

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Report of the Committee *Auditor General Search Recommendation*

Thirty-First Legislature
Second Session
March 2026



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

March 2026

**To the Honourable Ric McIver
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate for the position of Auditor General for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Brandon G. Lundy, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	3
COMMITTEE MANDATE	4
AUDITOR GENERAL – RECOMMENDATION	4
SELECTION PROCESS	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY	5
APPENDIX – MINORITY REPORT	6

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

Chair:

Brandon G. Lundy, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont (UC)

Deputy Chair:

Chantelle de Jonge, MLA*
Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)

Justin Wright, MLA†
Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)

Members:

Amanda Chapman, MLA
Calgary-Beddington (NDP)

Scott J. Cyr, MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)

Nolan B. Dyck, MLA
Grande Prairie (UC)

Jacqueline Lovely, MLA§
Camrose (UC)

Rob Miyashiro, MLA
Lethbridge-West (NDP)

Chelsae Petrovic, MLA
Livingstone-Macleod (UC)

Tara Sawyer, MLA‡
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)

David Shepherd, MLA
Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)

Peggy K. Wright, MLA
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

Substitutions pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):

Lorne Dach, MLA**
Edmonton-McClung (NDP)

Garth Rowswell, MLA††
Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)

Rebecca Schulz, MLA‡‡
Calgary-Shaw (UC)

Ron Wiebe, MLA§§
Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)

Tany Yao, MLA***
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC)

* Deputy Chair and Member of the Committee from October 30, 2025, to February 24, 2026.

† Deputy Chair of the Committee from February 24, 2026, to present.

‡ Committee member from February 24, 2026, to present.

§ Member of the Committee from November 4, 2024, to February 24, 2026.

** Substitute for Rob Miyashiro on December 12, 2025.

†† Substitute for Nolan B. Dyck on December 12, 2025.

‡‡ Substitute for Scott J. Cyr on March 25, 2026.

§§ Substitute for Justin Wright on March 25, 2026.

*** Substitute for Jacqueline Lovely on December 12, 2025.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Government Motion 13

On November 25, 2025, the Legislative Assembly passed Government Motion 13, which appointed the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, an all-party committee consisting of 10 Members, for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Auditor General and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to the position.

AUDITOR GENERAL – RECOMMENDATION

At the March 25, 2026, meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices the Committee passed the following motion:

That the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

- (a) accept the recommendation of the Auditor General Search Subcommittee,
- (b) approve the draft Committee report dated March 2026,
- (c) recommend to the Legislative Assembly that
 - i) Phillip D. Peters be appointed to the position of Auditor General for an eight-year term effective April 29, 2026, and
 - ii) the Speaker be authorized to, on its behalf, enter into a remuneration agreement with the appointee as it relates to Mr. Peters' appointment.

SELECTION PROCESS

The search for the Auditor General was conducted over several meetings, beginning on December 12, 2025, when the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices (the “Committee”) created the Auditor General Search Subcommittee (the “Subcommittee”) to invite applications for the position of the Auditor General and to report to the Committee on the applicant it considers most suitable for the position.

The Committee and the Subcommittee, with the assistance of the Clerk, Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Communications Services, Human Resource Services, and Committee Services 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, and general procedures.

The recruitment campaign for the position of Auditor General included a multimedia advertising package with *The Globe and Mail*, which included a triple-print run as well as placement on *The Globe and Mail* website, with premium positioning in their career display on eluta.ca. Additional advertising was placed through Postmedia, which included the career sections of the *National Post*, *Edmonton Journal*, and *Calgary Herald* as well as posting on working.com. The opportunity was also promoted across all LAO social platforms for a month, including the LinkedIn job site. It was posted on the Committee page on the Assembly website. Finally, there were targeted placements with related professional associations in addition to a media advisory to increase awareness.

The Subcommittee was pleased to receive applications from candidates around Alberta, other parts of Canada, and international jurisdictions. At the request of the Subcommittee, Executive Search completed screening reports on top applicants, and the Committee reviewed all resumé and screening reports to determine a candidate shortlist for interviews. The Subcommittee then conducted interviews with selected candidates and reported its recommendation to the Committee.

