



Honourable Nathan Cooper, MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

April 8, 2024

Shane Getson, Chair
Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act
Review Committee
3rd Floor, 9820 107 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7

Sent via email: COIACCommittee@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

RE: SUBMISSION CONCERNING REVIEW OF THE *CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ACT*


Further to the email correspondence received from Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee (the “Committee”) dated March 4, 2024, I am pleased to provide the following submission with respect to the Committee’s review of the *Conflicts of Interest Act* (the “Act”).

The specific matter concerning the Act that I wish to raise pertains to section 25(4), which currently permits the Ethics Commissioner to exercise discretion regarding whether to inform the Speaker of the commencement of an investigation in respect of section 25(1). I would propose that that the Act be amended such that the Ethics Commissioner be required to disclose to the Speaker that an investigation has been commenced.

This change would facilitate the Speaker’s management of Assembly business in that with this information, the Speaker would be able to direct the Assembly to avoid debate on matters to ensure that section 24(6) of the Act, which provides that “[w]here a matter has been referred to the Ethics Commissioner under subsection (1), (3) or (4), neither the Legislative Assembly nor a committee of the Assembly shall inquire into the matter”, is complied with.

For these reasons, I request that the Committee carefully consider the proposed modification to the Act that I have proposed.

Yours sincerely,


Honourable Nathan Cooper, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

- c. Hon. Marguerite Trussler, K.C., Ethics Commissioner
Shannon Dean, K.C., Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Aaron Roth, Committee Clerk, Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee