



Select Special

Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee

Report of the Committee

30th Legislature
Second Session
February 2022



COMMITTEES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Special Child and Youth Advocate
Search Committee
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of ALBERTA

Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee

February 2022

**To the Honourable Nathan M. Cooper
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

The Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate to the position of Child and Youth Advocate for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

Joseph Schow, MLA
Chair, Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee

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**SELECT SPECIAL CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chair:

Mr. Joseph R. Schow, MLA
Cardston-Siksika (UC)

Deputy Chair:

Mr. Matt Jones, MLA
Calgary-South East (UC)

Members:

Hon. Ms Tanya Fir (UC)*
Calgary-Peigan

Ms Nicole Goehring, MLA
Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)

Ms Jacqueline Lovely, MLA
Camrose (UC)

Mr. Jeremy P. Nixon, MLA
Calgary-Klein (UC)

Ms Rakhi Pancholi, MLA
Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)

Mr. Irfan Sabir, MLA
Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP)

Mr. Mark W. Smith, MLA
Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)

Mr. Searle Turton, MLA†
Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)

Mr. Jordan Walker, MLA‡
Sherwood Park (UC)

* Committee member to October 25, 2021.

† Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4) Mr. Turton was a substitute for the Hon. Ms Fir on October 21, 2021. He was appointed to the Committee on October 25, 2021.

‡ Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4) Mr. Walker was a substitute for the Hon. Ms Fir on August 23, 2021.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Government Motion 87

On June 15, 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed Government Motion 87, which appointed the Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee, an all-party committee made up of nine Members, for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of the Child and Youth Advocate and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.

RECOMMENDATION

At the February 14, 2022, meeting of the Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee the following motion was passed by the Committee [*on a recorded vote*]:

MOVED by Mr. Smith that the Select Special Child and Youth Advocate Search Committee

- (a) approve the draft report dated February 2022,
- (b) recommend to the Legislative Assembly that
 - i) Terri Pelton be recommended for appointment to the position of Child and Youth Advocate for a five-year term commencing on April 1, 2022, and
 - ii) the Speaker be authorized to, on its behalf, enter into a remuneration agreement with the appointee as it relates to his/her appointment.

SELECTION PROCESS

The search for the Child and Youth Advocate was conducted over several meetings, beginning on August 23, 2021, until the Committee confirmed its decision at the February 14, 2022, meeting. The Committee, with the assistance of the Clerk, office of Parliamentary Counsel, communications services, human resource services, and committee from the Legislative Assembly Office as well as senior staff from Executive Search with the Alberta Public Service Commission, developed guidelines for advertising, a position profile, a search timetable, and general procedures.

An advertisement for the position of Child and Youth Advocate was placed with a number of indigenous publications and nationally in the *Globe and Mail* as well as in a Post bundle which included the career sections of the *National Post*, *Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald*. The advertisement and position profile were posted on the Committee website, and online advertisements appeared on eluta.ca as well as some targeted placements on specific indigenous and other professional association career sites. A media advisory and social media were also used to increase awareness of the search process.

The Committee was pleased to receive applications for the position of Child and Youth Advocate from candidates within Alberta, other provinces and territories in Canada, and the international community. At the request of the Committee Executive Search completed a screening report on all applicants, and the Committee reviewed all of the resumés along with screening reports to determine a candidate short list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with identified candidates and reported back to the Committee. The Committee then conducted interviews with selected candidates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee appreciates the expertise and professionalism of Dot Ellerby, Acting Director of Executive Search, and Jeff Steinbach, Executive Search Consultant, both with the Alberta Public Service Commission, as well as the assistance of support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Biography of Terri Pelton, BSW, RSW

Terri has worked in the Alberta public service for over 30 years. She is a registered social worker, graduating from the University of Regina in 1987. She has spent her career working with children and youth, having had the opportunity to be involved with all areas of child welfare service delivery before moving to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) in 2007.

In her 15 years at the OCYA Terri has played an integral role in the development and implementation of investigations into child serious injury and death and the Legal Representation for Children and Youth program. Over the past three years she has been responsible for the leadership of Direct Advocacy Services. Since 2011 Terri has been a member of the Strategic Leadership Team, participating in setting the strategic direction for the office.

Terri has completed the Senior and Executive Managers' Development Program and the Indigenous Partnership Development Program through the Alberta School of Business and the Government of Alberta.

Terri believes strongly that young people are rights holders, and their opinion must be considered when decisions are made about them. She is committed to reconciliation and believes in the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to care for their children.

Terri and her husband live in Edmonton, where they enjoy spending time with their two granddaughters.