

## Standing Committee on Private Bills

9:04 a.m.

[Chairman: Mr. Renner]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, committee. I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the organizational meeting for the Private Bills Committee. I want to welcome everyone back. As you may or may not know, our committee has all the same people that we had last time, so everyone should be familiar with what we're doing. Today I want to just go over briefly the petitions we have and outline for the committee the procedure we'll be taking to get through these petitions.

Everyone has in front of them an agenda for today, or should have a copy. If you don't have it, it's in your binder. Item 2 is Approval of Agenda. Could I have a motion to approve the agenda, please?

MR. YANKOWSKY: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favour? Carried.

Now, normally we would be adopting minutes, but since it's been so long since the last meeting, I didn't think anyone would think of bringing their minutes with them. So we will have the minutes from this meeting as well as our last meeting from the last session available for you for the next meeting, and we'll have approval of both sets of minutes at that time.

We have received 15 petitions this year. A rough breakdown on those petitions. We have eight adult adoptions. Then we have a couple of educational amendments. We have two petitioners returning from the last session. If you'll remember, we didn't deal with the Gimbel foundation last time and didn't complete the TD Trust, so both of those are back again. Then we have some general ones: one to do with a foundation, there's a formation of a religious society, and there's one for requesting tax-free status for a cultural society. That gives us a bit of an idea what we'll be dealing with.

I've had the opportunity to go through these with staff, and I have put together a proposed schedule for these hearings. Maybe I could just explain that to the committee and get a little bit of your input and see if you agree.

If you turn in your binders to the third page from the very front, you'll see the list of all the Bills as I'm proposing we deal with them. This schedule would see us completing our committee work by May 10. We would meet every Tuesday at 8:30 in the morning. I'm anticipating we'll probably take the Easter week off, so I haven't scheduled a meeting for that day. I've scheduled them in such a way that I think we can deal with them in the fairest way possible. On March 15, a week from today, we would deal with four adult adoptions. We have done four; we did four at a time last time. That leaves about half an hour for each delegation.

On March 22 we have Shaw Communications. By the way, each of these have been reviewed by Parliamentary Counsel, and you received some briefing notes on those yesterday in these yellow pages. If anyone didn't bring them, we have some extra copies here at the Table. Shaw Communications has to do with the Business Corporations Act, and the Bill involves changing the share structure for this corporation. They have par value shares, and they are asking that we have the par value removed from their bylaws. They want to have no par value shares. It should be an interesting one, and we can get into that. Along with Shaw Communications, we would also deal with the Lethbridge Foundation Amendment Act, 1994, and that is Bill Pr. 2. That's pretty much a straightforward Bill. They are requesting that there be a change of name of their directors. They

want the title of people serving on committees changed from "nominators" to "appointors." They also want to add a member to that committee. So it should be relatively straightforward.

Then on March 29 we would do Bill Pr. 3, which is Companions of Angela and Francis (Koinonia) Association Act. This is a petition from a group of nuns in St. Albert and Whitehorse for incorporation into a corporate body. We're advised that this is virtually identical to the Carmelite Nuns of Western Canada Act, which was passed in 1992.

My proposal is that we would also deal on the 29th with Bill Pr. 11, the Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre Foundation Association Tax Exemption Act. That will be very similar to one of the Bills we dealt with last session as well, where this is a nonprofit society that is asking to be exempted from property tax.

That would lead us into Easter. On April 5, then, I would propose we have no meeting scheduled. I am hoping we can try a new system this session, and we'll see how it works. My proposal is that we then would meet here on April 12. At that time we would have the deliberations and decisions for all the Bills dealt with to that point. I think that will alleviate the problem of us having to discuss Bills while the petitioners are still in the building and listening to our deliberations. It will also give all the members of the committee sufficient time to do any outside research they might want to do on these Bills. You can make yourselves notes as the hearings proceed, and then when we get to our meeting on April 12, we'll make the decisions for the first eight Bills.

Then we'd come back on the 19th and deal with four more adult adoptions. For the 26th I've scheduled the Gimbel Foundation Act alone. That will give us two full hours to deal with that one. On May 3, the Concordia College Amendment Act, 1994, and TD Trust Company and Central Guaranty Trust Co. Act. TD Trust you're all familiar with. That's basically the same Bill we dealt with last time. I understand there are a couple of minor amendments to it.

MR. REYNOLDS: At this stage it's virtually identical to the one we considered last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, is it?

MR. REYNOLDS: They asked for a late date because they still haven't got their amendment together. They're still considering it in Toronto. They've got a trust guru allegedly coming up with some amendment they hope to have prepared by the time they come here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill Pr. 4, Concordia College Amendment Act, 1994, is to amend the number of members on the board of regents from not more than 12 to not less than 12, so it seems to be somewhat straightforward. That one shouldn't take too terribly long, I would think.

That would lead us into May 10, which would be the same procedure as the first half of the Bills. We would then meet again as a committee for deliberation and discussion. I've been thinking about this procedure for the past month or so and trying to come up with something that would work. This is worth a try. I think this will work quite well for our group.

That would then take us through all 15. I've basically covered items 3 and 4 on the agenda, and I guess I would invite any discussion on those if anyone has any suggestions for changes or deletions or any comments on the proposed format.

9:14

MR. WICKMAN: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

MR. WICKMAN: Let me just go to my index here. On March 29 we deal with the Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre Foundation Association Tax Exemption Act. I think one thing that would help us in arriving at a decision would be the complete background of the decision made previously that pertains to the Calgary Multicultural Centre, because I understand that particular one was approved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's a good suggestion.

Mr. Reynolds, if you could see what you can find out on that. Parliamentary Counsel is also in the process of contacting the city of Edmonton to see what their position on it is as well.