On March 25, 2026, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the Subcommittee and confirmed the final recommendation of a candidate for the Auditor General position.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee appreciates the expertise and professionalism of Trish Mills, Director of Executive Search, and Renee Henry, Executive Search Consultant, from the Alberta Public Service Commission as well as the support from the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Biography of Phillip D. Peters

Phil Peters has been a designated accountant for 24 years, beginning his career with a Big 4 firm. He then joined the federal public service as an auditor, following which Phil earned his law degree from the University of Alberta and articulated at a large firm. He then practiced in the areas of tax and financial law at Alberta Justice. After earning his Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall, he joined the Office of the Auditor General of Alberta as a legislative audit advisor, where he has served for the past 9 years, during which he also assumed the roles of General Counsel and Ethics Officer. In recent years, Phil has contributed to submissions to accounting standard setters and has served as a member of a professional disciplinary tribunal. He became King's Counsel in 2022 and recently a Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant.

Phil was raised on a small cattle ranch and was involved in 4-H. Since moving to Edmonton, he has been active in the community, most notably in his commitment to a youth-serving agency, has chaired United Way campaigns, and is a frequent guest speaker. He enjoys the beautiful sights of Alberta from above, learning to fly a small plane, and from his favourite fishing spots with his family.

APPENDIX – MINORITY REPORT

The Alberta NDP Caucus members of the Auditor General Search Subcommittee have serious concerns over the processes that led to the selection of the new Auditor General of Alberta and do not support the decision made by the UCP Caucus majority on the Committee.

The position of Auditor General is a crucial one for the function of democracy in our province. The Auditor General is tasked with the great responsibility of overseeing, performing and approving audits of all government departments and activities to ensure transparency and accountability on behalf of the people of Alberta. This is something any ethical and competent government should welcome - having trusted experts review their budgets and programs to ensure they are delivering the best for those they serve.

This includes the finalization of the report on the Auditor General's examination of Procurement and Contracting Processes at the Department of Health and Alberta Health Services, often referred to as the CorruptCare scandal – a significant investigation involving hundreds of millions of public dollars and with many connections to the UCP government. It is not a position that should be filled and appointed recklessly or with any semblance of political interest.

On December 12, 2025, the Auditor General Subcommittee was struck under the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices with the intention of finding Alberta's next Auditor General. This Subcommittee consisted of five total members – Brandon Lundy (Chair), Nolan Dyck, Scott Cyr, David Shepherd, and Peggy Wright.

Both MLAs Shepherd and Wright have participated in previous searches for Officers of the Legislature and it was their view that they have never seen a search process conducted so unprofessionally or with such blatant political intent. Given the process was so fundamentally flawed, the Alberta NDP Caucus members of this Subcommittee cannot support its result.

At almost every stage, UCP members of the Subcommittee, with the support of the Chair, rejected or significantly altered the standard processes, metrics and rubrics provided and recommended by the human resources professionals from Executive Search (ES). This included everything from the ads run to seek applicants, to the process by which applications were sorted to the interview questions chosen. In our view, these actions represented an attempt to lower the high standards that would normally be applied in considering candidates for such a consequential position and reduce the information available to assist sub-committee members in making their decisions.

It is also our members' view that the Subcommittee interviewed several highly-qualified candidates with significant experience in a wide range of audit work and executive leadership, both in the public service and private industry, internal and external to the Office of the Auditor General. Unfortunately, following interviews, UCP members of the Subcommittee were not open to discussion of those options but focused on a single candidate who, while qualified, in our view, was not the most qualified and experienced applicant for the position.

With the utmost respect for the position of the Office of the Auditor General, we, the Alberta NDP members of this Subcommittee, cannot support the process by which the selected candidate was chosen over more qualified candidates with deeper and stronger experience.

In our view, Albertans deserve better than a process that prioritizes political interests over the public good. We regret that the UCP members of the committee did not appear to share this view. We remain deeply disappointed by their actions and decisions, and we urge all members of the Legislature to reject the candidate they have recommended.

Submitted by:

MLA David Shepherd, Edmonton-City Centre
MLA Peggy Wright, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview
MLA Amanda Chapman, Calgary-Beddington
MLA Rob Miyashiro, Lethbridge-West