



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Alberta's Economic Future

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
8:30 a.m.

Transcript No. 31-1-1

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First Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC), Chair
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP), Deputy Chair

Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)
Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC)

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Wednesday, February 28, 2024

[Member Loyola in the chair]

The Deputy Chair: I'd like to welcome members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future. My name is Rod Loyola, MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie, and I'm chairing the meeting for now until our wonderful MLA from Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland gets here.

I'd like to ask the members and those joining the committee at the table to introduce themselves for the record. We'll start here to my right.

Mr. Wright: Justin Wright, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Ms de Jonge: MLA Chantelle de Jonge, Chestermere-Strathmore.

Mr. Yao: Tany Yao, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Cyr: Scott Cyr, Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, Red Deer-South.

Dr. Elmeligi: Sarah Elmeligi, Banff-Kananaskis.

Member Boparai: Parmet Singh Boparai, Calgary-Falconridge

Member Hoyle: Rhiannon Hoyle, Edmonton-South.

Mr. Koenig: Hi. Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel office.

Mr. Roth: Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

The Deputy Chair: A few housekeeping items before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so members do not need to turn them on and off. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Before proceeding further, as this is the first meeting of this committee for the 31st Legislature, I would like to discuss remote participation in committee meetings. As many of you know, section 6 of the Legislative Assembly Act permits participation in a committee by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all members participating in the meeting to hear each other if all members of the committee consent. Our committee meeting rooms are equipped to facilitate meeting participation by telephone and videoconference. If this is something we want to permit, then this committee may wish to pass a motion, which needs to be passed unanimously, to approve remote participation by members for the duration of the Legislature.

I would note that such a motion would not preclude the committee from determining that in-person attendance at specific meetings is required. In those cases a motion would be considered at the end of a particular meeting requesting the attendance in person of members at a subsequent meeting.

So would a member like to move the following motion?

Ms de Jonge: I'll move.

The Deputy Chair: I'll read it out first, that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future consent for the purpose of section 6 of the Legislative Assembly Act to remote participation by any member in the committee's meeting held at the designated committee meeting rooms in the Queen Elizabeth II Building during the 31st Legislature unless the

committee carries a motion in advance of a meeting that remote participation of members is not permitted at that motion.

All in favour? Oh, pardon me. We have to have discussion although this is pretty – no comments? Everyone good? Okay.

All in favour? Any opposed? I'll just double check with our – oh, right. Technically he can't vote yet. Okay.

Carried unanimously.

Perfect. Thank you, everyone. Great work. We're getting off to a great start here. Awesome.

He's here. Okay. I'll let him take the seat now.

[Mr. Getson in the chair]

The Chair: With that settled, I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the draft meeting agenda. Would anyone like to propose any amendments? To approve the agenda? Anyone?

Ms de Jonge: With that, I'll move to approve the agenda.

The Chair: Perfect. Any discussion? Perfect. All in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

Firstly, thank you very much, everybody. I apologize; I'm late. It took a normal commute of an hour to about an hour and a half due to inclement weather conditions, so I appreciate Member Loyola for standing in here quickly. Really appreciate that.

Like other committees of the Assembly, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future operates based on instructions from the Assembly contained in specific resolutions, by rules provided by the standing orders, or by the established practice.

Under the standing orders the committee has a mandate to consider subjects related to Advanced Education; Agriculture and Irrigation; Arts, Culture and Status of Women; Immigration and Multiculturalism; Infrastructure; Jobs, Economy and Trade; Technology and Innovation; Tourism and Sport.

The committee is supported in its work by the nonpartisan staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. Trafton Koenig, senior Parliamentary Counsel, and Aaron Roth, committee clerk, have both been assigned to support the committee and, of course, any other staff that may be required. Legislative Assembly Office branches who support our meetings include research and committee services, communications, Legislative Assembly security services, venue services, *Alberta Hansard*, and ITS and broadcasting.

Temporary substitutions. Standing Order 56(2.1) to (2.4) outlines the process for the substitution of chairs, deputy chairs, and committee members. For convenience substitution notice templates are available on OurHouse for members to use, or you may draft your own notice. Please note that it's the responsibility of the original committee member to ensure that the substitution member is prepared for the meeting and has the appropriate materials. We just saw that in a motion here a little bit earlier. Should the original committee member participate in the meeting, then the substitution is no longer in effect. Members who are not committee members or official substitutes may attend and participate in the committee meetings. However, they may not vote on any of the motions. Should the proceedings move to in camera, these members would be required to have specific consent of the committee to remain in attendance. If you or your staff have any questions about the substitution process, I would encourage you to follow up with the committee clerks. Any questions, discussion? I'm still out of breath from running up the stairs.

