



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
Second Session

Standing Committee  
on  
Public Accounts

Monday, April 27, 2020  
1 p.m.

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**Legislative Assembly of Alberta**  
**The 30th Legislature**  
**Second Session**

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Phillips, Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP), Chair  
 Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP), Deputy Chair

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 Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
 Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)  
 Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
 Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-MacLeod (UCP)  
 Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
 Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UCP)  
 Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UCP)  
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1 p.m.

Monday, April 27, 2020

[Ms Phillips in the chair]

**The Chair:** Okay, everyone. It is 1 o'clock, so I would like to begin the meeting if I could. I'd like to call this meeting of the Public Accounts Committee to order and welcome everyone participating in the meeting and watching its proceedings.

My name is Shannon Phillips. I'm the MLA for Lethbridge-West and chair of the committee, and unlike normal times I am also in Lethbridge-West at this point. Ordinarily, under ordinary circumstances, we would do an introduction of members around the table in the committee room, but because of the nature of this meeting I will indicate for the record that the following members are present. Just give me a moment to pull that up, and I will be able to – can I see the participants? Yes, I can. I don't know the names of the – oh. I do know the names of the people on the phones. We have Member Rosin and Member Barnes on teleconference, and then we have Member Rowswell, Member Dach, Member Renaud, Member Guthrie, Member Gotfried, Member Reid, Member Hoffman, and me on video conference. Normally we would have you introduce yourselves, but we'll do it this way for the time being. I'd also like . . .

**Mr. Stephan:** Member Stephan is here as well.

**The Chair:** I'm sorry?

**Mr. Stephan:** Member Stephan is on the phone as well.

**The Chair:** Okay. Yep. I'm just seeing that popping into the chat box as well. We'll go over the chat box function for everyone who is both on the video conference and on the teleconference. If you have your Skype for Business chat open on your phones, we'll talk about how we're going to use that in terms of recognizing members as well.

We also have folks here from the Auditor General's office and from the LAO staff. We have Aaron Roth, who is this committee's clerk. He is at the table in the Federal Building right now. I am getting a message here that the Auditor General himself, Doug Wylie, and Pam Appelman from the OAG office are having a little bit of difficulty connecting, but we do expect them to the meeting imminently. We also have Jillian Tilley, Jody Rempel, Michael Kulicki attending the meeting from the LAO, and Phil Massolin, of course.

I believe that is everyone, Mr. Clerk, unless I have missed someone from the participants box. If you could advise that I caught everyone with a thumbs up, then I think I can move on.

**Mr. Roth:** Sorry, Chair. Also members Reid and Guthrie in the room as well.

**The Chair:** Oh. In the room. Okay. That makes sense. Okay. Thank you very much for those additions. Apologies. I can only see the folks that are Skype for Business participants.

Moving on, before we undertake some of the business of the committee today, I want to say a few words about the format of today's meeting, and I thank all the members for indulging this little bit of a trial run for Public Accounts via video conference. We are doing this on the platform Skype for Business. The committee clerk, Aaron, and Phil Massolin, the clerk of committees and research services, are in the room, as discussed. The meeting is being broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV and live streamed on the Internet in both the audio and video formats. Transcripts of the usual *Hansard* will be available on the Assembly website.

The instant messenger screen that we have is available to all members, so use it for meeting purposes. If members need to have other conversations among caucus or what have you, there are instant messaging chat screens for private conversations.

Section 6 of the Legislative Assembly Act authorizes members of committees of the Legislative Assembly to participate by teleconference or other methods of communication if all members of the committee consent. As members will recall, at the committee's orientation on June 4, 2019, we agreed to permit the use of teleconference for the duration of the 30th Legislature. I do recall at that time having a conversation, too, about extending video conference capability over the course of the 30th Legislature.

Of course, given the circumstances that we are now facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of additional means of communication such as video conferencing will allow this committee to proceed with our work while respecting our physical distancing and other preventative measures. In order to proceed with this video conferencing option, we will need to adopt a motion unanimously to this effect, and that motion might read that for the duration of the Second Session of the 30th Legislature the Standing Committee on Public Accounts permit committee members to participate in committee meetings by video conference subject to the proviso that the committee may require members' personal attendance at a particular meeting upon passage of a motion to that effect.

