



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Select Special
Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer
Search Committee

Wednesday, July 31, 2024
10 a.m.

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Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee

Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC), Chair
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair

Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Hunter, Grant R., Taber-Warner (UC)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP)
Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)
Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

Public Service Commission Participants

Julie Barron	Executive Search Consultant, Executive Search
Maricel Somera-Wong	Executive Search Consultant, Executive Search

Support Staff

Shannon Dean, KC	Clerk
Trafton Koenig	Acting Law Clerk
Philip Massolin	Clerk Assistant and Executive Director of Parliamentary Services
Nancy Robert	Clerk of <i>Journals</i> and Committees
Abdul Bhurgri	Research Officer
Christina Williamson	Research Officer
Warren Huffman	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications
Christina Steenbergen	Supervisor of Communications Services
Lyndsay Tischer	Director of Human Resources
Shannon Parke	Communications Consultant
Amanda LeBlanc	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

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[Mr. Getson in the chair]

The Chair: Welcome back. I'd like to call the meeting to order if we can. I'd like to welcome all the staff members to the meeting of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee.

I'm Shane Getson, the MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland. I'd like to ask the members in the room to introduce themselves, and then we'll go to the folks online as well as the guests in the room; introduce themselves as well before we go online. Starting to my right.

Mr. Rowswell: Garth Rowswell, MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright.

Member Irwin: Whoa, that's me already. That's so wild. Okay. Well, sorry, friends. My name is Janis Irwin, and I am the MLA for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood. Thanks.

Ms Wright: Peggy Wright, and I'm the MLA for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Dach: Lorne Dach, MLA, Edmonton-McClung. Good morning.

Ms Steenbergen: Good morning. Christina Steenbergen from LAO communications.

Ms Somera-Wong: Hello. Maricel Somera-Wong, exec search, public service commission office.

Ms Barron: Good morning. Julie Barron, executive search.

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

The Chair: And in no particular order online, but ladies first as always. MLA Petrovic, would you introduce yourself into the record, please?

Mrs. Petrovic: Hi. I'm Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

The Chair: And I see MLA Wiebe. Would you introduce yourself as well, sir?

Mr. Wiebe: Ron Wiebe, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

The Chair: And I see MLA Hunter.

Mr. Hunter: Grant Hunter, MLA for Taber-Warner.

The Chair: And I see MLA van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Good morning. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

The Chair: And last but certainly not least, I see MLA Sabir.

Mr. Sabir: Irfan Sabir, MLA, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall.

The Chair: Excellent. All aboard who's coming aboard. I think we have everybody in the record at this point. I'd like to note for the record as well that there are no substitutions for the meeting.

A few housekeeping items before we go to the matters at hand. Microphones are operated by *Hansard* – thank goodness – except when we go in camera; that will be a different operation altogether. We'll have to manage them ourselves. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Assembly

Online. Members participating remotely should ensure that they are prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconferencing participants are encouraged to have their cameras on, if possible, when speaking. Please set your cellphones to the least disturbing function that you have as possible.

Jumping right along. We have an agenda for today's meeting. I would like to ask one of the members if the agenda is excellent as noted. If you would like to read that into the record and move that we have it. I see a member.

Ms Wright: I actually have an addition to the agenda if that's all right. Under other business, if we could just add a note to discuss next meeting dates.

The Chair: Perfect.

Ms Wright: Thank you. And then if you'd like me to move acceptance of the agenda, I could do that at this point.

The Chair: Let's be most expeditious. Absolutely.

Well, any objections to having that item? Good. Done. Awesome. Cool.

Ms Wright: All right. I would like to move adoption of the agenda as amended.

The Chair: Absolutely.

All in favour? Any opposed? Online, all in favour? Any opposed? Motion carried.

We have draft minutes of our two last meetings for consideration. We'll need to address these documents separately.

May 6: were there any errors or omissions? If not, someone, would they like to adopt the meeting minutes? I see MLA Rowswell.

