

Select Special

Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee

Report of the Committee

29th Legislature
Third Session
May 2017



COMMITTEES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of ALBERTA

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

CHAIR:

DAVID SHEPHERD, MLA
Edmonton-Centre

DEPUTY CHAIR:

BRIAN MALKINSON, MLA
Calgary-Currie

MEMBERS:

MIKE ELLIS, MLA
Calgary-West

TREVOR HORNE, MLA
Spruce Grove-St. Albert

JAMIE KLEINSTEUBER, MLA
Calgary-Northern Hills

JESSICA LITTLEWOOD, MLA
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

ANGELA PITT, MLA
Airdrie

GLENN van DIJKEN, MLA
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock

DENISE WOOLLARD, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Creek

May 2017

**To the Honourable Robert Wanner
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 position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by Chair]

David Shepherd, MLA
Chair, Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner
Search Committee

c. Robert H. Reynolds, QC
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chair:

Mr. David Shepherd, MLA
Edmonton-Centre (ND)

Deputy Chair:

Mr. Brian Malkinson, MLA
Calgary-Currie (ND)

Members:

Mr. Mike Ellis, MLA
Calgary-West (PC)

Mr. Trevor Horne, MLA
Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)

Mr. Jamie Kleinsteuber, MLA
Calgary-Northern Hills (ND)

Mrs. Jessica Littlewood, MLA
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (ND)

Mrs. Angela Pitt, MLA
Airdrie (W)

Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W)

Ms Denise Woollard, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Creek (ND)

Substitution Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):

Mr. Prab Gill, MLA¹
Calgary-Greenway (PC)

¹ Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4) Mr. Gill, MLA, was a substitute for Mr. Ellis at the March 24, 2017, meeting and for the remaining duration of the Committee's mandate.

May 2017

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Government Motion 34 [December 13, 2016]

Be it resolved that:

1. A Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed, consisting of the following Members, namely: Shepherd (Chair), Malkinson (Deputy Chair), Ellis, Horne, Kleinsteuber, Littlewood, Pitt, Woollard, van Dijken, for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner, and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.
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 or prorogued.
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 or prorogued, 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 May 24, 2017, meeting of the Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee the following motion was passed by the Committee:

MOVED by Mrs. Littlewood that the Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee approve the draft report dated May 2017, and recommend to the Legislative Assembly the appointment of Marianne Ryan as Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner, for a term of five years effective July 1, 2017, and authorize the Speaker to enter into a contract with Ms Ryan effective at the time of the appointment.

May 2017

SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee held a total of seven meetings, starting with an organizational meeting on February 7, 2017, and completed its mandate at the May 24, 2017, meeting. The Committee, with the assistance of Legal Services, Communications, Human Resource Services and Committee Services support staff 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.

An advertisement for the position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner was placed nationally in the *Globe and Mail* as well as the *National Post*. The advertisement also ran in Alberta's daily newspapers: the *Edmonton Journal*, *Edmonton Sun*, *Calgary Herald*, *Calgary Sun*, *Fort McMurray Today*, *Grande Prairie's Daily-Herald Tribune*, the *Red Deer Advocate*, *Lethbridge Herald* and *Medicine Hat News*. The advertisement and position profile were posted on the external committee website, and online advertisements appeared on eluta.ca, LinkedIn, and Indeed. The competition was also advertised through the Canadian Bar Association, the Institute of Public Administration of Canada, and other professional associations. A news release and social media were also used to increase awareness of the search process.

The Committee received a total of 149 applications for the position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner; 124 of these were from Alberta, 19 were received from candidates in other provinces or territories, and six applications were received from outside of Canada or from an unidentified location. At the request of the Committee Executive Search completed a screening report on applicants, and the Committee reviewed the resumés along with the screening report to determine a candidate short list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with 14 candidates and reported back to the Committee. One candidate withdrew from the competition prior to the final interviews, and the Committee chose to interview six candidates on April 24 and 25, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

May 2017

BIOGRAPHY

Biography of Marianne Ryan

Marianne Ryan is a 35-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, having served most recently as the Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP. Ms Ryan is originally from a farming community in southwestern Ontario and began her career in law enforcement after graduating from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She has extensive policing experience at local, national, and international levels and has served in several leadership roles in the RCMP.

Ms Ryan has been the recipient of numerous awards for her leadership and commitment to public safety. In 2013 she was appointed to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces by Governor General David Johnston.

Ms Ryan resides with her partner and their family in Edmonton.

May 2017

May 2017

Report of the Select Special Ombudsman and
Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee