



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
Second Session

Select Special
Ethics Commissioner
Search Committee

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
12:48 p.m.

Transcript No. 28-2-3

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Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee

Rogers, George, Leduc-Beaumont (PC), Chair
Quadri, Sohail, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC), Deputy Chair

Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-Calder (ND)
Goudreau, Hector G., Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (PC)
Lemke, Ken, Stony Plain (PC)
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)
McDonald, Everett, Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)
Saskiw, Shayne, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W)

Support Staff

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

12:48 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

[Mr. Rogers in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I'd like to welcome you and call the Ethics Commissioner Search Committee meeting to order. Before I ask you to introduce yourselves for the record, I want to thank you so much for changing your schedules at the last minute.

I'm George Rogers, the chair, Leduc-Beaumont.

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

Mr. Eggen: David Eggen, MLA for Edmonton-Calder.

Ms Blakeman: Good afternoon. I'm Laurie Blakeman, and I'd like to welcome each and every one of you to my fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Sorensen: Rhonda Sorensen, manager of corporate communications and broadcast services for the LAO.

Mr. Reynolds: Rob Reynolds, Law Clerk and director of interparliamentary relations.

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

Mr. McDonald: Everett McDonald, Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Mrs. Leskiw: Genia Leskiw, Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Mr. Goudreau: Hector Goudreau, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley.

Mr. Quadri: Sohail Quadri, Edmonton-Mill Woods.

The Chair: Thank you.

And Mr. Saskiw for the record.

Mr. Saskiw: Sure. Shayne Saskiw, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Saskiw.

If I could get a motion from someone for the agenda of May 7 as circulated? Ms Blakeman. Any discussion? All in favour? Carried. Thank you.

Adoption of the meeting minutes of April 29, 2014, as circulated.

Mrs. Leskiw: I so move.

The Chair: Moved by Mrs. Leskiw. Any discussion? All in favour? Any opposed? That's carried. Thank you.

Before we adopt our report on the record, I'd like to inform the committee of my discussions with our candidate of choice, so I'd ask for a motion to move in camera for a few minutes.

Mr. Quadri: I move the motion.

The Chair: Mr. Quadri moves to go in camera. All in favour? Any opposed? That's carried.

We'll just pause for a moment. Thank you.

[The committee met in camera from 12:50 p.m. to 1:04 p.m.]

The Chair: Okay. Hon. members, we're back on the record.

Mr. Saskiw, are you prepared to make this motion? Are you there?

Ms Blakeman: I can make it.

The Chair: Okay. Ms Blakeman. That's fine. The motion is before you, then. Did you want to read that, Ms Blakeman? Page 7.

Ms Blakeman: I move that

the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee approve the draft report dated May 7, 2014, and recommend to the Legislative Assembly the appointment of the hon. Marguerite Trussler, QC, to the position of Ethics Commissioner for a period of five years effective May 26, 2014, and authorize the Speaker to enter into a contract with the hon. Ms Trussler effective at the time of the appointment.

The Chair: Thank you.

Discussion on the motion?

Seeing none, I'll call the question. All those in favour? Any opposed? That motion is carried unanimously.

Hon. members, again, I would ask you to leave your copies of the report behind to ensure that there's no confusion with the final report, that will be tabled in the Assembly today. That was just for your information purposes here.

Now the communications update. I'd like to call on Ms Rhonda Sorensen, manager of corporate communications and broadcast services with the LAO, to address the media release and social media postings with respect to the Ethics Commissioner appointment.

Rhonda.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we've done in previous search committees, because this committee is web cast live, we think it's important to get the information out to the media as soon as possible. So we have drafted a release, and we are searching for the committee's support to send that out as soon as this meeting adjourns as well as some social media messaging, and we would post on the website. Essentially, the news release outlines the work of this committee and who they are recommending to the Assembly be appointed, and the social media messaging then directs people to the website, where the news releases would be posted.

The Chair: Any questions?

Seeing none, then I'd look for a motion

to approve the draft media release and social media postings.

Mr. Eggen. Discussion on the motion? All in favour? Any opposed? That is carried. Thank you.

As members are aware, this will be the last meeting of this committee. Once we have reported our recommendations to the Assembly, we will have completed our mandate. To ensure that we leave a complete record of our work, we should consider how the minutes from today's meeting will be approved. One method that has been used by other committees in the past has been to authorize the chair to approve the minutes after the draft version has been distributed to other committee members for comment. Does anyone have any thoughts? You're fine with that? Thank you.

So I'd look for a motion, then. I think someone over here.

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Chair, I'll make that motion.

The Chair: Mr. Goudreau moves that

the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee authorize the chair to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014, meeting after copies have been distributed to committee members for comment.

I believe that's what you meant to say, sir.

Mr. Goudreau: That's the motion.

The Chair: Thank you.

Discussion on the motion? All those in favour? Any opposed?
That is carried. Thank you very much.

Any other items? Any further pieces of business?

Seeing none, I want to thank, first of all, our staff – executive search, the Clerk’s office, Parliamentary Counsel – and all of you. I can’t imagine a better committee to work with. This is our second

kick at this, and I think we’ve done exceptionally well. We managed to select two candidates unanimously. I want to thank you for your hard work. God bless you. See you in the House.

A motion to adjourn? Mr. McDonald. All in favour? Opposed?
That motion is carried.

Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 1:08 p.m.]

