



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
First Session

Select Special  
Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer  
Search Committee

Friday, February 23, 2024  
9 a.m.

Transcript No. 31-1-2

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

**Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee**

Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC), Chair  
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair

Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)  
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC)  
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP)  
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)  
Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

**Public Service Commission Participants**

Julie Barron	Executive Search Consultant, Executive Search
Trish Mills	Director, Executive Search

**Support Staff**

Shannon Dean, KC	Clerk
Teri Cherkewich	Law Clerk
Trafton Koenig	Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Philip Massolin	Clerk Assistant and Director of House 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
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Janet Schweigel	Director of Parliamentary Programs
Amanda LeBlanc	Deputy Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

9 a.m.

Friday, February 23, 2024

[Mr. Yao in the chair]

**The Chair:** Good morning, everybody. I'd like to call this meeting to order. I'd like to welcome all members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee.

My name is Tany Yao, and I'm the MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we'll hear from those joining us remotely.

I'd also note for the record that there are no substitutions for this meeting.

To my right.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Good morning. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock and deputy chair of committee.

**Ms Wright:** Good morning. Peggy Wright, MLA for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

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

**Ms Barron:** Good morning. Julie Barron from executive search.

**Ms Mills:** Good morning. Trish Mills from executive search.

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

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

**Mr. Dyck:** Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

**Member Irwin:** Janis Irwin, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

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

**Ms Pitt:** Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie-East.

**Mr. Stephan:** MLA Jason Stephan, Red Deer-South.

**The Chair:** Thank you all so much.

Again, I just want to clarify that there are no substitutions for this meeting.

A few housekeeping items 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. Members participating remotely should 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. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

First off, we will go to the agenda. I'm looking for a member to move a motion to adopt the agenda, please.

**Mr. van Dijken:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Mr. van Dijken, you move that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee approve the proposed agenda as distributed for its February 23, 2024, meeting.

**Mr. van Dijken:** I do. Thank you.

**The Chair:** All in favour, please say aye. On the phones and on camera? All opposed to the agenda in the room? On the phones? Anyone object? Perfect. This motion is carried.

All right. Now to the minutes for the previous meeting. We have the draft minutes from the last meeting for consideration. Are there any errors or omissions to note? If not, would someone like to move adoption of these, please?

**Ms Wright:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Ms Wright moves that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee approve the minutes as distributed of its meeting held on December 19, 2023. All in favour, please say aye. On the phones, everyone, please say aye. All right. On the phones, anyone opposed? Hearing none, this motion is passed. Thank you all so much for that.

All right. Today we'll be reviewing the applications received for the positions of Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer. This committee approved a variety of advertising and communication initiatives to encourage qualified individuals to apply for the position of Ethics Commissioner and the position of Chief Electoral Officer. The deadline for applications was February 2. The applications have been organized and summaries prepared. However, it is important to note that committee members have access to all of the applications received. The committee also has approved access to the applications for a staffperson from each caucus. The government caucus has designated Elina Pachon for this access, and the New Democrat caucus has designated Jodi Learn. These designations are expected to remain consistent for the remainder of the recruitment process.

I'd also like to note for committee members that if you are approached by individual candidates, please remember that questions or comments about our work may be directed to the committee office. As you all know, the recommendations of candidates for the Ethics Commissioner and the Chief Electoral Officer positions will come from this committee, not the chair or individual committee members. Similarly, communication and contact with applicants should only be initiated through the committee office and executive search.

To maintain the confidentiality of the applicants, it would be appropriate to continue our discussions in camera. Would a member like to make this motion, please? Mr. Dach moves that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee, including the committee clerk and representatives from executive search, move in camera to review the applications received by the committee.

Can I ask for a vote on this, please? All in favour, please say aye. On the phones, please say aye if you agree with this. All opposed on the phones? Anyone opposing this motion to move in camera? I see none, so with that this motion is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 9:05 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.]

**The Chair:** Hello, everybody. Thank you so much for that. We are now back on the record.

Do members have anything for discussion under other business? If not, we'll move on to the date for the next meeting.

Seeing none, as discussed at our first meeting, we need to proceed with our work in a timely fashion to ensure that we are prepared to make our recommendations early enough in the spring sitting for each one to be considered by the Assembly. Under the standing orders, holding other committee meetings during the period in which the main estimates are under consideration is prohibited unless an exemption is given by the Assembly. Although we do not yet have the schedule for consideration of the 2024-25 estimates, I think it is reasonable to anticipate that this could impact our schedule, and

therefore we may wish to proactively request an exemption from this prohibition.

I would note that due to the special nature of search committee work, it has not been uncommon over the years for search committees to request and receive an exemption which permits them to meet, if necessary, during the period in which the estimates are under consideration. I believe there is one on notice that could be considered if the committee wishes to address this potential issue proactively. Do I have a mover of this motion?

**Mr. van Dijken:** I can make that motion.

**The Chair:** Mr. van Dijken.

Please go ahead, Ms Rempel.

**Ms Rempel:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that Mr. van Dijken has moved that

the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee recommend to the Government House

Leader that a motion be introduced in the Assembly to authorize the committee to meet during consideration of the 2024-25 main estimates as permitted under Standing Order 59.01(11).

**The Chair:** Can I ask that all in favour in the room please say aye? On the phones, everyone, please say aye. Anyone opposed to this motion, please say nay. Seeing none, the motion is carried.

With that, with two minutes to spare, thank you, everyone. If there's nothing further, would a member make a motion to adjourn? Mr. Dach moves that the February 23, 2024, meeting of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee be adjourned. All in favour, please say aye. On the phones, everyone, please say aye. Anyone opposed? Perfect. Thank you so much. That motion is carried.

This meeting is adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 10:57 a.m.]







