

Report of the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee

August 23, 2011



Select Special Ombudsman
Search Committee
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SELECT SPECIAL OMBUDSMAN SEARCH COMMITTEE

CHAIR:

LEN MITZEL, MLA
Cypress-Medicine Hat

DEPUTY CHAIR:

TY LUND, MLA
Rocky Mountain House

MEMBERS:

LAURIE BLAKEMAN, MLA
Edmonton Centre

PAUL HINMAN, MLA
Calgary Glenmore

FRED LINDSAY, MLA
Stony Plain

RICHARD MARZ, MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

RACHEL NOTLEY, MLA
Edmonton Strathcona

DAVE QUEST, MLA
Strathcona

GEORGE ROGERS, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

August 23, 2011

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

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

Sincerely,

[Original signed by Chair]

Len Mitzel, MLA
Chair, Select Special Ombudsman
Search Committee

c. Dr. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

SELECT SPECIAL OMBUDSMAN SEARCH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chair:

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

Deputy Chair:

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

Members:

Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA
Edmonton Centre (LIB)

Mr. Paul Hinman, MLA
Calgary Glenmore (WA)

Mr. Fred Lindsay, MLA
Stony Plain (PC)

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

Ms Rachel Notley, MLA
Edmonton Strathcona (ND)

Mr. Dave Quest, MLA
Strathcona (PC)

Mr. George Rogers, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)

Government Motions [December 1, 2010]

28. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

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

Mitzel (Chair)	Hinman	Notley
Lund (Deputy Chair)	Lindsay	Quest
Blakeman	Marz	Rogers

for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Ombudsman 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.

RECOMMENDATION

At the August 23, 2011, meeting of the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee, the following recommendation was passed by the Committee:

MOVED by Mr. Marz that the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee approve the report dated August 23, 2011 and recommend that Peter Hourihan be appointed Ombudsman for a five-year term effective October 17, 2011 and that the Speaker be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Hourihan effective at the time of the appointment.

Section 7(3) of the *Ombudsman Act* authorizes the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices to make a recommendation for the position of Ombudsman to the Lieutenant Governor in Council when the Legislature is not sitting. Accordingly, this Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices for consideration. Any appointment made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 7(3) of the *Ombudsman Act* must be confirmed by the Assembly within 30 days after the commencement of the next regular session.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee held a total of seven meetings starting with an organizational meeting on January 31, 2011, and completed its mandate at the August 23, 2011, meeting. The Committee, with the assistance of legal services, communications, human resource services and committee support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office and senior staff from Executive Search, Alberta Corporate Human Resources, developed guidelines for advertising, a position profile, search timetable and general procedures.

Advertisements for the position of Ombudsman were placed in two editions of Alberta's major daily newspapers, the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Calgary Herald*. The advertisement also ran in one edition of the daily newspapers in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. The advertisement and position profile were posted on the Legislative Assembly of Alberta website with a link to the external Committee website and were posted on various related professional association websites as well.

The Committee received a total of 68 applications for the position of Ombudsman; 60 of these were from Alberta, and eight applications were received from candidates in other provinces. At the request of the Committee Executive Search completed comprehensive screening reports for each candidate, and the Committee reviewed the resumés along with the screening reports to determine a candidate short list for preliminary interviews. Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with 11 candidates and reported back to the Committee. The Committee chose to conduct final interviews with five candidates. The final interviews were held on May 24, 2011, and May 27, 2011.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee acknowledges the contributions of Ms Trish Mills, Director of Executive Search, and Ms Jean Easton, Executive Search Consultant, Alberta Corporate Human Resources, whose knowledge and expertise in all matters relating to a search of this nature were invaluable.

BIOGRAPHY of Mr. Peter Hourihan, BAdmin, LLB

Peter Hourihan, originally from Three Hills, Alberta, spent 35 years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). He served in 14 locations in Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories (now Nunavut), Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and most recently as the Deputy Commissioner and Commanding Officer for British Columbia. He has had a diverse police experience which included general investigations, traffic services, commercial crime, federal policing, corporate services and executive leadership. The highlight of his career was working with people from many diverse backgrounds and communities within Canada.

Peter has a Bachelor's in Business Administration (BAdmin) from Athabasca University and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Ottawa. He has taken courses in mediation, problem solving and negotiations and has in turn taught these courses at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology. As an international consultant to the Department of Public Safety in Texas Peter helped design, develop and implement a conflict resolution strategy. He also has extensive experience in code of conduct, grievance and tribunal activities within the RCMP.

Mr. Hourihan received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for his diligence in policing and his work in the area of dispute resolution. He has served on many committees and boards, actively seeking to enhance public safety and confidence.

Peter is married to Donna, and they have two adult children, Christopher and Michelle. They enjoy the outdoors and travelling.

