



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
Second Session

Standing Committee  
on  
Legislative Offices

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
9 a.m.

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**Legislative Assembly of Alberta  
The 31st Legislature  
Second Session**

**Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC), Chair  
Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC), Deputy Chair  
Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC), \*Acting Deputy Chair

Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP)  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)  
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)  
Miyashiro, Rob, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)  
Sawyer, Tara, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)  
Schulz, Rebecca, Calgary-Shaw (UC)\*\*  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)  
Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

\* substitution for Justin Wright

\*\* substitution for Scott Cyr

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Gordon McClure	Chief Electoral Officer
Diane McLeod	Information and Privacy Commissioner
Shawn McLeod	Ethics Commissioner
Terri Pelton	Child and Youth Advocate
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Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications
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Amanda LeBlanc	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

9 a.m.

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[Mr. Lundy in the chair]

**The Chair:** All right. Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order. I'd like to start by welcoming members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices.

My name is Brandon Lundy, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont and chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we'll hear from anyone joining us online. Starting on my right.

**Ms Schulz:** Rebecca Schulz, MLA, Calgary-Shaw.

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

**Mrs. Petrovic:** Chelsae Petrovic, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod.

**Mrs. Sawyer:** Tara Sawyer, MLA for the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

**Mr. Dyck:** Nolan Dyck for the incredible constituency of Grande Prairie.

**Ms Chapman:** Amanda Chapman, Calgary-Beddington.

**Ms Wright:** Peggy Wright, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

**Ms Sorensen:** Rhonda Sorensen, manager of communications services with the Legislative Assembly Office.

**Ms Tischer:** Lyndsay Tischer, director of human resources with the Legislative Assembly Office.

**Ms Dean:** Shannon Dean, Clerk.

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

**The Chair:** All right. It looks like we have one member joining us online. MLA Miyashiro, please go ahead and introduce yourself.

**Member Miyashiro:** Well, thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Rob Miyashiro, MLA, Lethbridge-West.

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

For the record I would like to note the following substitutions. Mr. Wiebe will be substituting as deputy chair for Mr. Wright, and the hon. Ms Schulz is substituting for Mr. Cyr.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. We'd ask that members participating remotely ensure they are prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconference participants are encouraged to have their cameras on, if possible, when speaking. As always, please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

We'll now turn to our agenda. A draft meeting agenda was circulated. Does anyone wish to propose any amendments to the agenda? Seeing none. Would a member move a motion to approve the agenda? All right. MLA Dyck caught my eye. So moved by MLA Dyck that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices approve the proposed agenda as distributed for its March 25, 2026, meeting. All those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Any opposed? Online? All right. That motion is carried.

We'll now turn to our approval of minutes from our previous meeting. We also have a set of minutes from our last meeting. Are there any errors or omissions? All right. Seeing none. I would ask for a motion to approve the minutes. Thank you, MLA Sawyer. So moved by MLA Sawyer that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices approve the minutes as distributed of its meeting held on March 23, 2026. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? All right. That motion is carried.

I'd like to give MLA Shepherd a chance to introduce himself as he has now joined us online.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, everyone. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton-City Centre.

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you, sir.

We'll now move on to the next item on our agenda, which is the Auditor General search. This next item on our agenda deals with our search for a candidate we would like to recommend to be the next Auditor General. In order to respect the privacy of the candidates involved in the process, it would be appropriate for the committee to consider moving in camera at this point. Would anyone like to make a motion in this regard? All right. I saw MLA Sawyer. For the record moved by MLA Sawyer that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices meet in camera to discuss the Auditor General search and that required staff from the Legislative Assembly Office remain in attendance. Is there any discussion on this motion? Seeing none. I would like to ask those in the room: all in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? All right. All those in favour online? Any opposed? All right. That motion is carried.

We will pause to allow staff to leave the room.

[The committee met in camera from 9:05 a.m. to 9:28 a.m.]

**The Chair:** Well, welcome back, everyone. We are now back on the record, and I would please ask for MLA Cyr to introduce himself.

**Mr. Cyr:** Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you, sir.

The next item on our agenda is the committee report. It looks like we have MLA Dyck.

**Mr. Dyck:** Excellent. Well, thank you very much, Chair. Greatly appreciate it. I would like to move a motion here this morning in the committee. I would move that

the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

- (a) accept the recommendation of the Auditor General search subcommittee,
- (b) approve the draft committee report dated March 25, 2026,

I believe that's today.

- (c) recommend to the Legislative Assembly that
  - (i) Phillip Peters be appointed to the position of Auditor General for an eight-year term, effective April 29, 2026, and
  - (ii) the Speaker be authorized to on its behalf enter into a remuneration agreement with the appointee as it relates to Phillip Peters' appointment.

**The Chair:** Thank you, MLA Dyck.

In consultation with the clerk we might suggest for point (b), "approve the draft committee report dated March 2026." We don't require a day. So if you're amenable to that being . . .

**Mr. Dyck:** Yes. Sorry. Absolutely. So to be "report dated March 2026."

**The Chair:** Okay. Appreciate that clarification.

This is a debatable motion, so I would open the floor for commentary. I see MLA Dyck, and then we'll go to MLA Shepherd after.

