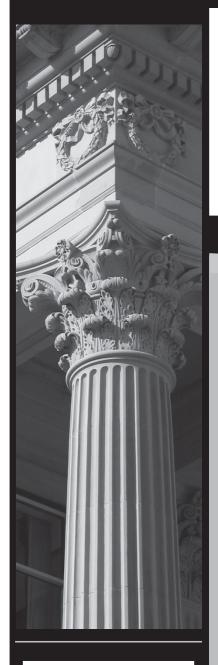
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA





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

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing 3rd Floor 9820 – 107 Street Edmonton AB T5K 1E7 780.415.2878 committee.admin@assembly.ab.ca



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**

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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)

Hon. Leela Sharon Aheer, MLA Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)

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

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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)

^{*} 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.

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 Mr. Aaron Roth, Committee Clerk 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.