



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Fourth Session

Select Special
Ombudsman
Search Committee

Tuesday, August 23, 2011
9:01 a.m.

Transcript No. 27-4-6

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 27th Legislature
Fourth Session**

Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee

Mitzel, Len, Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC), Chair
Lund, Ty, Rocky Mountain House (PC), Deputy Chair

Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL)
Hinman, Paul, Calgary-Glenmore (W)
Lindsay, Fred, Stony Plain (PC)
Marz, Richard, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND)
Quest, Dave, Strathcona (PC)
Rogers, George, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)

Support Staff

W.J. David McNeil	Clerk
Shannon Dean	Senior Parliamentary Counsel/ Director of House Services
Robert H. Reynolds, QC	Law Clerk/Director of Interparliamentary Relations
Cheryl Scarlett	Director of Human Resources, Information Technology, and Broadcast Services
Karen Sawchuk	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Liz Sim	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

9:01 a.m.**Tuesday, August 23, 2011**

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

The Chair: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think we'll get started. I think everyone that had noted that they were going to be either calling in for this meeting or attending in person is here except Ms Notley. She'll be here in a moment.

I'd like to call the meeting to order and welcome everyone, including as well Ms Blakeman and Mr. Hinman, who are joining us via teleconferencing. I'd like also to note that we'll be moving in camera as soon as we complete a few housekeeping items.

To start with, I'd like to ask everyone in attendance to introduce themselves for the record. I'm Len Mitzel. I'm the MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat, and I chair this committee.

Mr. Lund: Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Marz: Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Lindsay: Fred Lindsay, MLA, Stony Plain.

Mr. Quest: Dave Quest, MLA, Strathcona.

Dr. McNeil: David McNeil, Clerk of the Assembly.

Mrs. Scarlett: Cheryl Scarlett, director of human resources, information technology, and broadcast services.

Mr. Reynolds: Rob Reynolds, Law Clerk and director of inter-parliamentary relations.

Ms Sales: Tracey Sales, communications.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Karen Sawchuk, committee clerk.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Ms Blakeman and Mr. Hinman are joining us via teleconferencing.

Mr. Hinman: Thank you.

Ms Blakeman: Good morning. Laurie Blakeman. I'm very far away from the fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre, but I wish I was there.

Mr. Marz: It's raining.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you.

Did you want to add anything, Mr. Hinman, or are we ready to go?

Mr. Hinman: We're ready to go.

Just how far is far away?

Ms Blakeman: It's not raining where I am.

The Chair: Okay. Well, thank you.

Item 2 on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Would someone move approval of the agenda? Moved by Mr. Quest that the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee approve the agenda for the August 23, 2011, meeting as distributed. All in favour? That is carried.

Item 3, the adoption and approval of the meeting minutes. You all had a copy of the meeting minutes from July 5. Any errors or

omissions to note? If not, would someone please move a motion to approve? Moved by Mr. Lund that the minutes of the July 5, 2011, meeting of the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee be approved as distributed. All in favour? Thank you. That is carried.

This takes us to the draft search committee final report and the recommendation of a candidate for the position of Ombudsman.

To note, Ms Notley has joined the committee.

We'll be continuing our discussions in camera to receive some confidential information relevant to the candidate selection. Would a member like to make a motion that the committee move in camera at this point? Moved by Mr. Lindsay that we move in camera. All in favour? That is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 9:04 a.m. to 9:12 a.m.]

The Chair: Okay. We're back on the record, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to ask a member if they're prepared to make the motion to adopt the search committee final report, containing the committee's recommendation of a candidate for the position of Ombudsman. Mr. Marz.

Mr. Marz: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would move that the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee approve the report dated August 23, 2011, and recommend that Peter Hourihan be appointed Ombudsman for a five-year term effective October 17, 2011, and that the Speaker be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Hourihan effective at the time of the appointment.

The Chair: Any questions?

Hearing none, I'll call the question. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Ms Blakeman: Not in favour.

Ms Notley: Not in favour.

The Chair: That motion is carried.

To let everyone know, the news release will be put out after our Leg. Offices meeting.

Ms Notley: Will that be noted on the record, the objections?

The Chair: Yes.

Ms Notley: Thank you.

The Chair: With that, the committee has completed its mandate, and its report will be tabled with the Clerk of the Leg. Assembly as an intersessional deposit.

I'd like to thank the members for their commitment to the mandate and the timeline of this committee. On behalf of the committee I'd also like to thank Trish Mills and Jean Easton from executive search as well as the staff from that office for extending their expertise and resources to assist the committee during the search process.

Any members have any other items for discussion?

Seeing none, I'd like to call for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Lund. All in favour? That motion is carried. We're adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 9:14 a.m.]