**Mr. Dyck:** Excellent. Well, yeah. I would just love to provide some rationale here for this. We did see that his references and background came back unblemished, came back perfect, which is excellent. Thank you for the work on that. The recommendation does align with the subcommittee's recommendation and earlier decision to proceed with Mr. Peters, too, as the Auditor General.

As for the eight years, this is the most common. In the past more common than not is the eight-year term, so I think that we should continue in that tradition as well.

He had a very impressive interview. Thankful for that. He also had extensive experience in the Auditor General's office, which I think is important so he can step in on the first day. He's also part of their leadership team. He's also a general counsel and ethics officer and a member of the leadership team there already. These are important parts to this. As I said, he'll be able to step into this job day one, so his uptime will be there right away.

He's also shown exceptional leadership throughout both the private and public sector. He's also a member with good standing with the CPA and has, interestingly, all his necessary legal credentials, too, as well. I think that as he reads legislation and being a good member of the CPA, that is important. He is able to sign audited financial statements – we've been able to confirm that – and then also has extensive knowledge of GAAP, GAAS, and IFRS. As I said, his legal background, I think, will be very helpful and bring additional designation. That makes him a unique candidate, I think, in this role and is important as well.

I'm very confident that he will continue the independence of this office. He was a strong candidate. He's committed to this, and I look forward and I'm very confident that we can see him continue in that independence of this office. I'm quite certain that his appointment will result in no disruption of any ongoing audits or investigations that may carry over from Mr. Wylie's term. Once again, thanks to Mr. Wylie for his term, too, of eight years.

Yeah. Looking forward to having him be our Auditor General.

**The Chair:** Thank you, MLA Dyck.

Are there any other members wishing – MLA Shepherd, please go ahead.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Regrettably, I will be speaking against this motion. Both myself and Ms Wright have had the opportunity to participate in other search committees for officers of the Legislature and have seen the processes and procedures that have been put in place during that work. Indeed, there are processes that are common to all search committees. For example, all search committees are going to create and approve an ad to solicit candidates. They are going to work with the executive search team from the public service to help sort and rank resumés. They are going to work with that team to select a set of interview questions which should of course focus on qualifications, should focus on experience, should be focused on relevant histories and experience, and should stay away from political posturing or interest.

What I can say is that it is my view and I believe that of Ms Wright that throughout this process we saw significant and profound deviations from those usual and best practices that have been the norm in other search committees. You know, I can say, I think without breaching confidentiality, that Ms Wright and myself did not support any of those deviations that were put forward, those

changes from procedure in some of the areas, again speaking to what committees broadly would normally approach and the advice they would normally receive and in my past experience have largely accepted from the professionals in the public service and those in executive search to best ensure that you are maintaining a professional procedure, professional process and not allowing any opportunity for, say, conflict of interest or elevation of political interest or perhaps bias.

Again, I do not feel that is what I saw throughout this process. Myself and Ms Wright time and time again felt the need to make our opinion in that direction known. As a result, I believe what we have seen here is not the best decision that could have been made on behalf of the people of Alberta.

There's no question that Mr. Peters certainly meets qualifications for the position. You know, Member Dyck spoke of the interview with Mr. Peters, and certainly Mr. Peters presented himself well. He has experience in the office. He has some executive leadership at a low level. Mr. Peters certainly brings knowledge and expertise that will be of use in the role, and I have no question in my mind that Mr. Peters will be principled and ethical in the work, as we would expect of any Auditor General for the people of Alberta. However, it is the view of myself and Ms Wright that Mr. Peters was not the most qualified for this position.

9:35

We had several highly qualified candidates with significant experience in a wide range of audit work and executive leadership that was deeper and broader than what was put forward by Mr. Peters. We had candidates that worked in both the public service and in private industry, internal and external to the office of the Auditor General. It was my view that there was not any willingness to give consideration to that broader range of candidates, who brought – and, again, this is no insult to Mr. Peters, recognizing, certainly, his experience and his level of qualification. It is no insult to him to note there were multiple candidates who simply were more experienced, who had much broader experience in executive leadership and, in our view, would have been much more qualified for this position.

It is our view that there was not much interest, in fact any interest, in considering any of those other candidates. I cannot speak to the motivation of any other member on this committee, but I can say that I am disappointed profoundly by, again, the significant deviations, the decisions to make significant changes to advice given in terms of professional approach and what would have been best practices to ensure the best result. We will reflect the same, I think, Mr. Chair, in a minority report. I do believe this is incredibly important, particularly as we consider the importance of this role, the Auditor General.

The role of the Auditor General is a crucial one for the function of democracy in our province. They are tasked with the great responsibility of overseeing, performing, and approving audits of all government departments and activities to ensure transparency and accountability on behalf of all of the people of Alberta. That, of course, Mr. Chair, as I think we're all aware, is going to include the finalization of the report and the Auditor General's examination of procurement and contracting processes at the department of health and Alberta Health Services, often referred to as the corrupt care scandal, a significant investigation, I think, that involves hundreds of millions of public dollars and many connections with the current sitting government.

