



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Select Special
Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer
Search Committee

Wednesday, October 30, 2024
9 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)

Support Staff

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Christina Steenbergen	Supervisor of Communications Services
Lyndsay Tischer	Director of Human Resources
Amanda LeBlanc	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

9 a.m. Wednesday, October 30, 2024

[Mr. Getson in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to call the meeting to order. I'd like to welcome all members, staff, and guests 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 and chair of the committee. I'd like to ask members joining at the table to introduce themselves for the record, and then we'll go to those folks who are joining us remotely. We'll start to my right.

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

Mr. van Dijken: I'm Glenn van Dijken, the MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms Tischer: Good morning. Lyndsay Tischer, director of human resources for the Legislative Assembly Office.

Ms Dean: Good morning. Shannon Dean, Clerk.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk, Legislative Assembly Office.

The Chair: And joining us online.

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

The Chair: Perfect. Thank you.

Just a few housekeeping items. Note that there are no substitutions for this meeting. Please note that *Hansard* is going to be operating the microphones for us. Committee proceedings are live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones to the least disturbing function that they have. Video participants are encouraged to put themselves on mute when they're not speaking, turn their cameras on when they are speaking.

With that, we'll jump right into the agenda. Would anyone want to approve the agenda? MLA Rowswell. All in favour? Any opposed? Online, in favour? Or opposed? Or abstaining? Abstained. Motion carried. [interjection] Sorry; there might have been a bit of delay there, MLA. We're good. We're just moving on.

Mr. Sabir: I was in favour.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you.

Minutes from the previous meeting. Could I call a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25 meeting? MLA Wiebe. All those in favour? Any opposed? Online, in favour? Thank you. Motion carried.

All right. Now we're into the Chief Electoral Officer deliberations. Next on the agenda is the recruitment of the Chief Electoral Officer. To protect privacy of the applicants, it would be appropriate to have an in camera meeting for this portion. Could I have a motion to that effect, to go in camera? Moved by MLA Irwin. All in favour? Any opposed? Motion carried. With that, we'll just get a chance to reset the room here.

[The committee met in camera from 9:03 a.m. to 9:17 a.m.]

The Chair: All right, folks. I'd like to remind everyone that we're back on the record, so *Hansard* will be running the microphones for us.

At this point I'd like to turn over the floor to discussion of the final draft report that was distributed to the committee members for consideration. Does anyone want to start things off? MLA Rowswell.

Mr. Rowswell: A motion?

The Chair: Sure.

Mr. Rowswell: Okay. I move that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee

- (a) approve the draft report dated October 2024 and
- (b) recommend to the Legislative Assembly that
 - (i) Gordon McClure be appointed to the position of Chief Electoral Officer effective November 18, 2024, and
 - (ii) the Speaker be authorized to, on its behalf, enter into a remuneration agreement with the appointee as it relates to Mr. McClure's appointment.

The Chair: Perfect. Well, having heard the motion, any discussion? Did you just put your hand up, MLA Dach? Sorry.

Mr. Dach: Thank you very much, Chair. I would like to say on the record that we in the opposition disagree with the majority decision of the committee, and we will be producing a minority report. We oppose the draft released on those grounds.

The Chair: I appreciate that.

Any other further discussion?

With that, I am prepared to call the question. All those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Any opposed? And then online? Thank you. So recorded.

Motion carried.

I will table the committee's report in the Assembly this afternoon, so I'll remind everyone that if any committee members wish to submit the minority report, which has just been indicated by MLA Dach, that it be appended to the committee's report. It has to be in by noon, so don't be late with your homework.

Communications update. I would like to turn to Ms Steenbergen to address the media release and social media postings regarding our recommendations for the Chief Electoral Officer. With that, I'll turn it over to you.

Ms Steenbergen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will be releasing the news release at the committee's request, and once it is released, it will be posted to the Assembly website, and we will be posting to X, Facebook, and LinkedIn with a link to the media release.

Thank you.

The Chair: Perfect. Any questions, comments? MLA van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: I'd like to make a motion that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee approve the draft media release and social media postings as distributed.

The Chair: Excellent. Any discussion on the motion?

I'll call the question. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Okay. Online, for or against?

Mr. Sabir: That was for media release, right?

The Chair: That's correct.

Mr. Sabir: Yeah. I am opposed to it because it's a majority decision, not the committee's unanimous decision. That should have been reflected in +the news release.

The Chair: Okay.

Motion is carried.

Any other business? Approval of final meeting minutes. Today will be the last meeting of the committee. Again, thank you, everybody, for your participation in this and the great work and discussions and debate that we had to come up to this point to have someone that we can select.

Once we report to the Assembly this afternoon, we will have completed our mandate. To ensure that we leave a complete record of our work, we can consider authorizing the processes specifically for approving the minutes of today. One method that's been used in the past is to have the past committee's chair approve those meeting minutes in the final one, and that essentially allows us to not have to meet again as a committee to approve committee meeting minute notes. Is there any concern with that, if we go with that standard practice? Seeing none, would someone like to make a motion to that effect? MLA van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: I'll make that motion, that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee authorize

the chair to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2024, meeting after a copy has been distributed to committee members for comment.

The Chair: Perfect. Any further discussion on the motion?

I'll call the question. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Online, any opposed or in favour?

Mr. Sabir: Not opposed.

The Chair: Not opposed, or are opposed?

We're going to say this one's passed. It's carried.

With that . . . [interjection] Sorry. Say it again.

Member Irwin: It doesn't really matter.

The Chair: Okay.

Item 5 is other business. This is the last meeting.

Thanks, everybody. I'd like to thank all the applicants and the candidates that submitted their items. I'd like to really thank the hard work of the HR folks, the LAO staff, everybody else that's managed to keep this in place. I'd like to acknowledge the staff through the committee, throughout the process, in particular Ms Trish Mills, Julie Barron, Maricel Somera-Wong, and the executive search for all the time and the guidance in the recruitment process.

Do we have any other items to discuss before we put a pin in this thing?

Hearing none, would one member like to make a motion to adjourn? MLA Hunter. All those in favour? Any opposed? Thanks, folks. Take care.

[The committee adjourned at 9:23 a.m.]

