



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Resource Stewardship

Wednesday, July 25, 2012
1 p.m.

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Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

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Rowe, Bruce, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W), Deputy Chair

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Anglin, Joe, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W)
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Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL)
Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (PC)
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Cao, Wayne C.N., Calgary-Fort (PC)
Casey, Ron, Banff-Cochrane (PC)
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Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Hale, Jason W., Strathmore-Brooks (W)
Hehr, Kent, Calgary-Buffalo (AL)
Johnson, Linda, Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Kubinec, Maureen, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)
Lemke, Ken, Stony Plain (PC)
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)
McDonald, Everett, Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)**
Pastoor, Bridget Brennan, Lethbridge-East (PC)***
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Webber, Len, Calgary-Foothills (PC)
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Vacant

* substitution for Ron Casey

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*** substitution for Rick Fraser

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[Ms Kennedy-Glans in the chair]

The Chair: All right. I think we're ready to start, everyone. This is the very first meeting of an all-party committee that you're a part of on resource stewardship. Personally, I am very, very excited to be on this committee and to be chairing this committee. Resource stewardship in the province of Alberta is a pretty significant deal, and I think it's wonderful that all parties are represented in this discussion.

We've got 25 people in this committee. We've got room in this room for everyone, but just barely. I'd like us to start by going around the room with the people who are physically here. As you've heard, we've got some people who are dialing in through teleconferencing. David, I'll start with you, and we'll go around the room. Just introduce yourselves. We'll end with Shannon.

Mr. Xiao: Okay. Sure. David Xiao, Edmonton-McClung.

Mrs. Leskiw: Genia Leskiw, Bonnyville-Cold Lake. We have lots of oil in our backyard.

Ms Calahasen: Pearl Calahasen, Lesser Slave Lake.

Ms Fenske: Good afternoon. Jacquie Fenske, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Ms L. Johnson: Linda Johnson, Calgary-Glenmore.

Mr. Lemke: Ken Lemke, Stony Plain.

Mr. Webber: Len Webber, Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Allen: Mike Allen, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo. We also have a little bit of oil in our backyard. I'm here, actually, as a substitution for Ron Casey.

Ms Pastoor: Good afternoon. Bridget Pastoor, Lethbridge-East. We've got lots of good stuff in our backyard, too. It's called something you can eat: meat and grain.

Mrs. Leskiw: We have that, too.

Dr. Massolin: Good afternoon. Philip Massolin, manager, research services.

Ms Sorensen: Rhonda Sorensen, manager of corporate communications and broadcast services.

Mr. Bilous: Deron Bilous, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. McDonald: Everett McDonald, Grande Prairie-Smoky, sitting in for Wayne Cao.

Mr. Anglin: Joe Anglin, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Dr. Brown: Neil Brown, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Mr. Sandhu: Good afternoon. Peter Sandhu, Edmonton-Manning.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Karen Sawchuk, committee clerk.

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

The Chair: Thank you very much.
Ms Pastoor.

Ms Pastoor: Yes. I'm sorry. I neglected to say that I'm substituting for Rick Fraser.

The Chair: Thank you.

Ms Blakeman, welcome. Wonderful to see you here. We'll let you introduce yourself.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you so much. Sorry I'm out of breath, running across my fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre.

My name is Laurie Blakeman, and I want to welcome each and every one of you to the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre.

The Chair: Thank you, Laurie.

We also have several people who are connecting to our meeting today via teleconferencing, and we are very impressed by the logistical capabilities of the people managing this room. I've heard the voices of Kent Hehr, Drew Barnes, Maureen Kubinec, and Bruce Rowe. Is there anyone else who is joining us?

If not, I would invite you – starting with Kent, Drew, Maureen, and Bruce – to introduce yourselves, please.

Mr. Hehr: Kent Hehr, MLA, Calgary-Buffalo.

The Chair: Drew, are you there?

Mr. Barnes: Yes, I am. I just unmuted. Good afternoon. Drew Barnes, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

The Chair: Thank you.

Ms Kubinec: Maureen Kubinec, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock MLA.

Mr. Rowe: Bruce Rowe, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, bringing you greetings from beautiful downtown Woodstock, New Brunswick.

The Chair: Wonderful.

Is that everyone, then?

Mr. Hale: Actually, this is Jason Hale, MLA for Strathmore-Brooks. I'm also on.

The Chair: Oh, hi, Mr. Hale. Good to hear from you.