Recorded votes. After a vote on the motion has been completed, a committee member may request a recorded vote. The process for the recorded vote in a committee is similar to the process of the division in the House except we're not going to stand up. I'll first ask those in the room who are in favour of the motion to raise their

hands, and then the committee clerk will call the names of those who have raised their hands to record the votes. We will then follow with the same process with those that are against those motions. If we have remote participants, they'll be asked to turn on their cameras if they wish to vote. The committee clerk will call their names, and the member should indicate how they would like to vote. I will then ask one final time that all committee members who wish to vote have done so, and the committee clerk will record any of the votes finally cast. After this, the committee clerk will tally the votes and advise the chair of the number of votes that have been cast for or against the motion. I'll then indicate whether the motion has been carried or defeated. Any of the details of the vote will be recorded in the minutes. Straightforward? All right. We're going to ramble through this really quickly.

Subcommittee on committee business. Hon. members, Standing Order 52.011(3) requires that all legislative policy committees appoint a subcommittee on committee business at their first meeting. The subcommittee on committee business is meant to meet from time to time at the call of the chair to report to the committee on the business of the committee. The committee is able to task the subcommittee on committee business to work on matters that will assist the committee to organize and complete its work. Are there any questions or comments in relation to the establishment of a subcommittee on committee business? Swimmily. Questions, comments? Well, I have a draft motion if we're so inclined. Does anyone want to be bold enough? All right. Perfect. Would you read it into the record, MLA Yao?

Mr. Yao: I move that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future establish a subcommittee on committee business to which the following applies: (a) the subcommittee will meet at the call of the chair to consider the business of the committee and report to the committee; (b) the subcommittee be composed of the following members: the chair for the committee as the chair, one committee member who is a member of the Official Opposition, and one committee member who is a member of the government caucus; (c) the presence of all members of the subcommittee is necessary to constitute a meeting; and (d) substitutions for the membership of the committee may be permitted on the subcommittee.

The Chair: I appreciate that, Member Yao.

Any discussion? Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.

Dr. Elmeligi: Can the subcommittee also meet virtually, like, online?

The Chair: Yeah, we can, but it depends on the order of business that's taking place. But, you know, there's potential for doing that for sure. Just depends on the nature of the business.

Dr. Elmeligi: Just wanted to make sure.

The Chair: Yep. For sure.

Any other questions?

All right. Well, hearing the motion, all in favour? Opposed? Okay.

Motion carried.

Are there any other business items that anyone would like to bring forward? Okay. Perfect.

I guess, just to set the tone in here, typically with the committees I've been chairing now – I'm a little bit new at it, but I've got my feet underneath me – what I like to do is to kind of drop some of the stuff that takes place in the House. Like, honestly, when we've got all-member committees here, I think there's a real golden opportunity for us to work together. There are going to be points where we're obviously going to disagree, but I'll want to keep everyone so that we keep the sticks on the ice. There are lots of really good things that we can do here. This is one of the biggest things that we can do as private members to be involved with and to make some really decent impacts out there, so it's with that spirit and intent. If we have some meetings and I pull you back a little bit, that's the reason why. I've been very encouraged how all the other meetings have gone of the other committees, and if we keep that on, it'll be good. We'll save the big fighting matches for inside the House and get our work together as much as we can here and enjoy our time for it.

With that, I would like to – the next meeting date will likely be for the main estimates, once that's in consideration, that we'll be meeting again. For those of you that haven't been through that process, it's lengthy. We're going to get to know each other here quite a bit over that time, so it'll be pretty good.

Any other business? Okay.

With that, would anyone like to adjourn the meeting?

Mr. Yao: Hear, hear.

The Chair: MLA Yao is moving that the meeting is adjourned?

Mr. Yao: Yes, sir.

The Chair: Awesome. All in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

Thank you very much, and again thanks for the substitution, Rod.

Member Loyola: No worries.

[The committee adjourned at 8:41 a.m.]

