

# Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

## Final Report - Review of Standing Order 29.1 (Interventions Rule)

Thirtieth Legislature  
Third Session  
October 2022



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Standing Orders and Printing  
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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND PRINTING**

October 2022

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

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing, its final report in respect of its review of Standing Order 29.1, the interventions rule, pursuant to Motion Other Than a Government Motion 518, as amended (agreed to by the Assembly on June 7, 2021).

Sincerely,

*[original signed]*

Mark Smith, MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee  
on Privileges and Elections,  
Standing Orders and Printing

**Table of Contents**

<b>MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND PRINTING .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.0 COMMITTEE MANDATE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5.0 CONSULTATION AND REVIEW PROCESS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.....</b>	<b>7</b>

**MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING  
ORDERS AND PRINTING**

**30th Legislature**

Mark W. Smith, MLA  
Chair  
Drayton Valley - Devon (UC)

Roger W. Reid, MLA  
Deputy Chair  
Livingstone - Macleod (UC)

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Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)

Rod Loyola, MLA  
Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)

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

Nathan T. Neudorf, MLA  
Lethbridge-East (UC)

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St. Albert (NDP)

Hon. Kathleen T. Ganley, MLA  
Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)

Jason Stephan, MLA  
Red Deer-South (UC)

Richard Gotfried, MLA  
Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)

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

**Substitutions Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):**

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

Tany Yao, MLA†  
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC)

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\* Substitution as Deputy Chair for Roger Reid, MLA on September 13, 2022

† Substitution for Hon. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk on September 13, 2022

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing deliberated on September 13, 2022, and made the following recommendation pertaining to its review of Standing Order 29.1, the interventions rule.

That Standing Order 29.1 continue in its current form.

## 2.0 COMMITTEE MANDATE

On June 7, 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed Motion Other Than a Government Motion 518 (“Motion 518”), as amended. Part A of Motion 518 amended the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and replaced the former Standing Order 29(2), questions and comments, with Standing Order 29.1, interventions. Part B of Motion 518 directed the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing to

- (a) conduct a review of the amendments set out in Part A within one year of the day on which these amendments come into force, and
- (b) table a report in the Assembly on that review, which may include any amendments recommended by the Committee, within 365 days of the day on which the Standing Committee commences its review.

The Committee began its review on May 31, 2022.

### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

Motion Other Than a Government Motion 518, as amended, struck out Standing Order 29(2), which had provided for a question and comment period and replaced it with Standing Order 29.1, interventions.

Standing Order 29.1 permits Members to intervene during another Member's speech on Government Bills, Private Bills, and Government Motions as set out in Standing Order 29(1), for the purpose of asking questions or making comments on matters relevant to the speech on which they have intervened. Interventions are not permitted on a Member's opening or closing speech, on a Member's speech following an opening speech, or on a Member's speech on a motion for an address in reply to the Lieutenant Governor's speech.

Standing Order 29.1 permits the Member making a speech to either accept or refuse an intervention. Further, the Standing Order provides that a Member making a speech may accept no more than three interventions on that speech. Interventions may be no longer than one minute in length. When a Member accepts an intervention their speaking time is paused. Where a Member accepts more than one intervention, that Member's speaking time is extended by two minutes.

This report is the result of the review of Standing Order 29.1 by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing. It contains the recommendation that was agreed to during the Committee's deliberations. For a complete record of the Committee's deliberations please consult the transcripts of the Committee's meetings, which are posted online at [assembly.ab.ca](http://assembly.ab.ca).



## 4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Members who responded to a survey of all Members of the Legislative Assembly on the operation of the intervention rule.

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Legislative Assembly Office support staff.

### **Legislative Assembly Office Support Staff**

Ms Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk

Ms Teri Cherkewich, Law Clerk

Mr. Trafton Koenig, Senior Parliamentary Counsel

Dr. Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services

Ms Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and Committees

Dr. Sarah Amato, Research Officer

Dr. Christina Williamson, Research Officer

Mr. Warren Huffman, Committee Clerk

Ms Jody Rempel, Committee Clerk

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Ms Rhonda Sorensen, Manager of Corporate Communications

Ms Tracey Sales, Communications Consultant

Ms Janet Schwegel, Director of Parliamentary Programs

Ms Amanda LeBlanc, Deputy Editor of *Alberta Hansard*

*Hansard* staff

Security staff

## 5.0 CONSULTATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Committee's review of Standing Order 29.1 involved two meetings that were streamed live on the Legislative Assembly website and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. These meetings took place on May 31 and September 13, 2022.

As part of the review process, the Committee commissioned a survey of all Members of the Legislative Assembly inquiring as to their perspectives on Standing Order 29.1, the interventions rule. The Committee received 38 responses from Members (18 from the Government Caucus, 19 from the Official Opposition, and one from an independent Member).

The Committee met on September 13, 2022, to deliberate on matters raised in the research documents it had received as part of the review as well as the results of the Member survey.

This report is the result of the Committee's deliberations and contains its recommendation in relation to Standing Order 29.1.

## 6.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In their deliberations, committee members expressed that the feedback received during the course of their review was mixed. Some Members indicated that there may be some elements of the interventions rule that could run more smoothly. However, committee members felt there was a generally supportive tone in the survey feedback with respect to the interventions rule.

The Committee therefore recommends:

- 1. That Standing Order 29.1 continue in its current form.**