Any other questions or comments? Mr. Jacques.

MR. JACQUES: I would move adoption of the proposed scheduled hearings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. HLADY: I second it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yankowsky, you had your hand up, or were you just wanting to . . .

MR. YANKOWSKY: No, I was just pointing to Mr. Wickman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Any discussion on the motion then? Fine. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Now, there's one other thing we need to do. A number of these Bills do not have sponsors at this point. If you turn to the first page with printing on, the second page in your binder, you'll see that all 15 Bills are listed and we do not presently have sponsors.

Now, Mr. Reynolds, you were checking with the petitioners to see if they had anything.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes. For Bill Pr. 1, the Mandy Anderson Adoption Act, there's no sponsor.

For Bill Pr. 3, the Companions of Angela and Francis -- when I talked to the lawyer late last week, he said they were trying to arrange for one. I called him this morning; he didn't get back. I don't know whether they've arranged for one or not.

Bill Pr. 4, the Concordia College Amendment Act: they haven't arranged for a sponsor. I was just speaking to their solicitor this morning.

I don't believe the Chinese multicultural foundation Bill, Pr. 11, has got a sponsor for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, in that case, could I get some volunteers, I guess is the way to put it, for those four Bills? If Bill Pr. 3 has a sponsor by the time the Bill is introduced, then we'll just go with that.

Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: I'll do the Chinese multicultural centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS LEIBOVICI: Actually, I was hoping one of the Edmonton MLAs could, unless Moe's got a really . . . No?

MR. AMERY: It doesn't matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you sure? Does it matter to you, Mr. Amery?

MR. AMERY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. REYNOLDS: I should point out in Bill Pr. 1 that the people in the Mandy Anderson Adoption Act are from Calgary. That makes a difference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS LEIBOVICI: If none of the other Edmonton MLAs want to sponsor that, I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill Pr. 11?

MS LEIBOVICI: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So that's Ms Leibovici for Bill Pr. 11. How about Bill Pr. 4, Concordia College?

MR. HERARD: Mr. Chairman, I was going to volunteer for Bill Pr. 3 if they don't come up with a sponsor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's fine. Okay. Mr. Herard, then, for Bill Pr. 3.  
Mr. Jacques.

MR. JACQUES: I'll take Bill Pr. 1.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jacques for Bill Pr. 1, and Bill Pr. 4, Mr. Sekulic.

That gives us a sponsor for every one. The only one that may change is Bill Pr. 3 if they have their own sponsor already arranged for.

MR. REYNOLDS: It was my understanding that they may be arranging with their local MLA, but I don't know whether they've done that or not. I'll be able to get back to you this afternoon about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

The process, then, for everyone's information. I will be presenting the petitions to the Legislature tomorrow, Wednesday, and we'll go through the entire list. On Thursday I will ask that they be deemed to be read, and on Monday we will then introduce the Bills for first reading, so anyone sponsoring these Bills will have the Bill on their desk on Monday when they come into the Legislature. When we have Introduction of Bills, we'll present them in order. Would you please just rise and be recognized. Parliamentary Counsel will prepare the appropriate script for you, and you can introduce your Bill. If you're not going to be here, will you please make sure you've made arrangements with someone else to present it on your behalf. It's not absolutely necessary that you do it yourself, but make sure someone is set up to present the Bill on your behalf. Then the procedure would be that once all the Bills have been presented for first reading, we would have them referred by the Legislature to our committee. We would begin the hearing process, which obviously would start on Tuesday, a week from today, at 8:30 in the morning.

I don't really have a whole lot of anything else. Is there anything else anyone would like to bring up at this time?

MR. REYNOLDS: I just want to say, Mr. Chairman -- and I realize you're probably going to point this out -- with respect to having to get waivers for two Bills: just before first reading, the chairman will request waivers for Standing Order 86 because you have to meet a

number of requirements in respect to advertising. Bill Pr. 1: the advertising was done before November 1. They sort of got caught up between last session and this session. They sent it in in early October and it was too late to be considered last session. They've already done the advertising, so that would require a waiver. The other one is Bill Pr. 12. The woman who is the petitioner was just a little slow off the mark getting the advertising in. She's completed the advertising in the local newspaper now, and it's going to be in the *Alberta Gazette* on March 15. Technically she hasn't complied, so we'll have to ask for a waiver. Those are the only two Bills that don't comply with Standing Orders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For that reason we scheduled Bill Pr. 12 in the second set of adult adoptions. It won't be before our committee until April 19, so there should still be plenty of time.

Perhaps what I should do is ask for approval of the committee to ask the Legislature for those two waivers. Or is it just a matter of advising?

MR. REYNOLDS: The way it worked last year was that you asked the Assembly for concurrence to waive the provisions. I mean, certainly you can get a vote in the committee right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we might as well. Is it then the opinion of the committee that I would proceed on that course, to ask for concurrence to waive on these two Bills?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine.

Item 5 is Other Business. I don't have anything that's of particular importance, unless anyone else has something they would like to discuss at this point in time.

If you'll allow me to do a little bit of personal advertising, you'll remember that at the conclusion of last session the committee recommended that I as chairman investigate alternate ways to deal with adult adoptions. For anyone who doesn't know yet, I have a private member's Bill, 207, that does exactly that, and that should come up in the Legislature either next week or the following week. I'd encourage everyone to read the Bill, and I would ask for your support. Certainly if the Bill gets through to committee and anyone has any suggestions for amendments, I would be more than pleased to hear from you as well. That's just a kind of personal advertising note. I took it that the feeling of the committee was that I pursue this, so I would appreciate your support when it comes to debate on that.

I have no further business then.

Mrs. Gordon.

MRS. GORDON: I'd like to move adjournment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's been moved to adjourn. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 9:24 a.m.]

