



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Legislative Offices

Thursday, July 2, 2009
12:15 p.m.

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Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Mitzel, Len, Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC), Chair
Lund, Ty, Rocky Mountain House (PC), Deputy Chair

Bhullar, Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Montrose (PC)
Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL)
Campbell, Robin, West Yellowhead (PC)
Horne, Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)
Lukaszuk, Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)
MacDonald, Hugh, Edmonton-Gold Bar (AL)
Marz, Richard, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)
Webber, Len, Calgary-Foothills (PC)

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Vacant	Chief Electoral Officer
Neil R. Wilkinson	Ethics Commissioner
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Rachel Stein	Research Officer
Liz Sim	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

12:15 p.m.**Thursday, July 2, 2009**

[Mr. Mitzel in the chair]

The Chair: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to call the meeting of the Standing Committee on Leg. Offices to order. I'd like to welcome everyone. I trust that everyone has a copy of the meeting materials that were either posted on the committee website or delivered to your offices this last week.

I'd ask that we introduce ourselves for the record before we get started on our agenda, and I'll start with Mr. Lund.

Mr. Lund: Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Bhullar: Manmeet Bhullar, MLA, Calgary-Montrose.

Mr. Marz: Richard Marz, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Webber: Len Webber, Calgary-Foothills.

Mr. Horne: Fred Horne, Edmonton-Rutherford.

Mr. Campbell: Robin Campbell, West Yellowhead.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Thomas Lukaszuk, Edmonton-Castle Downs.

Ms Notley: Rachel Notley, Edmonton-Strathcona.

Ms Blakeman: Laurie Blakeman, welcoming each and every one of you to my fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Norton: Erin Norton, committee clerk.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Karen Sawchuk, committee clerk.

The Chair: Len Mitzel, Cypress-Medicine Hat and chair of the committee. Thank you.

Mr. Reynolds: Rob Reynolds, Senior Parliamentary Counsel. I didn't know if we were introducing ourselves, too, but there we are.

The Chair: We all know who you are. Okay. Thank you.

You've also had the agenda, have you? Would someone move that we adopt the agenda, please. Moved by Mr. Campbell. Any additions or anything to this? Seeing none, all in favour of the agenda? Opposed? That's carried.

We also have three sets of minutes for adoption, and I'd ask for a separate motion for each. The first one is for the minutes of the April 13, 2009, meeting. Moved by Mr. Marz that the April 13 minutes be adopted as circulated. Any errors or omissions? All in favour?

Mrs. Sawchuk: Sorry, Mr. Chair. That's my mistake. February.

The Chair: I'm sorry; it's February 13. My notes say April. All in favour of the February 13 minutes? Thank you. Opposed? It's carried.

Also, the February 18 minutes.

Mr. Lund: I'll move.

The Chair: Moved by Mr. Lund that these minutes be adopted. Any errors or omissions? All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

The third set is May 25 as circulated.

An Hon. Member: The 26th.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Mr. Chair, my apologies. That's my mistake.

The Chair: May 26. Would someone move those? Mr. Lukaszuk. Any errors or omissions in these? All in favour? Opposed? That is carried.

This next item is a request for proposal for the audit of the office of the Auditor General and a review of the proposals received. The committee has an obligation to maintain the confidentiality, as well, of the bids received during the RFP process. I'd ask for a motion to move in camera at this time. Of course, once the committee has made its decision in this respect, we'll make the relevant motion on the record. Moved by Mr. Webber that we move in camera. All in favour? Opposed? That is carried.

[The committee met in camera from 12:17 p.m. to 12:42 p.m.]

The Chair: Okay. We are back on the record now, and I would ask Mr. Lund to read the motion.

Mr. Lund: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. The motion is that the firm of St. Arnaud Pinsent Steman, chartered accountants, is the successful applicant for the proposal to complete the annual audit of the office of the Auditor General and that the committee delegate to the chair the authority to enter into a letter of engagement pursuant to the terms of the RFP.

The Chair: You've all heard the motion. Are you ready for the question? All in favour of that motion? Opposed? That motion is carried. Thank you.

Any other items for discussion?

If not, a future meeting date. We'll be polling the committee. It will be the same date as the meeting we have for the select committee sometime in September.

With that, I'd like to wish everyone a great summer and a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Campbell. All in favour?

Mr. Campbell: Well, I was going to say that the whole committee is here. Why don't we try to get a date for September rather than polling us at a later date.

The Chair: It's the week of . . .

Mr. Campbell: Well, it's the week of, but that's five days, right? I mean, if you're going to poll us, we're all here. Why can't we look at our calendars and pick a date and set the meeting, you know, instead of this polling bull.

Mr. Lukaszuk: How do you really feel about it?

Mr. Campbell: Well, you know.

The Chair: We're missing three people.