Our committee clerk – thank you – has put this motion up on our Skype for Business whiteboard so that we can all have a look at it. I am now opening up the discussion on this motion. Mr. Dach has indicated that he would like to speak. Please go ahead.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you, Chair. Just wanting to know, for clarification, if it's necessary to ensure that those members of the House, of the Assembly, who might wish to speak but are not committee members are covered under the definition of committee members who wish to speak. Just to clarify, those who wish to attend who are not members of the committee are still, by convention, allowed to speak during a video conference as well, as they would normally be should they have appeared in person.

**The Chair:** Sorry. I don't know if the committee clerk or Phil Massolin have thoughts on this. I think the idea was that anyone who would normally be at the table would normally be in the video conference, so that is to say members of the committee, their substitutions, or any additional members wishing to attend even if they do not have a vote. I just want to confirm my understanding with, I guess, Parliamentary Counsel at this time.

**Dr. Massolin:** Hello, Madam Chair. It's Phil Massolin here. Yes, I can confirm that that is the case. Members who would participate normally at the table who are not committee members and who can participate by, you know, engaging in the debate and discussing things can do likewise through the video conference.

Thank you.

**Mr. Dach:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Member Gotfried, do you have a proposal just to perhaps clarify this language?

**Mr. Gotfried:** Well, I just think so that we understand it internally and also externally, we maybe amend the words "committee members" to either "participants" or "attendees."

**The Chair:** I'll just open it up to discussion from the members. I would see that as being friendly given the clarification that we just had from Dr. Massolin.

**Mr. Roth:** Sorry, Madam Chair. Also, the motion will need to have a mover as well.

**Dr. Massolin:** But prior to having it moved – it's a draft motion at this point – I think to get where you would like to go, could we just simply delete the word "committee" so that it reads: the Standing Committee on Public Accounts permit members to participate in committee meetings via teleconference and so forth? Would that be acceptable to the committee?

**Mr. Gotfried:** Richard here. I guess I'm concerned that – do we not need to cover also our guests and other participants, or is that a normal course of procedure? I just want to make sure that we cover committee members, those who are substituting or joining the committee as nonmembers, and any of the other participants from ministries or other bodies to participate. I don't know if we need approvals for that, but I would just suggest that we make sure we cover that.

Thank you.

**Dr. Massolin:** I can speak to that, Chair, if you'd like me to.

**The Chair:** Yes, please.

*1:10*

**Dr. Massolin:** This motion really speaks to Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and their participation in this committee. So, as Mr. Gotfried has indicated, other officials and so forth can participate as invitees, as guests, but that is not covered in this motion. I think that, you know, if you indicated: to permit members – capital "M" Members – as in MLAs to participate, you would get where you're going, in my estimation.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Okay. So if we can perhaps have the recommended changes made, and then we have Hoffman up to speak. I will remind the members that we need a formal mover of the motion, so I suppose we should have someone move it first. I'm seeing that Richard Gotfried will move the motion, and now we will have Member Hoffman speak.

Please go ahead.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Would you like me to verbally move that then, Madam Chair?

**The Chair:** Sure. Please go ahead.

**Mr. Gotfried:** I so move that  
we accept this proposal as presented.

**The Chair:** Member Hoffman, you have the floor.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thanks, Madam Chair and colleagues. I just want to propose that rather than "members" – and I agree with Philip's intention around MLAs or Members of the Legislative Assembly – we just use that word because the actual object in the sentence is the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. I just want to be very clear that it's MLAs. Even though I appreciate the capitalization, I just want to ensure this is very clear to our colleagues. My proposal is that the word "members," that has an apostrophe, be replaced by "Members of the Legislative Assembly" or "MLAs" or "Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)."

**The Chair:** I suppose we should put to the committee that we make that very quick edit to it if we might.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Madam Chair, as the mover I would gladly accept that friendly amendment if that's the procedure.

**The Chair:** Okay. So then what I think we should do is have Aaron, the committee clerk, read the motion, if he could, for the benefit of the folks on the phone, the public, and for everyone's clarity, and then we can proceed to a vote on the motion, please.

**Mr. Roth:** Certainly, Chair. Moved by Mr. Gotfried that  
for the duration of the Second Session of the 30th Legislature the Standing Committee on Public Accounts permit Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in committee meetings via video conference subject to the proviso that the committee may require members' personal attendance at a particular meeting upon passage of a motion to that effect.

