

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

**Standing Order Review  
Final Report**

November 2008



**COMMITTEES**  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections,  
Standing Orders and Printing**  
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November, 2008

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

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing has the honour to submit its final report on its review of the Standing Orders, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Ray Prins, MLA  
Lacombe-Ponoka  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections,  
Standing Orders and Printing

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

**27<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Session**

**Committee Members, April 15-May 29, 2008**

Raymond Prins, MLA Chair Lacombe-Ponoka (PC)	Hon. Dave Hancock, MLA Deputy Chair Edmonton-Whitemud (PC)	
Naresh Bhardwaj, MLA Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)	Hon. Ronald Liepert, MLA Calgary-West (PC)	George Rogers, MLA Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)
Guy Boutilier, MLA Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (PC)	Richard Marz, MLA Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)	Hon. Ron Stevens, MLA Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Pearl Calahasen, MLA Lesser Slave Lake (PC)	Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)	Dave Taylor, MLA Calgary-Currie (L)
Arno Doerksen, MLA Strathmore-Brooks (PC)	Rachel Notley, MLA Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)	Tony Vandermeer, MLA Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (PC)
Doug Griffiths, MLA Battle River-Wainwright (PC)	Frank Oberle, MLA Peace River (PC)	Greg Weadick, MLA Lethbridge-West (PC)
Jeff Johnson, MLA Athabasca-Redwater (PC)	Bridget A. Brennan Pastoor, MLA Lethbridge-East (L)	Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, MLA Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC)
Genia Leskiw, MLA Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)		

**Committee Members after May 29, 2008**

Raymond Prins, MLA Chair Lacombe-Ponoka (PC)	Hon. Dave Hancock, MLA Deputy Chair Edmonton-Whitemud (PC)	
Moe Amery, MLA Calgary-East (PC)	Jeff Johnson, MLA Athabasca-Redwater (PC)	Bridget A. Brennan Pastoor, MLA Lethbridge-East (L)
Evan Berger, MLA Livingstone-Macleod (PC)	Genia Leskiw, MLA Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)	George Rogers, MLA Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)
Naresh Bhardwaj, MLA Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)	Hon. Ronald Liepert, MLA Calgary-West (PC)	Dr. Raj Sherman, MLA Edmonton-Meadowlark (PC)
Pearl Calahasen, MLA Lesser Slave Lake (PC)	Barry McFarland, MLA Little Bow (PC)	Hon. Ron Stevens, MLA Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Alana DeLong, MLA Calgary-Bow (PC)	Rachel Notley, MLA Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)	Dave Taylor, MLA Calgary-Currie (L)
Arno Doerksen, MLA Strathmore-Brooks (PC)	Frank Oberle, MLA Peace River (PC)	Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, MLA Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC)
Heather Forsyth, MLA Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)		

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

Laurie Blakeman, MLA Edmonton-Centre (L)	Jonathan Denis, MLA Calgary-Egmont (PC)	Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)
Cal Dallas, MLA Red Deer-South (PC)	Broyce Jacobs, MLA Cardston-Taber-Warner (PC)	George VanderBurg, MLA Whitcourt-Ste. Anne (PC)
	Richard Marz, MLA Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)	

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing meets when the Legislative Assembly refers a matter to the Committee for consideration.

On April 17, 2008 and May 21, 2008, the Assembly approved Temporary Amendments to the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders. These amendments have effect until the conclusion of the 2008 Fall Sitting. As part of a motion passed on April 17, 2008, the Assembly directed the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing to review the Temporary Standing Orders and to consider the need for additional amendments to the Assembly's rules and practices. The Committee was asked to report to the Legislative Assembly no later than October 30, 2008. The Committee met on May 14, 2008, September 3, 2008, October 8, 2008 and October 28, 2008. On October 30, 2008, the Committee tabled an interim report in the Assembly recommending that administrative changes be adopted and that the Standing Orders effective May 21, 2008 be made permanent subject to the amendments recommended in the Interim Report and the Final Report. The Committee met again on November 17, 2008 to consider further amendments to the Standing Orders, which are included in this report.

## **2.0 Order of Reference**

Excerpt from Government Motion 8, *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta*, Thursday, April 17, 2008:

B. Be it further resolved that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing shall, without further motion, review and consider

(a) the amendments to Standing Orders in this motion by comparing the reforms to the practices in other Assemblies, examining whether the reforms afford open discussion of public policy where Albertans can participate and whether the reforms maximize oversight and accountability;

(b) the need for additional amendments or reforms to the Assembly's rules and practices to further objectives of open, public discussion of public policy, the role of the Assembly in overall government accountability and the work/life balance of Members; and

(c) the process used for Committee of Supply consideration of main estimates in 2008, and shall report to the Assembly with its recommendations no later than October 30, 2008.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing recommends that the amendments to the Standing Orders proposed in the Interim Report presented in the Assembly on October 30, 2008 be amended as follows:

**Part A be amended as follows:**

- 1 In section 1 in the proposed Standing Order 3(4)(a) by striking out “the first Monday in February” and substituting “the second Tuesday in February”.**
- 2 By adding the following after section 7:**
  - 7.1 Standing Order 52(1) is amended by striking out “At the commencement of each session” and substituting “At the commencement of the first session of each Legislature”.**
- 3 In section 12 in the proposed Standing Order 59.01 by striking out suborder (6).**

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