

9:02 a.m.

[Mrs. Burgener in the chair]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Colleagues, I'd like to call the meeting to order. This morning's agenda is before you. Just to clarify, Mrs. Graham has been delayed in Calgary because of the snowstorm, so she's asked me to chair the meeting this morning.

AN HON. MEMBER: She didn't ask me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The phone rang at 5:45, so I don't know.

I'm going to ask for a motion to approve the agenda that's before you. Mr. Thurber.

Secondly, we have the minutes that have been circulated. Are there any comments, errors, or omissions?

MR. STRANG: I'll move approval, Madam Chairman.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Strang has approved the minutes.

Colleagues, I'd like to bring your attention to the presentation we're going to have today. We're doing Bill Pr. 1, the Tanya Marie Bryant Adoption Termination Act. I'd like you just to look in your notes. Under tab "other" are your notes from Parliamentary Counsel and an update under tab 1. Just to bring that to your attention.

The petitioner, Mrs. Tanya Marie Bryant, will be coming in in a few minutes to make her presentation. I understand she's going to be accompanied by her husband, Mr. James Bryant, and no other counsel. Mr. Bryant will not be taking an oath; he'll just be there to accompany her. Due to the sensitivity of the issue being discussed, at some point I'll be looking for a motion to go in camera. I'd just like to draw your attention to the documents that are presented so that you have referenced issues that you might want to discuss when we begin. I'll also introduce you at that time. Any questions before we proceed?

[Mrs. Bryant was sworn in]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Welcome, Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Bryant. We'll proceed by introducing our members to you, and hopefully we can proceed with all the matters that you've brought before us. Thank you for coming up. I hope you didn't get stuck in the snow.

MR. BRYANT: Close.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a little bit. Okay.

Perhaps, Mr. Strang, you could start and introduce yourself.

MR. STRANG: Ivan Strang, West Yellowhead.

MR. HERARD: Denis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MR. CAO: Wayne Cao, Calgary-Fort.

MR. TANNAS: Don Tannas, Highwood.

MR. LANGEVIN: Paul Langevin, Lac La Biche-St. Paul.

MR. THURBER: Tom Thurber, Drayton Valley-Calmar.

MR. McFARLAND: Barry McFarland, Little Bow.

MR. COUTTS: Dave Coutts, Livingstone-Macleod.

MR. MacDONALD: Good morning. Hugh MacDonald, Edmonton-Gold Bar.

MR. BONNER: Bill Bonner, Edmonton-Glengarry. Welcome.

MRS. SOETAERT: Good morning. Colleen Soetaert, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

MRS. BURGNER: We're going to begin this morning. I just want to identify that when we do go in camera in the discussions, the mikes are secured within the Chamber and not in the regular speaker system, which does go through the building to keep everybody informed about what's going on. So I just want to bring that to your attention.

The bill that we have before us: the summary is that the petitioner has basically re-established her relationship with her birth parents and is seeking in this bill that her birth registration be changed to reflect her birth parents.

In 1996 the petitioner changed her maiden surname from that of her most recent adoptive father, Stafford, to the name of her birth father, Lowry. There are attachments to verify that. Both birth parents have provided written statements confirming that they have no objection to the bill proceeding. Indeed, her birth father has provided a statutory declaration stating that he consents to the petition, and that's also noted for you. Her birth mother has provided a written declaration stating she has no objection to the petition. While it does not have certain requirements, it is intended to be a statutory declaration, and that is referenced again.

The petitioner has also indicated in her discussions with our office that she no longer has any relationship with her adoptive parents. Although she has not provided any evidence or indication that she's communicated with any of her adoptive parents regarding her petition, it's important to note that she has fulfilled all the requirements of Standing Orders with respect to advertising, namely in the *Alberta Gazette* and in two consecutive weeks of an Alberta newspaper, the *Calgary Sun*.

The circumstances surrounding the petition appear to have a sensitive manner, so therefore when we do move into questions, I'll have the motion for in camera.

Any questions about procedure at the moment?

MR. STRANG: I move that we go in camera.

MRS. BURGNER: Okay. Thanks. We have a motion to go in camera by Mr. Strang.

[The committee met in camera from 9:08 a.m. to 9:11 a.m.]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I'm going to ask Parliamentary Counsel to just bring some comments to bear for our further discussions.

MS DEAN: I just wanted to point out a few things with respect to this petition. Our office has not received any communications, documentation, or any indication that anybody objects to this petition.

I'd also like to point out that we asked for comments on this bill from the departments of Municipal Affairs and Family and Social Services, and both departments have advised us in writing that they do not have any comments or concerns with this bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much.

Any other observations or comments?

Well, that will conclude our formal portion of the hearing, so I would thank you very much. I know it was a long trip, but obviously the presentation and the issues that you brought to our attention have been thoroughly reviewed. Thank you very much for your time.

MRS. BRYANT: Thank you for your time.

MR. BRYANT: Thank you. Nice meeting you all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We'll then proceed with any other

business that you want to bring to our attention or any other comments that you want to make.

Seeing no other business, I just would like to remind members that the next scheduled meeting is for a week from today at 9 a.m. Enthusiasm is duly noted.

I'll need a motion for adjournment. Mr. Herard tied by Mr. Thurber.

MR. HERARD: I move that we adjourn.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So moved. We're done.

[The committee adjourned at 9:14 a.m.]