Mr. Rowswell: I'd like to adopt the minutes from May 6, 2024.

The Chair: Perfect.

Do we have a motion to that effect? Any opposed? In favour? Awesome.

We have the May 8 meeting notes. Any errors or omissions to note? If not, would someone like to adopt these as well? MLA Dach.

Mr. Dach: I have a question about something that was omitted in the final part of the report. It was noted, the vote was noted and noted that the opposition voted against the appointment. However, there was nothing to indicate that the opposition reported in the meeting that a minority report would be forthcoming. So that would be, I think, a wise thing to do because it was part of the meeting, an important part of the meeting. Notwithstanding the fact that the opposition's vote was recorded as opposed to the decision to appoint, I think that the notation that the opposition was prepared and announced that they were going to prepare a minority report should be noted in the minutes.

The Chair: So would your suggestion be that the minutes be updated to note that the opposition would be preparing and providing a minority report.

Mr. Dach: That's correct.

The Chair: Okay.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Chair.

The Chair: Any objections to that? These weren't put on notice, so we'll need permission from the group to see if that goes in, and then

if that's accepted by the group, we'll do that; otherwise it has to go back on notice, is what the clerk has advised me.

Mr. Dach: Can I receive permission from the committee clerk?

The Chair: Sure. So let's do that. Any opposed to having that amended update coming from the floor?

Mr. Sabir: Chair, if I may.

The Chair: Sure. Go ahead, MLA Sabir.

Mr. Sabir: I think we're talking about meeting minutes that need to reflect what happened in the meeting. We shouldn't need a motion to amend that. I think that's my recollection as well, that what happened in the meeting – the meeting minutes should reflect accurately what was said, what happened.

The Chair: Yeah. Correct. There's no debate on that, MLA Sabir. The clerk is advising me that amendments – it's a clerical process – would have to have a notice in advance for updating the notes, so we can all agree here in the room to allow for the update to take place right now, and then we can move forward with it. I'm just caught up in a parliamentary nuance, quite frankly.

If there are any objections, please state them now for allowing this to come from the floor for an amendment of the meeting notes. In the room any opposed? Online any opposed? We'll consider all in favour.

We can update those notes to reflect it accordingly, and we'll wordsmith it, MLA Dach, along the lines we just agreed. I'm not sure if we have to throw that up on the screen, but if you can allow our clerk just to pencil whip it in, then we can move on for accepting the notes.

Mr. Dach: Acceptable. Let's move on.

The Chair: Excellent.

Now the next part is to accept the potential amendment notes – I'm getting on to this; I'm learning, Jody – as amended verbally and as agreed upon by the committee. All those in favour in the room. Any opposed? None. Online all those in favour. Any opposed?

Motion carried.

All right. Consideration of application Chief Electoral Officer. It's been a few months since our last meeting, so I'll quickly remind everybody where the committee is at. The committee completed its mandate regarding the Ethics Commissioner position. Mr. Shawn McLeod was appointed in his term. It allows us to focus now on the position of Chief Electoral Officer. On May 6 the committee approved a variety of communication initiatives to encourage qualified individuals to apply for the position. That application ended on the 2nd of July. The applicants were received and were organized and summarized to be prepared; however, it's important that all committee members should have taken a look at the applications that are available online.

I'd also like to remind everyone that questions on the work and questions regarding the individual applicants may be directed to the committee office. Communications and contact with applicants should only be initiated through the committee office and the executive search. Consistency and confidentiality are integral to the work of hiring this election committee. Basically, we've got the applicants' places; if you have any questions or anything regarding applicants or any questions that may or may not be directed to those applicants further through the process, obviously, we want to make sure that goes through the process here and no one is going outside of school having coffee or any of those things or directing questions that might mess up the whole process.

To maintain confidentiality of the applicants, it would be appropriate to continue the discussion in camera. If that is the case,

I would be more than tickled if someone would make that motion so we can proceed in camera.

