



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Alberta's Economic Future

Personal Information Protection Act Review

Tuesday, September 27, 2022
9 a.m.

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Third Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Gochring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP), Deputy Chair

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Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)
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* substitution for Garth Rowswell

** substitution for Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk

*** substitution for Heather Sweet

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[Mr. Neudorf in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order. Welcome to members and staff in attendance at this meeting of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future.

My name is Nathan Neudorf, and I'm the MLA for Lethbridge-East and the chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, starting to my right.

Ms Goehring: Good morning. I'm Nicole Goehring, the MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs and the deputy chair of this committee.

Ms Lovely: Good morning, everyone. Jackie Lovely, Camrose constituency. I'm subbing for Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk.

Mr. Walker: Good morning, everyone. Jordan Walker, MLA, Sherwood Park.

Mr. van Dijken: Glenn van Dijken, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Mr. Bilous: Good morning. Deron Bilous, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Koenig: Good morning. I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Ms Sorensen: Good morning. Rhonda Sorensen, manager of corporate communications.

Dr. Williamson: Good morning. Christina Williamson, research officer.

Ms Robert: Good morning. Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees.

Mr. Huffman: Good morning. Warren Huffman, committee clerk.

The Chair: We'll now go to those online, starting with Ms Phillips.

Ms Phillips: Good morning. Shannon Phillips, MLA for Lethbridge-West.

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

Mr. Getson: Good morning. MLA Getson, standing in for MLA Rowswell.

Dr. Amato: Good morning. Sarah Amato, research officer.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

I would like to note for the record the following substitutions: the hon. Member Phillips for Member Sweet; Member Lovely for Hon. Minister Armstrong-Homeniuk; MLA Getson for MLA Rowswell.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard* staff. Committee proceedings are live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. The audio- and videostream and transcripts of the meetings can be accessed via the Legislative Assembly website. Those participating by video-conference are encouraged to please turn on their camera while speaking and to mute their microphone when not speaking. Members participating virtually who wish to be placed on the speakers list are asked to e-mail or send a message to the committee clerk, and members in the room are asked to please signal the chair.

Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Up next is the approval of the agenda. MLA Walker.

Mr. Walker: Good morning, Chair. Thank you. Looking at the agenda we have here today, it's a really great and full one, but thinking ahead, as we move ahead with our business, I think I can streamline this more to make it more efficient and effective. I'd like to move a motion. The background for this is that I think any mentions at this point of developing a timeline for the review and all the research requests – I just feel that the information we need to make decisions is so important, and I feel that we don't have an adequate understanding yet of the Personal Information Protection Act and how it operates. I know I don't personally – I would say that to the committee – and perhaps others feel the same way. We'll need a better sense of the structure of this review, and once the committee has heard from, for example, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Service Alberta, I think we can decide on the next steps. That's the background.

The motion I'd like to pass is
to pass the agenda without items 4(a)(iii) and 4(c).

The Chair: Thank you very much, MLA Walker.

Any discussion on this? MLA Goehring.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to agree. I think some of this agenda is premature, and I would support the striking out of those items.

The Chair: Thank you.

Anyone online or anyone else wishing to speak to this amendment? Thank you very much.

Then I will start in the room. All in favour of this amendment, please say aye. Any opposed in the room, please say no. Online, all those in favour, please say aye. Online, anyone opposed, please say no. Thank you very much.

This amendment is approved and passed.

With that amendment made, we need to make a draft motion for the amended agenda. Do we have someone willing to make that motion for the agenda? MLA Bilous. Thank you.

Any discussion on the agenda?

Seeing none, we will take the vote. In the room, all those in favour of the agenda as amended, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. Thank you. Online, all those in favour of the amended agenda, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. This motion is carried. The agenda is approved. Thank you very much.

We will now move on to the approval of the minutes. We have the minutes of the May 3, 2022, meeting of the committee. Are there any errors or omissions to note?

Seeing none, would a member move that the minutes of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be adopted as circulated? Thank you, MLA Walker. Any discussion on this?

Seeing none, I propose to call the vote. In the room, all those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. Online, all those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Online, anyone opposed, please say no. This motion is carried. Thank you very much.

Item 4, review of the Personal Information Protection Act, the overview of the committee's mandate and review, item (i), Government Motion 29. Hon. members, on May 25, 2022, the Assembly passed Government Motion 29, which referred to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future review of the Personal Information Protection Act. In accordance with section 63 of that act and pursuant to clause (c) of Government Motion 29 and section 63(2) of the act the committee has 18 months to complete

its review. This means that the committee must conclude its work by March 27, 2024.