**Dr. Massolin:** Chair, can I just add one thing before you get to further discussion or a vote on this motion, just to further add to what members may or may not do if this motion were to pass unanimously? As I indicated before, this motion provides for all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to participate in meetings of this committee for the duration of the Second Session of the 30th Legislature via video conference. That's what you're looking at here. But remember that, just as if they were in the room, these members who are not committee members would only be able to participate in the debate. They would not be able to vote or move motions, so that similar sort of restriction would apply as well. I hope that's clear.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Absolutely. I think the intention here was to just ensure that the same rules might apply for members at table. Any more discussion on the motion as we have read it out?

**Mr. Stephan:** Members, staff, just a quick question.

**The Chair:** Yes, please.

**Mr. Stephan:** The question is: is there an ability to amend or change this motion once it's passed unanimously? Does it require unanimous consent to change it, or is it a majority that can change it?

**The Chair:** If you could provide that, yeah, just go ahead.

**Mr. Roth:** Thank you, Chair. The motion: if you were to amend it after it is passed, you'd actually have to rescind the motion and pass a new motion.

**Mr. Stephan:** Right. And is it a unanimous requirement to rescind? What is the threshold to rescind it?

**Mr. Roth:** My understanding is that it's a simple majority.

**Mr. Stephan:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Okay. I have, I believe, in the chat box – correct me if I'm wrong, members – Hoffman and then Gotfried. If I've interpreted that correctly in terms of speaking order, please proceed.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thank you. I just wanted to say, for context, that I don't think we need an amendment to this. In my reading of it, it talks about the second sitting of the 30th Legislature, which typically would expire, I think, before the next spring sitting. Of course, if the House isn't prorogued, then it could sit longer than

that, but that seems like a reasonable parameter. I was thinking: do we need to put in words around the provincial public health emergency? I don't think we do. I just want to make sure of my understanding of that, that the second sitting probably extends through much of the duration of the period that we're asked to physical distance. But I think it's fine the way it's written. I just wanted to think out loud that piece in case any of my colleagues had a different understanding.

**The Chair:** Any comments?

Seeing none, I will move on to Mr. Gotfried, please.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a clarification as well and maybe just for all the members. I believe that the video conferencing system has been in place for some time, and the long-term intent is to allow that participation as an option to teleconferencing as well. I don't know that to be a fact, and we can certainly rescind this motion, but now that we're all getting much more used to technology, it probably is better for our overall systems if those who are dialing in actually can video conference in. So just a note on that. We can address that as a committee going forward.

**The Chair:** Yes. Thank you for that, Member Gotfried. I think that's a valuable point.

I think that in terms of procedure now is there any other discussion on this motion? I'm not seeing any in the chat box, but I will give it another minute or so just in case people are having a hard time moving between laptops, phones, desktops, tablets, every other piece of technology that they're using to keep up with this meeting. I'm not seeing any right now.

What we're going to do in terms of a voice vote, friends, is that we are going to unmute our microphones for a voice vote. I believe we are going to do it one at a time. I'm correct in that? Otherwise, we will overwhelm the system.

Aaron and Phil in the room, that's correct on my part?

**Ms Hoffman:** Might I ask, Madam Chair, just because it requires unanimous consent, if you can just ask if anyone objects?

**The Chair:** Yes. That's probably the best way to go about this. Perhaps we will now open it up. Everyone else will mute their lines. This is a decision requiring unanimous consent, so if there is anyone who objects to this motion – we'll do this in the reverse way. I don't know if that's quite consistent with Robert's rules, but we're colouring outside the lines a little bit as we move through this video conferencing procedure. I will do that now. I will mute, and everyone else will.

If there's anyone who objects to this motion, please say so now. All right. I'm providing one other opportunity for members to voice their feelings on this motion. Seeing none,

the motion is carried unanimously.

**1:20**

We will now move on to the next portion of our meeting. I do want to talk a little bit, friends, about how this is the first meeting of a committee of our Legislative Assembly to be held by video conference. Before we get going with the business at hand, I want to start by letting members on video conference and those viewing or listening know how today's meeting is going to be displayed.