Mr. Rowsell: So moved.

The Chair: MLA Rowsell has moved. All those in favour? Any opposed? None. Online all those in favour to move in camera? Any opposed? Motion carried.

[The committee met in camera from 10:10 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.]

The Chair: All right. We're back on the record. Just coming out of in camera; made some decisions, conversations, and gave direction. *Hansard* is going to be operating the microphones now, so I can keep my clumsy fingers off those.

We have other business right now and there was one item that was brought up earlier, so maybe we'll just lead off with that. MLA Wright.

Ms Wright: Thank you, Chair. I wanted for all of us to have just a bit of an opportunity to discuss the next couple of meeting dates. I note that in the past the practice had been to sort of send out: we're thinking of having a meeting on this date; are you folks available on that date? Unfortunately, that didn't occur. As a result, a couple of us have some major conflicts, particularly for those mid-September dates. So I'm wondering if we could maybe either revisit the practice or just simply revisit the 16th and 17th dates.

The Chair: So, to that effect, let's look at the ones that are the conflicts. I think we can do that. I'm not sure if everyone is comfortable with pulling out their phones right now because I know those are pretty fluid, but we can definitely see if there's a no go on those dates. We could try to come up with an alternate date and then do a Doodle poll, or whatever we want to call it, and send it back out.

Yeah, the more in advance – I agree with you – the better it is. Some of the committees were pretty fluid and fast moving for some other reasons and circumstances, but, yeah, that's what we'd like to do going forward: make sure we have enough advance notice so we can juggle things around accordingly.

MLA Hunter.

Mr. Hunter: I was just going to say, Mr. Chair, that I think rather than trying to organize everybody's schedule at this point, we should probably leave it as we've done in the past, which I think is that the committee clerk sends out something of a straw poll and try to work it out that way.

The Chair: Okay. MLA Irwin.

Member Irwin: Yeah. Thanks for that. Yeah, I believe the 4th works for all of us, right? So we're okay with that date, but the sooner we can land on – because I'm assuming the 16th, 17th would have been in-person interviews, right? So we're going to need those probably two full days, right?

The Chair: I heard the 15th as well. Was it the 15th as well?

Member Irwin: I think it's the Monday, Tuesday; whatever that is.

The Chair: Just 16th, 17th? Okay.

Member Irwin: Sixteenth, 17th, yeah.

The Chair: So 16th, 17th no go. We'll send out a Doodle poll. Hopefully, it would get out the end of this week, just to see when the next dates are; give everyone a chance to work on their calendars.

MLA Dach.

Mr. Dach: Just a quick question as to why, indeed, the meeting dates were arbitrarily submitted to committee members without the advance Doodle polls we've typically done in the past, I believe. It seems strange.

The Chair: No real reason other than just trying to nail down a date, honestly. Looking at the chair's calendar to see if there was an opening and then starting as a weather mark to go from there. That's all it was.

Mr. Dach: Okay. So going forward we'll revert to our past practice of doing the Doodle poll first.

The Chair: Absolutely. Yeah. If there are any conflicts, too, it's very helpful to the chair and the committee to just flag it. Flag it on the play, and tell us right away, and then we can send out an updated date, especially when we have enough advance notice.

Any other business items? Does that work, MLA Wright?

Ms Wright: Thank you. Yes.

The Chair: No problem.

Next meeting. We currently have our next meeting scheduled for September 4. We'll send out a note on that. Are there any exceptions? If you know, let us know in advance.

If that's cool, then we can go on to the most exciting part of the meeting, which is the adjournment. Are there any other items we need to discuss before we move there?

Mr. Rowswell: Nope.

The Chair: Anyone looking forward to adjourning the meeting?

Mr. Rowswell: I so move.

The Chair: MLA Rowswell. All in favour? Any opposed? Online, all in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

We'll see you next time. Thanks everybody.

[The committee adjourned at 11:24 a.m.]