Item (ii), overview of the review process. The committee has recently completed its review of the Lobbyists Act, so committee members will have a general idea of the process involved in a statute review of the kind we have before us. Some of the common practices in the conduct of these kinds of reviews have included hearing technical briefings from relevant ministries, agencies, and offices of the Legislative Assembly; requesting research documents from the Legislative Assembly Office, research services; and receiving written and oral presentations from stakeholders and, if appropriate, the public. When the committee feels it has collected sufficient information to begin deliberations, the committee will determine whether any recommendations will be made in relation to the Personal Information Protection Act. The review is then concluded by drafting and presenting a report to the Legislative Assembly on the committee's review.

Are there any general questions about the process or conducting this review?

Mr. van Dijken: I've got one.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Just a question with regard to timelines. This is in the motion, item (c): "must submit its report to the Assembly within 18 months after beginning its review." Is today not the beginning of the review?

The Chair: Yes, it is.

Mr. van Dijken: So March 27 is essentially the 18 months?

The Chair: Yes. That's correct.

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions from any other members?

I would like to pause at this time, please, and introduce two other members of the committee to this meeting. We'll begin in the room. MLA Rosin.

Ms Rosin: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. It's Miranda Rosin, MLA for Banff-Kananaskis.

The Chair: Thank you.

Online, MLA Barnes, would you introduce yourself.

Mr. Barnes: Yeah. Thanks, Chair. Drew Barnes, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

At this time, with the agenda as amended, we are skipping over item (iii), and now we are moving to the Legislative Assembly support to the committee. I will remind the committee that it has at its disposal the resources of the Legislative Assembly Office, including committee services, research services, and corporate communications. Committees often direct research services to prepare research documents meant to support the committee's work, including crossjurisdictional surveys, overviews of emerging issues related to the committee's review, and on occasion discussion guides.

It is very common in reviews of this nature to seek the assistance of research services in developing a proposed list of stakeholders that the committee may wish to invite to provide feedback in relation to the review. In addition, where appropriate, it is somewhat

common for the committee to seek public input in relation to their review. Corporate communications may assist the committee in developing a communications plan and advertising in order to seek public input.

At this time do committee members have any general questions about the resources available to the committee?

Seeing none, we can come back to this item if there is a wish by the committee to distinguish which parts of this research we may or may not want to move forward with at this time.

I will move to section (b), requesting a technical briefing on the Personal Information Protection Act. MLA Walker.

9:10

Mr. Walker: Thank you.

The Chair: Actually – pardon me – I will just do a brief preamble and then come back to you if that's all right.

Hon. members, we have now arrived at the point in our meeting where we shall discuss inviting technical briefings. Service Alberta is the ministry responsible for administering the Personal Information Protection Act, and the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is responsible for carrying out the responsibilities laid forth in the act.

I will now open the floor to any comments, questions, or motions in relation to possibly requesting technical briefings as part of our review. MLA Walker.

Mr. Walker: Thanks so much, Chair. This has been a wonderful meeting thus far and very efficient, I would say. Very efficient.

Building on my earlier comments today at committee, I want to move a motion to ensure that we have a full, adequate understanding of the Personal Information Protection Act. As you noted in your preamble, Chair, Service Alberta, the Information and Privacy Commissioner: this act is under their purview. They are the experts. We can be enlightened by hearing from them. I'm going to read the motion, that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future invite a technical briefing on the Personal Information Protection Act from officials from Service Alberta and the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta at a future meeting of the committee.

I would just, in my final comment on this motion, Chair, submit that this was a procedure of the Leg. officer who provided technical briefings at the last review. Our Westminster system is founded on precedent, so I think there's a strong precedent for this. I submit this motion in good faith to this committee.

The Chair: Thank you very much, MLA Walker.

Any wish to discuss this motion? MLA Goehring.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I fully support this. This has kind of been the practice of the committee when they've been reviewing this in previous sessions, so I am in full support of this motion.

The Chair: Thank you.

Any other discussion on this item or the previous item?

Seeing none, I will call the question. In the room, all those in favour of this motion, please say aye. Any in the room opposed, please say no. Online, all those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Online, anyone opposed, please say no.

This motion is carried and so ordered.

We now will step over section 4(c) in the agenda, that was struck out, and move to item 5, other business. Is there any other business that members wish to discuss at this time? Online, any members?

Seeing none, the date of the next meeting, item 6, will be at the call of the chair.

There is item 7, adjournment, which is moved by MLA Bilous, that the September 27, 2022, meeting of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be adjourned. In the room, all in favour, please say aye. Anybody opposed, please say no. Online, all

those in favour, please say aye. Online, any opposed, please say no. Thank you. The committee stands adjourned.

Thank you very much, everyone.

[The committee adjourned at 9:13 a.m.]