Ms Blakeman: Why are the people that are here punished for the three people that are not here?

Mr. Marz: We're already here September 1, 2, and 3.

Ms Notley: Are we? For what?

Mr. Marz: Those are dates set aside for the executive search, we heard.

The Chair: That's old.

Mr. Marz: That's old? That's still on mine.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Mr. Chair, I believe that when we completed the timeline for the Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee, of which the membership is the same, we did give a timeline. It was a week span so that members would have an opportunity to have some dates available. We haven't set a date for that committee either.

Ms Blakeman: You know, what you do have in there is that CCPAC conference in Edmonton on the Monday, the Tuesday, and part of the Wednesday. Is anybody here sitting on both committees?

The Chair: Hugh is.

Ms Blakeman: Does that mean we shouldn't look at the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday? That means we're now looking at the Thursday.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Because Hugh is on it as well, on both.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. So then we're looking at Thursday the 17th or Friday. Yeah, Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Campbell: I'm gone Thursday, Friday.

The Chair: In other words, that week just doesn't work.

Ms Blakeman: How much of that event is actually on the Wednesday?

Mr. Lukaszuk: I think it's just the opening.

Ms Blakeman: Oh, no, it isn't. That's the trip to Fort McMurray, isn't it?

Mr. Lukaszuk: Bear with me. Let me figure it out. Yeah, you're right.

Ms Blakeman: They're taking people up there. Okay. So not that week. Okey-dokey.

Mrs. Sawchuk: We definitely can't go the week earlier. We have to permit time for executive search to complete the work that the committee set out for them, and that's our timeline there. The week of the 14th was the week that was approved by the committee in their timeline that they approved at their last meeting. You know, everything was within kind of a week, give or take. We can move it down later, but we can't move it up earlier, I don't believe.

Ms Blakeman: So the following week, then. Have we moved to that?

Mrs. Sawchuk: The week of the 21st.

The Chair: I think we have.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. The Liberals are out on the Tuesday and Wednesday, the 22nd and 23rd. Aside from that, I think we're good.

Mr. Lukaszuk: The 22nd, 23rd of September?

Ms Blakeman: Yeah. The Tuesday and the Wednesday we're out, but I think we're good the rest.

Mr. Lukaszuk: I'm actually gone that entire week. How is Friday the 25th for everybody?

Mr. Campbell: The 24th or 25th.

Mr. Lukaszuk: The 25th sounds really good.

Ms Blakeman: The 25th is the which? The Friday?

The Chair: Correct.

Ms Blakeman: Yes.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Good.

The Chair: The 25th is good?

Mr. Campbell: Good with me.

The Chair: The 25th it is. Richard said to let him know, so I guess the 25th is okay with him as well. I think that should pretty well catch just about everybody, then.

Mr. Campbell: We'll do the Chief Electoral Officer and our Legislative Offices.

The Chair: Correct. On the 25th of September.

Ms Blakeman: So what are we booking? Like, 10 until 2 again?

The Chair: I think we should start earlier.
No, 10 till 2 would do it. Yes.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. Good.

The Chair: Right. I was thinking of interviews, but that's the next step; after that is interviews. So it will be the 25th from 10 till 2.

Mrs. Sawchuk: The time could change a bit, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. I was going to say: do we have to post the times again and then waste time waiting in between meetings, or if we post the meeting at 10 . . .

Ms Blakeman: Robin, you did not waste time, did you?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, I did. I had three smokes and made two phone calls.

Mrs. Sawchuk: You're on the record.

Ms Blakeman: I can't help you, then.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Don't make phone calls the next time. Squeeze in an extra cigarette.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Mr. Chair, when we book the times, we do it based on the information we have at hand. I'm sure that before we hit the September 25 date, we'll have a better idea of what we've got to deal with. We can adjust the times, provided we, you know, give some notice, even if it's just a week.

The Chair: I might make a suggestion.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Do them in reverse order.

The Chair: That's exactly what I was going to say: reverse the order of the meetings.

Mr. Lukaszuk: This one can start whenever.

The Chair: We'll have a very good idea of how long that first meeting will take, the Leg. Offices meeting, and the other one, then, right after it.

Ms Blakeman: Like 15 minutes, right?

The Chair: Yeah.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. Good. Do it that way.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Okay. So we still start at 10, Mr. Chair?

The Chair: Ten is good.

Mrs. Sawchuk: At 10 a.m., and we'll likely be done by 1 p.m., then.

Mr. Horne: I probably have a conflict starting at 12.

The Chair: We'll be done by then.

Mr. Horne: I don't know why we don't start early, first thing in the morning, spend half a day in our constituency office.

An Hon. Member: Some have to travel.

The Chair: We have not approved the motion to adjourn. All in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

[The committee adjourned at 12:50 p.m.]