Well, if that is everyone, I would like to start by thanking my deputy chair. Mr. Rowe is not here. We've spent considerable time talking on the telephone about what the possibility is for this committee and working with the Legislature expertise here. We've also met face to face to talk about how best to work through the issues that we can look at and to conduct ourselves as an all-party committee. So, Mr. Rowe, I thank you for that. I wish you were here in person, but I certainly understand the attraction of being where you're at.

Mr. Rowe: Well, thank you for that, Donna, and I echo your comments. We have gotten together, and I think we've got a good start on getting a handle on this committee. Hopefully, we can all work together in a nonpartisan way and just get the good things done.

The Chair: Thank you.

I'd also like to indicate to the people who haven't had the pleasure of working with the LAO, our clerk and the expertise of Ms Dean: very, very proactive and fantastic guidance, and I'm very, very grateful for that.

There are a few housekeeping pieces. I'm sure some of the veterans here at the table know this, but for people like myself it's good to repeat. The microphone consoles are operated by the *Hansard* staff at the back. They're managing them; we don't need to touch them. If you've got a cellphone or anything, please kind of keep it off the table so that it doesn't interfere with the audiofeed. As well, I'm sure all of you know that these minutes are *Hansard*, and you can access them if you would like to share them or look at them at any point in time. That's important to keep in mind.

The very first issue that we have to deal with is the teleconferencing question. There are times in Alberta when people will not be able to be at meetings. We all know what our weather looks like. The Legislative Assembly Act does allow participation by means of teleconferencing only if all members of a committee agree to that. So that is our first task here today.

I'm going to ask for a motion – we've got the wording of that motion crafted, and it will be passed around to you – that teleconference attendance for the duration of this Legislature is allowed by us. It's not encouraged. It's not the perfect thing. We obviously want to have you here in person, and that's much, much easier, but there are times when people will have to participate by teleconferencing. The only caveat to that is that there are times in certain meetings where we will ask that you come live, and we want to preserve that right. You've got the motion in front of you. If you just want to take a look at it.

Yes, Mr. Anglin.

Mr. Anglin: I'll make the motion.

The Chair: Thank you very much. Do you want to read it out loud, then, please?

Mr. Anglin: Motion that for the life of the 28th Legislature the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship permit committee members to participate by teleconference 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 Chair: Does anybody have any questions?

Some Hon. Members: Question. Call the question.

The Chair: I will.

Do you have any questions was my question, and now I'll call the motion.

Some Hon. Members: It's call the question.

The Chair: Oh, thank you. I'm getting coaching from the sidelines. This is very helpful, team.

All in favour? Okay. Thank you. Carried unanimously. This is good. Very good. Neil Brown on the sidelines here. I'm appreciating this.

Yes, Mr. Anglin.

Mr. Anglin: I just have a question. On motions where you require unanimous consent, can you just ask for unanimous consent . . .

The Chair: Yes, I can.

Mr. Anglin: . . . from the committee? Okay.

The Chair: Yes.

The next agenda item is temporary substitutions. This is for information only, and many of you will be familiar with this

already. Some today are already acting as substitutes. There's a standing order in your materials – and I'm sure you've looked at it – that says:

a temporary substitution in the membership of a standing or special committee may be made upon written notification signed by the original Member and filed with the Clerk and Committee Chair,

so the two of us,

provided such notice is given not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

That's something really important to keep in mind. If you want your substitute to be able to attend and to vote or to move a motion, then you have to provide that notice 24 hours in advance.

1:10

You've got a template here – don't you, Mrs. Sawchuk? – that you could provide if anybody is interested and needs that. Some of you have already found it, so that's fantastic.

The only other comment I'd make as the chair is just to make sure, for continuity purposes, if you have someone substituting for you, that you share that information and get the information back from the person who is acting on your behalf. I will always as chair – and I'm sure that our deputy chair will as well, speaking for you, Mr. Rowe – be happy to talk through anything that's happened in a meeting, but just make sure that that knowledge is always transferred.

Yes, Ms Blakeman.

Ms Blakeman: I'll just offer a little historical vignette for you. Prior to 2007 it was not possible to do this as this change came in the reworking of the standing orders that were negotiated at that point. Previous to that, if you weren't able to come, you were just down one for representation of your caucus on these committees. It was important that we be able to reproduce ourselves, so to speak, and to make sure that we were able to hang onto the voice and the vote and the ability to move motions, and that was part of what we were trying to achieve when we put this in those standing orders. So this is relatively new but has been very successful.

The Chair: Thank you very much for that, Ms Blakeman.

