

Twenty-Seventh Legislature First Session

Select Special

# Ethics Commissioner Search Committee

FINAL REPORT

October 2008



**COMMITTEES**  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Select Special Ethics Commissioner  
Search Committee**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ALBERTA  
SELECT SPECIAL ETHICS COMMISSIONER SEARCH COMMITTEE

**CHAIR:**

ROBIN CAMPBELL, MLA  
West Yellowhead

**DEPUTY CHAIR:**

RICHARD MARZ, MLA  
Olds Didsbury Three Hills

**MEMBERS:**

LAURIE BLAKEMAN, MLA  
Edmonton Centre

THOMAS LUKASZUK, MLA  
Edmonton Castledowns

TY LUND, MLA  
Rocky Mountain House

HUGH MacDONALD, MLA  
Edmonton Gold Bar

LEN MITZEL, MLA  
Cypress Medicine Hat

RACHEL NOTLEY, MLA  
Edmonton Strathcona

LEN WEBBER, MLA  
Calgary Foothills

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

To the Honourable Ken Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Province of Alberta

The Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate to the position of Ethics Commissioner, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

[Original signed by Chair]

Robin Campbell, MLA  
Chair, Select Special  
Ethics Commissioner Search Committee

## MANDATE

On May 14, 2008 the Legislative Assembly of Alberta passed the following motion appointing a Search Committee and setting out the Committee's mandate:

14. Moved by Hon. Mr. Renner on behalf of Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that a Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed, consisting of the following Members, namely:

Prins (Chair)	Campbell	MacDonald
McFarland (Deputy Chair)	Horne	Marz
Blakeman	Lund	Notley

for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Ethics Commissioner and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.

1. The Chair and members of the Committee shall be paid in accordance with the schedule of Category "A" Committees provided in the most current Members' Services Committee Allowances Order.
2. Reasonable disbursements by the Committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the Chair.
3. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of members of the public service employed in that department, and of the staff employed by the Assembly.
4. The Committee may, without leave of the Assembly, sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned.
5. When its work has been completed, the Committee shall report to the Assembly if it is sitting. During a period when the Assembly is adjourned, the Committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each Member of the Assembly.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### *Appointed May 14, 2008*

#### **Chair:**

Mr. Ray Prins, MLA  
Lacombe-Ponoka (PC)

#### **Deputy Chair:**

Mr. Barry McFarland, MLA  
Little Bow (PC)

#### **Members:**

Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA  
Edmonton Centre (LIB)

Mr. Robin Campbell, MLA  
West Yellowhead (PC)

Mr. Fred Horne, MLA  
Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)

Mr. Ty Lund, MLA  
Rocky Mountain House (PC)

Mr. Hugh MacDonald, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar (LIB)

Mr. Richard Marz, MLA  
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)

Ms Rachel Notley, MLA  
Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)

### *Appointed May 29, 2008*

#### **Chair:**

Mr. Robin Campbell, MLA  
West Yellowhead (PC)

#### **Deputy Chair:**

Richard Marz, MLA  
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)

#### **Members:**

Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA  
Edmonton Centre (LIB)

Mr. Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA  
Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)

Mr. Ty Lund, MLA  
Rocky Mountain House (PC)

Mr. Hugh MacDonald, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar (LIB)

Mr. Len Mitzel, MLA  
Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)

Ms Rachel Notley, MLA  
Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)

Mr. Len Webber, MLA  
Calgary-Foothills (PC)

### **Substitutions pursuant to Temporary Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4)**

Mr. Doug Elniski, MLA  
Edmonton-Calder (PC)

## RECOMMENDATION

At the October 20, 2008 meeting of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee, the following recommendation was passed by the Committee:

**MOVED by Mr. Marz** that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta that Mr. Neil R. Wilkinson be appointed Ethics Commissioner for a term of 5 years, and that the Speaker be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Wilkinson at the time of the appointment.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee held its first meeting on June 3, 2008 and with the assistance of Committee support staff and Ms Alayne Stewart, Director-Executive Search, Corporate Human Resources (CHR), developed guidelines for advertising, the position profile, search timetable and general procedures.

Advertisements for the position of Ethics Commissioner were placed in daily newspapers in: Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer. The advertisement ran nationally in the Globe and Mail, and in the National Post. The advertisement and position profile were also posted on the external Committee website.

The Committee received a total of 94 applications for the position of Ethics Commissioner. Applications were received from: Alberta, with 71 applications; British Columbia, 2; Saskatchewan, 2; New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec, each with 1 application; Manitoba, 3; and from Ontario, 8. There were four applications received from locations unknown. One candidate withdrew her application from the competition. Executive Search, CHR completed comprehensive screening reports for each candidate and the Committee reviewed the applications received along with the screening reports to determine a short-list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee, Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with 11 candidates and the Committee then selected 4 candidates for final interviews, which were held on October 1, 2008.

After the interview process was completed, it was the decision of the Committee that Neil R. Wilkinson be recommended to the Legislative Assembly as the Ethics Commissioner for the Province of Alberta.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee acknowledges the contributions of Ms Alayne Stewart, Director of Executive Search with Alberta Corporate Human Resources. Ms Stewart's knowledge and expertise in all matters relating to a search of this nature were invaluable and contributed to the completion of the Committee's mandate within a strict timeline.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF NEIL R. WILKINSON**

Mr. Neil Wilkinson has resided in Edmonton for 37 years and is actively involved in various local, provincial, and federal organizations and boards. He owned and operated a successful local business for 16 years and in 1996 he was appointed Chair of the Board of Directors for the Capital Health Authority, a position he held until 2008.

Neil Wilkinson is actively involved in the community and is a serving Member or has previously served on a number of boards and agencies including: Toastmasters International; Alberta Blue Cross; Edmonton Police Foundation; Dean's Visiting Committee, University of Alberta - Faculty of Law; Edmonton Concert Hall Foundation Board; Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and others.

Neil continues to expand his knowledge through course work taken at various post-secondary institutions including: University of Toronto; University of Alberta; Grant MacEwan College; and at NAIT, where he was awarded an honorary diploma in 2004. He recently completed the academic requirements for two programs offered through the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, as well as the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Alberta School of Business at the University of Alberta in association with the Rotman School of Management.

Neil and his wife Jean have three adult children and two grandchildren who reside in southern Alberta.

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Search Committee**

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