Member Lori Sigurdson? Is that you on the phone?

Ms Glasgo: No, Mr. Chair. Michaela Glasgo, MLA for Brooks-Medicine Hat.

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

Is there anybody else on the line that I might be missing? Okay. Thank you very much.

Substitutions are Member Goehring for Member Ganley, so thank you very much and welcome.

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 would remind everyone of the updated committee room protocols, which require that outside of individuals with an exemption, those attending a committee meeting 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 are operated by *Hansard*, so members do not need to turn them on or off, and committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

We'll next move to approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or additions to the draft agenda?

Seeing and hearing none, if someone would like to make a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Neudorf. Thank you. Mr. Neudorf to move that the agenda for the December 1, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills be adopted as distributed. All in favour, say aye. On the phone, say aye. Thank you very much. Any opposed? Hearing none either in the room or on the phone, that motion is carried.

We'll next move 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. Nielsen: So moved.

The Chair: Mr. Nielsen, thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Nielsen to move that the minutes of the November 24, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills be approved as distributed. All in favour, say aye. On the phone, please. Thank you. Any opposed, either in the room or on the phone? Hearing none, that motion is carried.

All right. Committee members, review of Bill 207, Reservists' Recognition Day Act, deliberations and recommendations. As committee members are aware, the potential stakeholders identified at our previous meeting have all respectfully declined the invitation to make a presentation to the committee. Therefore, we are now at the point where we can begin our deliberations on Bill 207.

At this time the committee must consider its observations, opinions, or recommendations with respect to Bill 207, 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 consensus that additional time is, of course, necessary. I'll now open the floor to discussion on the committee's recommendation on the bill. Would someone like to open the discussion? Mr. Neudorf.

Mr. Neudorf: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we heard a very concise, thoughtful presentation. I believe that this is something that is just very positive for our province as well as our nation, to recognize reservists and the work that they do. I believe that we are all in agreement with that. I don't think there's any contention here, and I would like to see that we move this forward and back to the House as presented in a timely fashion.

The Chair: Okay. Mr. Nielsen, go ahead, sir.

Mr. Nielsen: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would agree. I certainly would thank MLA Rutherford for bringing this bill forward. I think it's a

great opportunity to recognize our reservists, just like we do our full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces. You know what? I guess it's unfortunate that we weren't able to hear from stakeholders today. It would have been, quite frankly, I think, very fun, and I think it also would have been a great opportunity to thank them for their service. Any time we get a chance to do that, we should take that. Again, I see no reason why this shouldn't go to the House, and I will certainly be supporting it when we get to that point.

The Chair: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Nielsen. Those are excellent points that you did make.

I'm hearing consensus, but I'd certainly welcome conversations on this if anybody would like to say anything. Now we'll need somebody to move a motion in favour of moving this along.

Ms Goehring: Mr. Chair? This is Nicole.

The Chair: Yes, Nicole.

Ms Goehring: I'd like to make a comment if possible.

The Chair: Yes. Absolutely. We'd love to hear from you.

Ms Goehring: Thank you. I would just like to thank everybody on the committee for having me here today. I think it's great that I'm able to speak in support of Mr. Rutherford's recommendation for this piece of legislation to move forward. I agree with the comments. I think that it's absolutely essential that we're able to continue to show our support to the reservists within our Canadian Armed Forces, and I think that this legislation is a wonderful step to do that.

I've had the opportunity, both as the government liaison and now as Her Majesty's Official Opposition liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces, to have ongoing contact with members, both current and retired, to discuss anything military related. When discussing this piece of legislation with members across the country, there was a great appreciation for the gesture.

There was some feedback that I received in this, so I would just like to make a recommendation that when this moves forward, it be considered, as this is coming directly from the military. One of the key things that was noted was that wherever it says "Canadian Forces," they would recommend that it be identified as "Canadian Armed Forces." They said that within the last decade the term "armed" has been reinstated despite it not making its way into the National Defence Act. They made reference to this being the case specifically because there's already a Canadian Armed Forces Day that's celebrated within Canada. So the fact that the day is referred to as Canadian Armed Forces Day, that was something that they were making reference to.

I just think that, ultimately, it's great that we can continue to show support for our reserve unit with the Canadian Armed Forces, and I am fully in support of this going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, Member, for your service in being a liaison, not only in the past government but also in opposition, with the Canadian Armed Forces. I know that I have members within my own family who are members of the Armed Forces, and they appreciate having positive relationships with members of government as well as, even, opposition, so thank you very much for your service. I'm sure that working with Mr. Rutherford collaboratively, we should be able to accommodate, without presupposing any outcome of any decision made by this committee or any decision made by the House.

With that, is there somebody who would like to move a motion?

Okay, Mr. Neudorf. Mr. Neudorf moves that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommend that Bill 207, Reservists' Recognition Day Act, proceed.

Does that sound about right, Mr. Neudorf?

Mr. Neudorf: So moved.

8:10

The Chair: Okay. All right. Any further comments?

Hearing none, ladies and gentlemen, all in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed either in the room or on the phone? Hearing none, that motion is carried. Thank you very much.

Hon. members, with the committee having finished its deliberations on Bill 207, the committee should now consider directing committee staff to prepare a draft report including the committee's recommendations. Would a member wish to move a motion to direct the committee staff to prepare the committee's draft report?

Mr. Sigurdson: MLA Sigurdson here, Chair. I so move.

The Chair: Mr. Sigurdson, thank you so much. Mr. Sigurdson will move that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills direct committee staff to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill 207, Reservists' Recognition Day 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 on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

All those in favour, say aye. On the phone? Any opposed in the room or on the phone? Hearing none, that motion is carried.

All right, ladies and gentlemen, we'll go to other business. Are there any other issues for discussion?

Hearing and seeing none, the date of the next meeting will be at the call of chair.

Adjournment: would somebody like to move a motion to adjourn? Ah, Mr. Neudorf. All right. It's usually Mr. Nielsen. Okay, Mr. Neudorf. All right. Mr. Neudorf moves that the meeting be adjourned. All those in favour, say aye. Any opposed, say no. All right. That motion is carried.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Everybody, have a great day.

[The committee adjourned at 8:12 a.m.]