I think the fact that we're a 25-person committee: it's really relevant for us to be able to have some adaptability.

The next item is the agenda itself. I assume that everyone has had an opportunity to see the agenda. It's been posted on the committee website. Also, if anybody needs a copy, I think we have copies available. You just raise your hand if you in fact need one.

There is one item on this agenda that I'm just going to move to a different place, and that is under the requests to appear. I'm going to move that to other business. That's the only change that I would suggest.

I would like to call a motion on this and move that the agenda for the July 25, 2012, meeting of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship be adopted as circulated. Thank you, Ms Calahasen. All in favour? Any objections? On the phone, any objections? The motion is carried.

Now for the nuts-and-bolts part. This is our first meeting, and I think it's really important, especially as it's a new committee, to set out the mechanics. I'm relying heavily on Shannon Dean, who is Senior Parliamentary Counsel assigned to our committee and the director of House services, and I'm sure all of you know Shannon. We're relying on her to provide us with the detail, and she's got a presentation that she'll share with us.

Before I do that, though, I want to make sure I frame the mandate of this committee clearly. I'm sure you've all read it, but I'll read it out loud again. The mandate of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship relates to the areas of environment and sustainable resource development, transportation, municipal affairs, Treasury Board and finance, and energy. The committee may meet to review a bill or to consider an issue referred to it by the Assembly and can also meet on its own initiative to consider issues within its mandate. Now, that's a very wide mandate. It's quite wonderful in that it's multidisciplinary.

Mr. Rowe and I have talked a lot about this mandate to figure out ways that we can tackle this with a 25-person committee. One of the early observations for us – and I think it's important – is that we're going to have to be flexible. The idea of creating subcommittees that don't just stay in Edmonton but travel to the location of the issues, depending on the issues that we pursue, is going to be really important.

So as we move forward with recommendations to this committee, we will be framing issues in that way and trying to be as responsive to the issues – and actually where we can be interdisciplinary, we will be – as appropriate.

So the powers and the rights and the privileges of the committee of the Assembly and the relevant standing orders and the review processes and the committee support are issues that Ms Dean will review, and I will turn it over to her now.

Thank you.

Ms Dean: Thank you, Madam Chair. As your chair has pointed out, we have a few objectives here, and they're outlined above. Many of you have been members for a long time, so you've gone through these types of orientations before. But some of you are new, so hopefully this will be insightful.

First and foremost, just a reminder that this is a committee of the Assembly as opposed to a committee of the government, so the privileges of the Assembly and your privileges as members of the Assembly flow to your work here with the committee. As you know, the most commonly known privilege is your protection from defamation in connection with anything you say during a committee meeting. Now, that protection also extends to witnesses that might appear before you during a committee proceeding. They're also protected in the sense that their testimony before you cannot be used in another type of proceeding.

You also have wide-ranging powers. I think the key thing to point out to you is that you have the ability to summon witnesses. Of course, your first line of attack would be to send an invitation. If that was not sufficient impetus, then you could proceed and discuss the matter as a committee and make a determination that a summons was necessary. In that case, there would be a warrant issued by the Speaker. Now, as far as we can recall and my colleagues who are table officers can recall, that's never been utilized in Alberta. It has been utilized in recent years at the federal level.

I'm just going to flag some of the key standing orders. The chair has already talked a bit about the types of things that this committee can do. The most common thing that these types of committees or their predecessors, the policy field committees, did was review bills that were referred by the Assembly. You also have the ability to look at prospective regulations or amendments to regulations.

The annual reports of the various departments and agencies that fall within your mandate are automatically referred to this committee, so you can review them and report back to the House on anything in connection with those reports. It is possible that a minister may refer a matter to this committee, and it's certainly possible for you to undertake a review of something on your own initiative.

Finally, you can hold a public meeting with an entity, a stakeholder in connection with your mandate. You also have the ability to recommend to the House any legislative changes that you think would be appropriate that fall within your mandate.

Any questions before I plug away? No. Okay.

We talked about the inquiries that might be conducted in connection with some matter being referred by a minister or if you were to inquire into a matter on your own initiative. The timeline in those situations is six months, so from the time you start your inquiry until the time you report to the House. Once the House receives the report, the government has a 150-day period to respond.

Again, when a matter is referred by the Assembly, whether it's a bill or a subject matter for this committee to review, that matter is your first and foremost priority. So you would suspend or postpone your other work until such time as you've completed the work that the Assembly has asked you to do.