That said, I know that Mr. Peters is going to make every effort, using his experience and his knowledge, to make his best effort to ensure that report is completed promptly, released to the people of Alberta, and reflecting the truth of the findings of the work that has

been done by the current Auditor General, Mr. Wylie. I am sure that he is going to endeavour to serve the people of Alberta to the best of his ability in the role. I mean, of course, not presupposing the decision of the committee, but recognizing in general that what we have seen here is that the government majority has carried the day.

I just want to say on the record that, while we will be voting against this motion because of the significant deviations and aberrations we saw in procedure and approach and concerns with everything I've noted on the record, I would not consider this a vote against Mr. Peters as an individual. Certainly, we look forward to working with him in the role as Auditor General and, again, with the faith that indeed he will serve admirably in that role.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** All right. Thank you, MLA Shepherd, for your comments.

Are there any other members wishing to join the debate on this motion? MLA Cyr, please go ahead.

**Mr. Cyr:** Yes. Again, thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to say that there are parts to what MLA Shepherd has said that I completely agree with. He will act ethically in the best interests of Albertans. But what I will also say is that the way I interpret this is very different from the way he and MLA Wright had interpreted it. This has been politicized from the very get-go, and they continue to politicize it. They want it both ways. They say: we support him, but we want to vote against him. Well, you can't have it both ways. You're voting against our next Auditor General, sir. You can put a minority report in on the process, but you're choosing to vote against a very qualified man.

I would say that the slate of candidates that we had put forward were remarkable, all of them, and it was hard to choose between which one was the most qualified. But in the end, for myself and my colleagues on the subcommittee, we found that Phillip Peters was far and above the others. While the others were remarkable, I look forward to seeing, should he choose to take this job, what he can do with this role.

I would hope that my colleagues stop politicizing these search committees because it is not helpful for Albertans to hear this level of lack of co-operation when it comes to the NDP and the UCP. When we went through this the first time with the current Auditor General, Wylie, we came out as a team, and we all endorsed him. That is what I would hope to see. There were no minority reports. The fact that they're pointing out that they're discouraged by some of the process that was put forward within the subcommittee: well, fair enough. But holding it against the potentially current Auditor General: that's just shameful. Just shameful.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Thank you, MLA Cyr.

MLA Shepherd I see your hand was back up. Please go ahead.

**Mr. Shepherd:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I just want to take a moment to respond to Mr. Cyr. I think it is quite possible and I've laid out quite clearly why we are voting against this motion, against the kind of commentary we just heard from Mr. Cyr and that we've heard from him previously in regards to previous Auditors General, his prosecution of them on the record. I can say I've never seen Mr. Wylie at points as, shall we say,

frustrated as when he was faced by some comments previously by Mr. Cyr. If he wants to talk about disrespect to an Auditor General, we could certainly go back to the record on that and his treatment.

What I will say is that the politicization of this process is frankly what we saw during the process. Mr. Cyr wants to accuse us of this on the record. Well, yeah. He gets the privilege of doing that on the record because government members chose to do this entire process via subcommittee, where none of it could be on the record. It is convenient that we can't speak to any of the specifics or, say, potential conflicts of interest or even note why Mr. Cyr was part of the process as opposed to someone else who wasn't originally appointed to be part of that subcommittee.

But I will say that I am quite confident I've conducted myself throughout this process with integrity. My vote today will be made because of integrity. Once this vote is made and we proceed, should it be the decision of this committee that Mr. Peters take the role, I will be very happy to work with Mr. Peters in integrity, and I look forward to the integrity of his reports on this government's actions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you, MLA Shepherd.

Are there any other members wishing to weigh in? Seeing none, I am prepared to call the question. All those in favour of this motion, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. Online? All right. That motion is carried.

All right. We'll now move on to the communications update. I'd now like to call on Ms Rhonda Sorenson to address the media release and social media postings regarding our recommendation for the next Auditor General.

Ms Sorenson.

9:45

**Ms Sorenson:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have prepared a draft news release that, upon the committee's approval, will go out to media immediately, with some social media posts that will simply lead to the website where the news release will be posted.

**The Chair:** All right, Thank you very much, Ms Sorenson.

Are there any questions? Seeing none. If not, I'd ask for a motion to approve the communications initiatives we have discussed. I see MLA Dyck, so I'll read into the record. Moved by MLA Dyck that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices approve the draft media release and social media postings as distributed.

Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, I will call the vote. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? All right.

That motion is carried.

Turning to the next item on our agenda, which is other business. Are there any items for discussion under other business? All right. Seeing none, we'll move to our next meeting date. Our next meeting will be held at the call of the chair

With that I can take us to adjournment. Would a member like to move a motion to adjourn? MLA Petrovic, as always, is quick on the adjournment draw. I will read this into the record. Moved by MLA Petrovic that the March 25, 2026, meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices be adjourned. All those in favour please say aye. Any opposed? All right.

That motion is carried and we are adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 9:47 a.m.]