Throughout the meeting members on the video conference will be able to see who is participating in the meeting on the Skype for Business gallery and also on the participants list. These proceedings continue to be broadcast publicly from all of our kitchens and living rooms on the Assembly website and Assembly TV. The broadcast

feed is showing a live video of whomever is speaking, or if a member is teleconferencing and is recognized to speak, the official picture of that member will be displayed, just like it is when we are teleconferencing under normal circumstances.

I would ask all meeting participants: please don't have your audio of the broadcast proceedings playing in the background while participating in the meeting as this may cause audio feedback and disrupt the meeting. If you could also please mute your laptop or tablet speakers, that will prevent some audio feedback.

Members have been provided preparatory documents for today's meeting, including a list of protocols for broadcasting via Skype for Business and a short procedural guide for holding meetings via video conference. These documents are posted on our committee's internal website for our reference.

Meeting participants are reminded to please keep their microphones muted unless called upon to speak or for voice votes. Please remember to type in the instant messenger screen if you wish to speak, move a motion, raise procedural issues, or if a recorded vote is called. When recognized, please try to speak slowly and clearly, as we talked about even before we started this meeting. As well, it does sometimes take a minute for your audio- and video feed to come up. Obviously, the usual rules apply in terms of speaking through the chair. [An electronic device sounded] I'm not sure who that was, but if you want to just put a note in the chat box if you like, if you need to be introduced as attending the meeting.

If members need to send an instant message to each other, the committee clerk, or the chair, please create a separate instant message chat or send an e-mail as all participants in the video conference will be able to see messages sent on the group instant message conversation screen. I think we've covered that.

If there are technical difficulties, please contact ITS at 780.422.1680. There are technical staff observing this meeting if an issue should arise. It is possible that the meeting might need to temporarily suspend if we encounter a major technical issue during our time here together.

The one other thing I want to add here is just the tremendous effort of the LAO IT staff and all Legislative Assembly staff. To my knowledge, we are the first Public Accounts Committee to be able to broadcast the whole video conference meeting. While British Columbia has done their Public Accounts by Zoom meetings, their video feed was not available to everyone, so we are the first ones to be able to do this hybrid of a video conference, teleconference, people in the room, and that is, I think, a tremendous accomplishment of everyone at the Leg. Assembly who has made this possible. We are actually one of the leaders in the country on this, and I think that's a tremendous service to democracy in the public interest that our folks at IT have done for us, so a shout out to them, and I really want to extend my thanks for that.

Moving on to approval of the agenda, we have an agenda, folks, on the committee's internal website. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda? Hearing none at this time, I will just give it another minute in case people are fumbling away to try to get into the chat box or otherwise make themselves heard.

Seeing none, would a member like to, then, move that the agenda for the April 27 meeting of our Standing Committee on Public Accounts be approved as distributed? I've got Member Dach and Member Reid, so we've covered it off in a bipartisan way to move that agenda. That's good. Is there any discussion on the agenda, please, friends? Any discussion on the motion?

Before we vote, I'd ask members to unmute their microphones, and we'll give this a try to see if it is, in fact, cacophonous or if it sounds all right. All in favour of the agenda? Are there any opposed? Okay. Thank you. That motion is now carried.

Members, if you could please remute your microphones, that would be helpful.

Moving on to approval of the minutes from the February 11, 2020, morning meeting, the February 11 afternoon meeting, and the February 12 meeting, we have minutes from our three previous meetings on those dates. Do members have any errors or omissions to note in regard to the meeting minutes?

If not, would a member, then, move that the minutes of the February 11 morning meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be approved as distributed? Just looking for a mover here. You can either put it in the chat box, I imagine, or . . .

**Mr. Gotfried:** So moved, Madam Chair.

**The Chair:** Okay. Very good. Is there any discussion on this motion with regard to the minutes of the February meetings? I'm just giving it another second.

Seeing none, before we vote, I'll ask members again to unmute their microphones, and I ask: all in favour of these minutes? Do we have any opposed? Seeing none, that motion is now carried.

Members, if you could please remute your microphones.

We now have a separate motion, that the minutes of the February 11 afternoon meeting be approved as distributed. Any discussion on this motion? All in favour?

**Ms Hoffman:** Chair, I think you need a mover. I can be that person. Unless you don't. I think the first motion was just about the a.m.