Now, I'm going to go into a little bit of detail about what happens when a bill is referred to a committee. Again, that's the most, I guess, common activity that we've had experience with in the last four or five years. As you know, a bill can be referred after first reading or second reading. The difference is the scope of review that the committee is permitted to undertake.

1:20

The key thing is that when a bill has received second reading, the Assembly has already approved the principle of the bill, so the scope of review that you have as a committee is narrower. Compare that to when a bill is referred to you after first reading: the House has not approved the principle of the bill, so in your report you can comment quite broadly. You can comment on subjects outside the scope of the bill, and the wording of the standing orders reflects that in the sense that Standing Order 74.2 says that the committee may "report its observations, opinions and recommendations" on a bill. Now, with a second reading bill you're very narrow in terms of what form the report is going to take. You're either going to report that the bill proceed, not proceed, or proceed with recommended amendments.

Finally, once your report is tabled in the House, with a bill that has been referred after first reading, the Assembly will vote on that report. If they concur that the bill proceed, then the bill will go forward for second reading. In the case of a bill that's already received second reading, the bill stands committed to Committee of the Whole unless the committee recommends that the bill not proceed and the House concurs in that report. Then the bill disappears from the Order Paper.

Any questions?

Ms Blakeman: Can we just clarify that if the bill is referred in second reading, it does not return to the Assembly in second? It goes directly into committee.

Ms Dean: I assume you mean after it has received second reading.

Ms Blakeman: That's what I'm asking. If you're in debate for second reading and it gets referred to the committee, after the committee has dealt with it and made its recommendations – let's, in this case, say to proceed – does the bill return to the House in second reading?

Ms Dean: Yes. In second reading, because it has not yet received second reading.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: All right. If there are no further questions, I think

we'll move to talking about the support systems that are in place for this committee. We talked about Karen's role. Karen is the committee clerk. You will hear from Mrs. Sawchuk quite a bit. She will provide administrative support, procedural support. You'll be receiving e-mails from her. When you do communicate with me, copying Mrs. Sawchuk on the messaging will be really important. Do you have anything else to add?

Mrs. Sawchuk: That's fine, Madam Chair. Thank you.

The Chair: Okay. Philip Massolin is the manager of research services and provides the research, makes recommendations to us about the witnesses that we would want to hear from, and supports the writing of the reports. I will mention that if necessary we will have dissent reports. We can do it that way if we need to. Do you have anything further to suggest?

Dr. Massolin: Yes. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would be pleased to talk to the committee just a little bit about the support that the Legislative Assembly Office provides in terms of research. I would just like to point out – and I realize that there are certain committee members that have been around for a little while, so they've heard me say this in the past, but just a friendly reminder – that the LAO provides research support, and that research support is nonpartisan in nature, impartial, unbiased. The research that we provide is for the committee as a whole, not for individual committee members. So just two points to remember.

We're here to support the committee in all stages of its review, whether that be a bill review, as Ms Dean outlined, or any other review, of course. Some of the things that we do in terms of providing that support are the things you mentioned, Madam Chair. In addition, we can also prepare discussion or information papers, background briefings, more in-depth reports, literature reviews, crossjurisdictional analyses, and other sorts of nonresearch related products, including developing stakeholder lists, which the committee finalizes, summarizing submissions from the public consultation process, and finally assisting in writing the committee reports. Just a note on that is that we would not partake in writing minority reports.

Thank you. I don't know if there are any questions.

The Chair: All right. Shannon Dean, whom you've already heard from and I'm sure all of you are familiar with, provides legal and procedural assistance to the committee as required. Ms Dean, do you have anything further to add?

Rhonda Sorensen is manager of corporate communications and broadcast services and provides communications expertise to this committee. Would you like to add to that, Ms Sorensen?

Ms Sorensen: Just to say that either myself or one of my colleagues would be assisting the committee at every meeting for whatever their communication needs are. We take our direction from the committee as a whole. Typically we would put forward recommendations on using both traditional and social media to meet the needs of the committee. Whether that is inviting public participation, inviting written submissions, we would come up with strategies that would help you achieve your goals and then discuss them as a group and make any amendments that we need to make to ensure that we meet your needs.

Are there any other questions?

We look forward to working with you, then.

The Chair: Welcome, Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you. Sorry I'm late.

