



Twenty-Seventh Legislature
First Session



Standing Committee on Resources and Environment

October 2008

Report on Bill 23: *Weed Control Act*



**Standing Committee on
Resources and Environment**
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October, 2008

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

The Standing Committee on Resources and Environment has the honour to submit its Report containing recommendations on Bill 23, *Weed Control Act* for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Ray Prins, MLA
Lacombe-Ponoka
Chair, Standing Committee on
Resources and Environment

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

27th Legislature, First Session

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

Pearl Calahasen, MLA
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Peter Sandhu, MLA
Edmonton-Manning (PC)

Doug Elniski, MLA
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Naresh Bhardwaj, MLA
Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)

1.0 Introduction

Bill 23, *Weed Control Act* was introduced, received first reading and was referred to the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment for review on June 2, 2008.

2.0 Order of Reference

Excerpt from the *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta*, Monday, June 2, 2008:

On motion by Hon. Mr. Renner, Deputy Government House Leader, the following Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment for the committee's review with the committee reporting to the Assembly in the fourth week of October 2008:

Bill 23 Weed Control Act — Mr. Mitzel

3.0 Recommendations

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.2(1),

When a Bill is referred to a Policy Field Committee after first reading, the committee may conduct public hearings on the subject matter of the Bill and report its observations, opinions and recommendations with respect to the Bill to the Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Resources and Environment recommends to the Assembly that the Bill proceed and further makes the following recommendations:

1. That section 21 be amended to permit a person to appeal a debt recovery notice. If a person does not appeal the debt recovery notice and fails to pay or loses an appeal of the notice and thereafter fails to pay, the local authority can recover the debt by having the amount owing added to the tax roll or by filing a certificate with the clerk of the Court of Queen's Bench certifying the amount owing.
2. That section 19 be amended to provide that the appeal panel can hear an appeal from a debt recovery notice under section 21.
3. That the provision in subsection 25(3) be amended to ensure that this subsection refers to current or active notices.
4. That the appropriate Ministry consider, possibly under other legislation, the concern of whether an occupant of public land should be held responsible for exercising weed control if the land is maintained for public use.
5. That in subsection 13(2) the words "growing and spreading" be removed because they are unnecessary and by deleting them the intent of the subsection would be strengthened and clarified.
6. That section 18 be amended by adding the words "or any person directed by the inspector" after "An inspector" so that the section reads, "An inspector or any person directed by the inspector may take any action that the inspector determines is necessary to fulfill a requirement of a notice given under this Part that has not been complied with when ..."

Appendix A: List of Presenters

The Standing Committee on Resources and Environment invited written submissions on Bill 23, *Weed Control Act*. The Committee received 29 submissions. At the invitation of the Committee, four of the submitters made oral presentations and answered questions at the Committee's September 26, 2008, meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

Written Submissions

Name	Organization
1. June Young	Private Citizen
2. Tony Kulbisky	Town of Hardisty
3. Pat	Private Citizen
4. Laurence Kobeluck	Private Citizen
5. Lorna Karch	Private Citizen
6. T. Brian Brewin	Municipal District of Taber
7. Normand Boulet	Municipal District of Smoky River
8. Bill Fisher	Parks Canada
9. Richard Van Ee	County of Vermillion River
10. Mike McRann	Saddle Hills County
11. Terry Engen	Lacombe County
12. Pat Jacobs	County of Grande Prairie
13. David Churchill	Strathcona County
14. Rod Phillips	Leduc County
15. Bruce Beattie	Mountain View County
16. Albert H. Bizio	City of Medicine Hat
17. Richard Keillor	Municipal District of Peace
18. Dr. Sheri Strydhorst	Alberta Pulse Growers
19. Mike Leslie	Alberta Barley Commission
20. Kelly Cooley	Municipal District of Pincher Creek
21. Sean Sheedy	Flagstaff County
22. Geoff Thompson	Lac Ste Anne County
23. Jay Byer	Municipal District of Greenview
24. Marvin Brade	County of Barrhead
25. Alvin Billings and Gary Braithwaite	Municipal District of Big Lakes
26. Dan Warawa	Lamont County
27. Owen Tobert	City of Calgary
28. Dave Kmet	Alberta Forest Products Association
29. Gerald Cunningham	Métis Settlements General Council

Oral Presentations

Name	Organization
Kelly Cooley, Agricultural Fieldman	Municipal District of Pincher Creek
Gary Braithwaite, Agricultural Fieldman	Municipal District of Big Lakes
T. Brian Brewin, Chairman, Agricultural Service Board	Municipal District of Taber
Jo-Ann Daniels, Executive Director Darlene Carifelle, Director, Land and Resources	Métis Settlements General Council