

Select Special

Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee

Report of the Committee

30th Legislature
Fourth Session
December 2022



COMMITTEES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Special Ombudsman and Public
Interest Commissioner Search Committee
3rd Floor, Queen Elizabeth II Building
9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 1E7
780.644.8621
committee.admin@assembly.ab.ca



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of ALBERTA

Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee

December 2022

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

The Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate to the positions of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Miranda D. Rosin, MLA
Chair, Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee

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**SELECT SPECIAL OMBUDSMAN AND PUBLIC INTEREST COMMISSIONER
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – May 12 to November 30, 2022

Chair:

Hon. Jeremy Nixon, MLA
Calgary Klein (UC)

Deputy Chair:

Ms Miranda D. Rosin, MLA*
Banff-Kananaskis (UC)

Members:

Hon. Leela Sharon Aheer, MLA
Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)

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

Hon. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA†
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)

Mr. Peter Singh, MLA
Calgary-East (UC)

Hon. Deron Bilous, MLA
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

Mr. Dan D.A. Williams, MLA
Peace River (UC)

Ms Nicole Goehring
Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)

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

Hon. Mickey Amery, KC‡
Calgary-Cross (UC)

Ms Jacqueline Lovely§
Camrose (UC)

Mr. David Shepherd**
Edmonton-City Centre

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

* Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4) Ms Rosin was a substitute as Acting Chair for the Hon. Mr. Nixon on November 7, 2022.

† Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4) the Hon. Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk was a substitute as Acting Chair for Ms Rosin on June 8, 2022.

‡ Hon. Mr. Amery was a substitute for Mr. Singh on June 8, 2022.

§ Ms Lovely was a substitute for Mr. Williams on June 8, 2022.

** Mr. Shepherd was a substitute for Hon. Mr. Sabir on June 8, 2022.

†† Mr. Smith was a substitute committee member for Ms Rosin on June 8, 2022, for the Hon. Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk on September 7 and October 20, 2022, and for the Hon. Mr. Nixon on November 7, 2022.

**SELECT SPECIAL OMBUDSMAN AND PUBLIC INTEREST COMMISSIONER
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – November 30 to December 5, 2022††

Chair:

Ms Miranda D. Rosin, MLA
Banff-Kananaskis (UC)

Deputy Chair:

Mr. Dan D.A. Williams, MLA
Peace River (UC)

Members:

Hon. Leela Sharon Aheer, MLA
Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)

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

Hon. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)

Mr. Peter Singh, MLA
Calgary-East (UC)

Hon. Deron Bilous, MLA
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)

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

Ms Nicole Goehring
Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)

†† Pursuant to Government Motion 8 the membership of the Committee was amended on November 30, 2022.
3 December 2022

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Government Motion 27

On May 12, 2022, the Legislative Assembly passed Government Motion 27, which appointed the Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee, an all-party committee made up of nine Members, for the purpose of inviting applications for the positions of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to these positions. Pursuant to Government Motion 8 the membership of the Committee was amended on November 30, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

At the December 5, 2022, meeting of the Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee the following motion was passed by the Committee:

MOVED by Mr. Singh that the Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee

- (a) approve the draft report dated December 2022 and
- (b) recommend to the Legislative Assembly that
 - i) Kevin Brezinski be recommended for appointment to the positions of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner for a five-year term commencing on December 30, 2022, and
 - ii) the Speaker be authorized to, on its behalf, enter into a remuneration agreement with the appointee as it relates to his appointments.

SELECTION PROCESS

The search for the Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner was conducted over several meetings, beginning on June 8, 2022, and concluding on December 5, 2022, when the Committee confirmed its decision. The Committee, 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, a search timetable, and general procedures.

The position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner was advertised through a multi-media package in the *Globe and Mail* which included a triple print run as well as placement on the Globe and Mail website, premium positioning in their career display on Eulata.ca, a twitter campaign and streaming to over 100 Canadian regional and occupational feeds. Additional paid advertising was placed through Post Media, which included the career sections of the *National Post*, *Edmonton Journal*, and *Calgary Herald*. The advertisement and position profile were posted on the Committee page on the Assembly website and on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Public Interest Commissioner of Alberta website. There were targeted placements on specific professional association career sites. A media advisory and social media posts were also used to increase awareness of the search process.

The Committee was pleased to receive applications for the positions of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner 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 top applicants, and the Committee reviewed all resumés and screening reports to determine a candidate short list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee, officials from 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 Trish Mills, Director of Executive Search, and Maricel Somera-Wong, Executive Search Consultant, from the Alberta Public Service Commission as well as the assistance of support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Biography of Kevin Brezinski

Kevin Brezinski is a 30-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Service having served most recently as the Deputy Chief of the Investigations and Support Services Bureau. He has extensive investigative experience and has worked with law enforcement agencies throughout Canada and the United States related to serious and organized crime. In addition, he has significant experience in working within the guidelines of administrative law. He previously served as the senior officer in charge of the Professional Standards Branch dealing with complaints against police officers and the police service. He believes that managing complaints in a fair and unbiased manner is key to public trust.

Originally from a small community in Saskatchewan, he graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology. He now resides in Edmonton with his family. In his spare time he enjoys spending time outdoors and is an avid golfer.