The Chair: All right. We'll move ahead to the setting of the priorities and the processes for moving our work forward. This is a new committee, so we don't have a workload sitting in front of us. Mr. Rowe and I sat down and talked about how best to move this forward and decided that rather than having 25 people sitting in a room trying to sort through the variety of issues that we could look at, it made much more sense from a time perspective and effectiveness and impact for you to consider issues that you would like to advance and raise them within your own caucuses – we've got four caucuses represented here – and send myself, with Mrs. Sawchuk copied, an indication of issues that you would like this committee to consider. We'll do that over the next six weeks.

I will then call on Mr. Rowe to talk through that list of ideas that is advanced as a group, and then I will also ask the other two caucuses represented, the opposition caucuses, to identify a representative – in your case, I would assume it's yourself, Mr. Bilous, and Ms Blakeman or Mr. Hehr – for your caucus. Then Mr. Rowe, myself, and the representatives of the other two opposition caucuses would meet to sort through that list, and I would consult them in deciding what to advance and recommend to this committee.

Do you want to talk through that a little bit?

Mrs. Leskiw: You said within the next five, six weeks, but if our caucus isn't going to be meeting, then there's no way we can bring our concerns up. That's one fault. Another one is that if the whole purpose of this committee is for us to bring our concerns here, and if we have to have a medium process in order to do it, I'm just wondering if it defeats the purpose of having this committee to discuss it.

The Chair: Well, I'll deal with your first question first, Mrs. Leskiw. The time frame of the next six weeks allows us to all, you know, spend August working on identifying issues and advance them early in September so that we can meet – I think we're looking at the third week of September, the week of the 24th – and have ideas at that point in time that can be sort of distilled from a greater list of ideas that are brought forward by people. Then we'll have a list that's been prioritized based on consultation with representatives of all the caucuses. Otherwise, we could spend all of our time in this room sorting out what issues we want to pursue. My intent as a chair is to really make sure we get focused on working on the issues that we all care about.

Any other questions?

All right. I would suggest, then, that we review a motion if we've got that here to circulate. For the benefit of the people on the phone I'll read this out loud.

Move that

the chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship in consultation with the deputy chair and representatives of other opposition caucuses identify matters for consideration within the committee's mandate and suggested processes for public input and report back to the committee at its next meeting.

I'm asking that somebody move. Mr. Sandhu has moved. Thank you very much. All in favour? Any objections? The motion is carried. Thank you.

1:30

Other business. The only other business that I would like to table for this committee is that we have received a request from EPCOR to present a general review of the power industry in Alberta. They want to present to this committee, and they made a written submission to myself and to Mrs. Sawchuk. Right now, because we want to be acting proactively rather than reactively

and we would like to define the issues that we would like to review, we've suggested that if anyone would like to meet with EPCOR, they're certainly welcome to do so, but this committee would not be the natural place for them to make that presentation. Does anyone have any questions about that?

Ms Blakeman: What do you see as the natural place for them to make a presentation like that, then?

The Chair: It's a very good question, Ms Blakeman, and we've talked about that. Actually, Mr. Rowe and I talked about that quite extensively. What I would like to suggest is that if anybody from this committee would like to meet with them, they're able to do so. I want to make sure you're always aware of those kinds of requests that come forward. I think it will be up to individual caucuses and individual MLAs to decide if they would like to have that.

Dr. Brown: I agree completely with the chair. To open the door to individual presentations from one particular power producer I don't think is productive. I think if we wanted to have a presentation from AESO on how the electricity network operates in Alberta, it would be much more appropriate. But to have one particular power producer in here and not have other opportunities for competitors of theirs to do the same thing I think would be inappropriate.

Ms Blakeman: Well, I have somewhat of a historical objection in that it was the habit in the past of the government meeting with groups like this that requested to address. They met with them in the internal government policy committees, and part of what these policy field committees were to do was to open that up so that there was participation from all of the parties and it wasn't just the government caucus. I agree that in this instance I don't really want to hear from one producer. If they were representing others, I'd be more interested. But if we follow what the chair is suggesting, then it's quite possible that some of the smaller opposition parties will not get an opportunity to hear from these groups if they go back to the old standard of presenting to the government only.

That is my observation and my concern given what has been described here. I certainly don't want to see a situation recur that has groups presenting to government caucus only. This being an all-party committee, the point was that we would all hear what was to be said.

The Chair: Ms Blakeman, I appreciate your history and your experience. It's very useful for all of us. We actually discussed that, Mr. Rowe and myself, and also with the legislative support team.