**Mr. Gotfried:** We'd need a mover. Thanks.

**The Chair:** Yes, we do. Sorry. That wasn't in my notes. We do need a mover for those. Yes, we do.

**Ms Hoffman:** I can do that.

**The Chair:** Okay. Great. Any discussion on this motion that has been moved by Member Hoffman?

Seeing none, please unmute your microphones. All in favour? Any opposed? That motion is carried. Thank you, members.

Now we have the minutes of February 12. I'm looking for a mover that the minutes of the February 12 meeting of the standing committee be approved as distributed. So moved by Member Dach.

Is there any discussion on this motion?

Seeing none, I will ask members to unmute their microphones. All in favour? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, the motion is carried.

Members, please remute your microphones.

We will now move on to the committee meeting schedule. Hon. members, as you are aware, meetings of the committee that had been scheduled for March and April were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The subcommittee on committee business met on April 6 via video conference and is recommending resumption of regular committee meetings via video conference starting May 5, 2020. The subcommittee on committee business provided members with a proposed updated schedule, which was posted on the committee's internal website after the subcommittee meeting.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing factor in conducting committee meetings and Legislature business and may impact the ability of certain ministries, agencies, boards, commissions, and other entities to appear before the committee, the subcommittee is recommending that we, the committee, provide the subcommittee with the ability and flexibility to alter Public Accounts meeting dates and the order in which invited guests may appear before Public Accounts.

**1:30**

Now, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Seniors and Housing as well as the associated entities invited to appear before Public Accounts with them have confirmed their ability to participate via video conferencing. Therefore, these meetings are likely to proceed as indicated in our revised schedule unless an unforeseen circumstance should arise. The subcommittee will continue to monitor the situation to assess the availability of other ministries and associated entities going forward.

At this time I would like to open the floor to a discussion of the draft revised schedule and the proposal of the subcommittee. That draft revised schedule: if I could ask the committee clerk or the folks at table to put that up, if you are able, for the members' consideration. So opening up to discussion now, members, should you wish to speak, please put it in.

Okay. I am seeing here that the draft schedule is on the internal website, so if members can refer to that. And there's been an attachment added to the meeting, so I think people can just open it that way as well. Thank you to whomever did that for us. I am not seeing any discussion right now.

Hon. members, we will need a motion to approve the draft revised schedule and authorize the subcommittee to change the committee meeting dates and the order of invited guests should that be required.

But I am now seeing, on the discussion piece, that Member Hoffman would like to make a point. Please, Member Hoffman.

**Ms Hoffman:** Thanks. I think Member Gotfried is willing to move the approval. I just want to clarify what's different between this and what we originally came up with. Is it just the dates that are attached to the first four? Was that the one change from when we met previously, or are there any other changes? Were any of the ABCs amended from what we'd previously discussed, that type of thing?

**The Chair:** I can just provide a little bit of a response, and then perhaps folks at table can add anything I've missed. As far as I know, it's just the fact that the subcommittee needs to be able to respond to legitimate ministry requests that say: look, we are focused on coronavirus right now, so we would like to maybe move the schedule around; you know, exchanging one time slot for another between ministries. As I understand it, that's what the motion is authorizing the subcommittee to be able to respond to and do without having to come back to this committee. Okay. Yeah, I think that was probably all that needed to be said about that, just looking in the room.

We have a draft motion, then, folks, that has been moved by Member Gotfried, if I have that correct, that

the Standing Committee on Public Accounts approve the revised committee meeting schedule for the spring sitting as proposed by the subcommittee on committee business and, further, authorize the subcommittee on committee business to modify the committee meeting dates and the order in which invited guests are asked to appear before the committee, if this becomes necessary given the current circumstances, for the duration of the Second Session of the 30th Legislature.

I am asking now for discussion on the motion, and I am seeing Member Hoffman. Please go ahead.

**Ms Hoffman:** Sure. Thanks for the clarification around the dates being the only real change.

The only other thing I wanted to confirm – and I think it probably already stands in the original motion from the beginning of today's meeting – is that they are all welcome to participate via video conference as well, that we're not compelling all these different

agencies, boards, and commissions to be present in the room, for example on May 5.

**The Chair:** Yes. That has been communicated to the various GOA entities, and it has been confirmed with them that they can use this platform. Some of the IT arrangements, as I understand it, indeed most of them, have already been made.

Is there anything to add from the Federal Building on that?

