



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
8:34 a.m.

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

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Benito, Carl, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)
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Boutilier, Guy C., Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (PC)
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Dallas, Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)
Doerksen, Arno, Strathmore-Brooks (PC)
Forsyth, Heather, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)
Jacobs, Broyce, Cardston-Taber-Warner (PC)
MacDonald, Hugh, Edmonton-Gold Bar (AL)
McQueen, Diana, Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)
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8:34 a.m.**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

[Dr. Brown in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming this morning. I'll call the meeting to order. This is our organizational meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills for this session. The first order of business is the approval of the agenda for this morning. Could I have someone move approval? Mr. Doerksen. Thank you. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

The next item is the approval of the committee meeting minutes from May 27, 2008, which have been circulated. Any issues with the minutes as presented? The motion to approve was Mr. Jacobs. Any discussion? All in favour? Anyone opposed? That's carried.

The next item is the review of the petitions. You have three petitions before you. Shannon, did you want to make any comments on the petitions? Before the meeting started, there was a question about the undoing of the adoption. Perhaps you could just explain on Pr. 1 what the protocol is and why we need to have a private bill on that issue.

Ms Dean: Certainly, Mr. Chair. As all committee members are aware, a private bill seeks something that's not available through the general public law. Bill Pr. 1 is seeking the termination of an adoption order because, basically, the petitioner is unable to get recourse in any other way. A person is unable to set aside an adoption order after one year unless it has been procured by fraud. Now, that's not the case here. There's been no fraud, so this is the appropriate tool by which one goes about terminating an adoption of this type. It's a fairly rare type of bill, but these have come before the Assembly before. The most recent one was in 1998.

The Chair: Okay. So Bill Pr. 1 is the Beverly Anne Cormier Adoption Termination Act. Mr. Anderson, you'll be carrying that bill.

The second item, Bill Pr. 2, is the Caritas Health Group Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, and Mr. Elniski is going to be sponsoring that. I've confirmed with him that he's able and willing to carry that bill.

I also want to mention for those of you who are in the room here that Mr. Boutilier is joining us. Bonjour, M. Boutilier.

Mr. Boutilier: Bonjour, M. le Président. Good morning, everyone. Sorry. I had difficulty with Bell Canada connecting this morning.

The Chair: Okay. So Bill Pr. 2 is basically an amalgamation of a number of existing corporations.

Bill Pr. 3 is Les Filles de la Sagesse Act Repeal Act. That is simply the repeal of an existing piece of legislation whereby a body was incorporated and is now desirous of being dissolved.

We don't want to get into any discussion of the legislation itself, but are there any questions regarding the procedures involved in the act? Shannon, do you want to make a comment?

Ms Dean: Mr. Chair, if I may just supplement my memo that was circulated late last week with respect to Pr. 3. There were a couple of outstanding items in connection with that petition. Since that time Mr. Dallas has confirmed that he's going to be sponsoring the bill. As well, there was a technical deficiency with one of the statutory declarations in connection with the advertising, but that has since been corrected as of yesterday.

So just to recap, Mr. Chair, all three petitions meet all the requirements in the standing orders.

The Chair: Very good. Any questions?

Okay. The next item of business, then, is the schedule of hearings and deliberations. Traditionally the meetings of the Private Bills Committee have been held on Tuesday mornings. I guess that's

always subject to the availability of the majority of the committee members. Recognizing that we have a large committee of 21, there's probably no way that we can accommodate everybody, but we have tentatively scheduled the hearings for April 7, 2009, at 8 o'clock in the morning – I presume that breakfast is going to be provided at that early hour – and the following week, April 14, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. for the deliberations and discussions and decisions regarding the referral of those three bills.

I will open the floor to any suggestions. Is there anyone that particularly objects to those proposed dates?

8:40

Mr. Forsyth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. It's not an objection on the meetings, but I have noted with interest that we have the ability to phone in by a telephone conference call. If we want to do that if we can't attend the meeting, who do we go to for directions on that?

Ms Marston: You can contact me at the office of Parliamentary Counsel. My name is Florence.

Mr. Forsyth: Okay. Good. Thanks, Florence. It's a good idea.

Mr. Olson: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Tuesday mornings are fine with me usually, but those two Tuesdays are both, maybe, problems for me. I have tentative meetings booked right now that I probably can't get out of. You're going to run into that no matter when, though, I'm sure.

The Chair: As I said, it is really difficult to accommodate everyone when it's such a large committee.

Any other comments? Mr. Rodney.

Mr. Rodney: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. It's nice to be back on Private Bills. I'd say go for it. It sounds like you have much more than required in terms of numbers for a quorum.

Just as a point of notification I do have a 9 o'clock meeting on the 14th, so depending on the length of the meeting I could be here for the entirety of both or maybe not for the last part of the second one.

Thank you.

The Chair: One comment I would make to those who are required to be absent from the meeting. If you want to present any discussion or comments regarding any of the bills in advance, I'd be pleased to receive them. You can send them through Florence or directly to me, whichever you prefer.

It sounds like the majority of the people are able to make those meetings on those dates. Could I have a motion, then, that the proposed schedule of meetings as presented be adopted? Mrs. Sarich, you had your hand up first. All in favour? Anyone opposed? That's carried.

Mr. MacDonald, you had a comment?

Mr. MacDonald: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification the meeting on Tuesday, April 7, starts at 8 o'clock?

The Chair: Correct.

Mr. MacDonald: And the one on the 14th starts at 8:30?

The Chair: That's correct.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you.

The Chair: Any other business to come before the committee, then, this morning?

Can I have a motion for adjournment? Mrs. McQueen moved the adjournment. All in favour? Any opposed? Carried.

Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 8:43 a.m.]

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Table of Contents

Bill Pr. 1 Beverly Anne Cormier Adoption Termination Act	PB-13
Bill Pr. 2 Caritas Health Group Statutes Amendment Act, 2009	PB-13
Bill Pr. 3 Les Filles de la Sagesse Act Repeal Act	PB-13