Transparency is a critical objective for all of us, and I share that with you. I will as chair undertake to ensure perhaps that everyone in this committee is provided a copy of any invitation we receive or any solicitation by a third party to present to us and as well our response. I have no trouble with that as a chair at all. What I would suggest is that if you as a member of this committee, in receipt of that request, decide that you would like to meet with somebody, I would certainly encourage you to do so. I just am concerned about the committee's time here. There are so many issues to be addressed for Albertans that I think we have to proactively define what those are. But to accommodate your concerns, I trust that will be an acceptable response, and I undertake to do that.

Ms Blakeman: Just to recap, then, the process for groups applying to be heard in front of this committee would be that the

application is received, there's a copy sent to the rest of us on the committee, but the chair or the vice-chair, who represents the Official Opposition, and representatives from the two other opposition parties will decide whether or not they are allowed to present before the committee.

The Chair: The latter part I hadn't mentioned. I have no objection as chair if one of the members of the chair, the vice-chair, or the representatives of the two other opposition parties decide that that is an issue that they would like to recommend to this committee proactively. They're always able to do that.

Ms Blakeman: To follow, then, the final deciding body is this one. If the decision comes back to it perhaps with a recommendation from one of the caucuses that they would like to hear, I take it there's then a majority vote.

The Chair: As you know, that's right. Yes.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. So it can still be driven given that – correct me if I'm wrong – most of the members on the committee represent the government caucus.

The Chair: Ms Blakeman, that is accurate. All of us are here as MLAs representing our constituencies who elected us. Thank you.

Ms Blakeman: Well, true enough, but we are on here representing caucuses, and we can't pretend that that's not happening here.

The Chair: We're being very transparent here, we will continue to be, and your good questions are very much appreciated.

Ms Blakeman: Yeah. We still can't get anything on the table.

Mr. Anglin: If this helps the chair, I will guarantee you that electricity will be an issue brought forward by the Wildrose caucus in the proceedings for us to consider undertaking, and it's really important. I know EPCOR wants to present to this committee. I can assure you I have a history with electricity in this province, and it is an important enough issue that my caucus will be bringing that forward, absolutely. The AESO, EPCOR, Capital Power, and many of the other participants: I would really enjoy having them come to this committee and answer some very tough questions about the future of Alberta and the future of electricity in Alberta.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Anglin.

Any other comments? Okay.

Actually, Mrs. Sawchuk has made a very good suggestion. The EPCOR request will be provided to the committee members by posting it on the Internet website. I think that's a comfortable approach.

Ms Blakeman: Will we be given notification that it's there, or do we just check?

The Chair: You will be given notification that it's there.

Ms Blakeman: Good. Thank you.

The Chair: All right. The next issue to be addressed is the date of the next meeting, and I would like to suggest that the next meeting be scheduled during the week of September 24, either on the 25th, which is a Tuesday, or the 27th, which is a Thursday. You will be polled. Actually, I think it's going to be hard to have a show of hands. Maybe, Mrs. Sawchuk, we could ask that members get back to you on their preferences, and then we'll do a poll from

there. The dates that are being recommended are Tuesday, September 25, or Thursday, September 27. If you could provide Mrs. Sawchuk with your advice on your preference by the end of this week. You could do it right after this meeting if you like.

Yes, Mrs. Leskiw.

Mrs. Leskiw: Madam Chair, there are enough people on the phone and here to get a sense of whether Tuesday is more suitable than Thursday.

The Chair: Sure. Okay.

Ms Blakeman: As well, the time of the meeting. I think it makes a difference to some, if it they're driving in from out of town in particular, what time the meeting starts. So if you could give us a ballpark on that one and the anticipated length of the meeting.

Thank you.

1:40

The Chair: Mrs. Sawchuk is suggesting that if we have the

meeting on the 25th, it would be in the afternoon, and on the 27th it could be in the morning or in the afternoon. So now we have three choices, which gets more and more complicated. I guess what I would suggest, then, is that we not do the vote here. If you can write that down: the morning of the 25th, the morning of the 27th, or the afternoon of the 27th. If you would provide your preferences to Mrs. Sawchuk, that would be much appreciated, and then we'll firm that up.

Dr. Brown: Chair, you just said the morning of the 25th. I think that the earlier discussion was the afternoon of the 25th.

The Chair: Thank you. Just to recap: the afternoon of the 25th or the morning of the 27th or the afternoon of the 27th. Dr. Brown, you are my constituent. I am eternally grateful for all your advice here today. Thank you.

If there is nothing else for the committee's consideration, I'll call for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anglin, thank you. All in favour? No objections? Carried. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 1:41 p.m.]