**Dr. Massolin:** Chair, I can just confirm that that's exactly the situation, where the ministry officials and others from government, if they so wish, can attend in person, with the appropriate social distancing, of course, but then will also be offered the opportunity to participate by video conference.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Okay. I'm just calling for any further discussion on this motion, members. Please feel free to just plunk that into the chat box.

Seeing none, I am going to now ask members to unmute their microphones. All in favour of this motion? Are there any opposed? Seeing none,

the motion is carried.

Members, if you could please remute your microphones.

Moving on to item 6 on our agenda here this afternoon, friends, the chair has been advised that the 2020-21 joint conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees and the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors, due to be held in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, will not be proceeding as an in-person conference. The conference organizers will be discussing options for this year's conference, including the possibility of holding virtual meetings. As our members are aware, Alberta is scheduled to host the conference in 2021. Additional information as to the scheduling of this year's conference and the rotation of hosting conferences in the future will be forthcoming.

We have received some correspondence, just to update the committee as well, on potentially doing half-day or other shorter video conferences at CCPAC/CCOLA events in the summer, and we will update the committee on any decisions that get made by the folks in B.C. on that and those respective organizations.

Is there anything to add from the committee clerk or others on these conversations thus far? I see Member Dach is typing a message.

Oh, Mr. Gotfried would like to speak. Please go ahead, Member Gotfried.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just ever so briefly, I thought it might be worth while to apprise the members of the full committee that we had discussions with respect to if Victoria were to express interest in delaying their 2020 conference to 2021, which would then theoretically bump us to 2022. We had just asked for an informal outreach from our clerk and our committee here to advise them that we would be amenable to considering that as well, just so that they have that option in considering whether they should do a virtual conference or postpone their conference to a future date.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Yes. Thank you, Member Gotfried. Yeah, I think it's important to update the committee that that's one of the positions and flexibilities we will take as the future host of this conference.

Member Dach has a question, wondering if all committee members can now attend the video conference other than only the delegated chair and deputy chair. Member Dach, I will just let you know that in our conversations with B.C. on their summer plans, we will certainly be asking that question because I think it would be valuable, especially as I have noticed that they have said in their correspondence that the half-day sessions or whatever they end up doing will be around how to audit pandemic response on the part of governments and auditing and oversight on pandemic response. So I think that'll be valuable for everyone, as we all navigate this, in terms of the oversight of very quick programming decisions and how decisions are made and then audited after the fact.

Thank you for that, Member Dach.

**1:40**

Is there any other discussion on this matter before I move forward?

Seeing none, I will now move on to item 7, other business. Before opening the floor, I would like to entertain any other questions that members may have, certainly, for the clerk or with counsel in regard to video conferencing meetings of the committee.

Seeing none at this time, I would also like to note for the record that the committee has received written responses to questions asked at the February 11 and 12 meetings of our committee from Treasury Board and Finance, Alberta Treasury Branches, Education, the Edmonton public school board, and the Calgary board of education. These were posted to our committee's internal website as per normal practice. They will now be posted to the committee's website.

Do members have any other business they wish to bring forward at this time? I'm just giving the chat box a moment.

Seeing none, I will move on to item 8 on our agenda, the next meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2020, starting at 8:30 a.m. There will be a premeeting briefing, starting at 7:45, via Skype for Business that day.

Members, I want to thank all of you for our first public foray into a Public Accounts video conferencing meeting. I know that this was more of a business meeting, but it was an important way for us to begin this process and show, I think, some really important leadership on how our important institutions of Westminster parliamentary democracy can adapt to these changing and challenging times. We will be moving forward, then, with our Tuesday, May 5, meeting, having worked out all of these kinks and maybe discovering some new ones as we bring Agriculture and Forestry before the Public Accounts Committee on the morning of Tuesday, May 5.

Moving forward now to adjournment, would a member like to move that the meeting be adjourned?

**Mr. Barnes:** So moved.

**The Chair:** All right. Before we vote, I'll ask members to unmute their microphones. All in favour? Are there any opposed? Seeing none, that motion is now carried.

Thank you very much, hon. colleagues, for all of your patience and participation here today, and thank you to the public for humouring us, especially the chair, as we, you know, sort of fumble our way through these challenging times. Thank you, everyone, and stay safe out there.

[The committee adjourned at 1:43 p.m.]











