



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Legislative Offices

Monday, November 18, 2024
9:30 a.m.

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Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC), Chair
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair

Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP)
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)
Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (UC)

Legislative Officers

Kevin Brezinski	Ombudsman, Public Interest Commissioner
Diane McLeod	Information and Privacy Commissioner
Shawn McLeod	Ethics Commissioner
Terri Pelton	Child and Youth Advocate
Gordon McClure	Chief Electoral Officer
W. Doug Wylie	Auditor General

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Trafton Koenig	Law Clerk
Philip Massolin	Clerk Assistant and Executive Director of Parliamentary Services
Nancy Robert	Clerk of <i>Journals</i> and Committees
Abdul Bhurgri	Research Officer
Rachel McGraw	Research Officer
Warren Huffman	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications
Christina Steenbergen	Supervisor of Communications Services
Lyndsay Tischer	Director of Human Resources
Amanda LeBlanc	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

9:30 a.m.**Monday, November 18, 2024**

[Mr. Getson in the chair]

The Chair: All right, folks. I'd like to call the meeting to order and welcome all members and staff and guests joining the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices.

I'm Shane Getson, the MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland. I'd like to ask the members that are in the room, starting to my right, to introduce themselves.

Mr. van Dijken: Glenn van Dijken, the MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mr. Sinclair: Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake.

Ms Lovely: Good morning, everyone. Jackie Lovely, MLA for the Camrose constituency.

Ms Chapman: I touched my mic and I shouldn't have. I'm sorry. Amanda Chapman, MLA, Calgary-Beddington.

Ms Renaud: Marie Renaud, St. Albert.

Mr. Koenig: Good morning. I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Dr. Massolin: Good morning. Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and executive director of parliamentary services.

Ms Tischer: Good morning. Lyndsay Tischer, director of human resource services for the LAO.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: And for those members joining us online, ladies first, as always.

Member Eremenko: Good morning. Janet Eremenko, Member for Calgary-Currie.

The Chair: And I'll let the two other gentlemen arm-wrestle for who goes next.

Mr. Shepherd: Good morning. David Shepherd, MLA for Edmonton-City Centre.

Mr. Lundy: Good morning, everyone. Brandon Lundy, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont.

The Chair: Excellent. Good morning, members. Thank you, everyone, for the introductions.

A few housekeeping items. *Hansard* is going to run our mics for this part of the meeting. I should have actually said that at the start of the meeting, so I apologize for that. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Members participating remotely should ensure that you're prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconferencing participants are encouraged to have their cameras on, if possible, when speaking. Please set your cellphones to the least disturbing setting that you have.

With that, we'll just jump into the agenda. I'd like to now drive everyone's attention to the meeting agenda. Would a member like to move or make a motion to approve the agenda as distributed?

Mr. van Dijken: So moved.

The Chair: MLA van Dijken. All in favour? Any opposed? Online, all in favour? Any opposed? We'll say motion carried.

Approval of minutes from the last set of meetings. We have a set of minutes from the last set of meetings. Would a member like to move a motion to approve those meetings? I'll try to get my tongue working here.

Mr. van Dijken: I'll make the motion to approve.

The Chair: MLA van Dijken has moved a motion for the approval of the last meeting minutes. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Online, all those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Motion carried.

The next we have is officers of the Legislature. We have the annual compensation review and the budget review process. Moving our discussion to the compensation of the officers of the Legislature, I recommend that the committee along with the appropriate legislative staff consider moving in camera to respect the privacy of the officers of the Legislature. Now, there is a possible motion to put up there to move us in camera. Anyone who would like to make that motion?

Mr. van Dijken: I'll make that motion.

The Chair: MLA van Dijken. All those in favour? Opposed? Online, all those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Perfect. Motion carried.

Now we'll just give staff a chance to leave the room, and at this time we'll have to operate, once we're in camera, the microphones ourselves.

[The committee met in camera from 9:33 a.m. to 10:04 a.m.]

The Chair: With that, we're now back on the record. Just a quick reminder that *Hansard* is going to be driving the mics here for us. We can keep our hands off.

The next item up here is the annual compensation review, so I'll open the floor to proposals. Regarding agenda item 4(a), the annual compensation review for the officers of the Legislature, does anyone have a motion they would like to put forward? MLA Dyck.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Chair. I would love to move a motion here that

the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices approve a compensation adjustment for the officers of the Legislature that is equal to any general increase or other salary modifier provided to senior officials in the Alberta public service during the 12-month period commencing November 18, 2024.

The Chair: Perfect. We'll open that up.

All in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Online, all those in favour, please say aye. Perfect. None opposed.

Motion carried.

The next item is the budget review process. As committee members are aware, we'll be meeting soon to review the budget requests of the officers of the Legislature. As always, committee members are asked to ensure they are familiar with legislation that provides for the mandates of each office and have reviewed the briefing documents submitted by the officers.

Based on the input from the committee, I'll communicate to the officers that we'll require the documents relating to the budget requests, including the business plans and annual reports, two weeks in advance of the budget meeting. Other materials such as PowerPoint slides, et cetera, can be submitted at a later date. I'll

advise all the committee members if there are any issues or challenges from any of those offices with providing us that information two weeks in advance.

Does that meet the will of the committee? MLA van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. I guess that making this request of the officers is in light of our December 6 meeting, hoping that we can have at least budget financials in place two weeks in advance. I think the committee has seen that having it one week in advance causes short timelines within committee work to be able to actually do justice to it, so the request to go two weeks in advance of our December 6 meeting, I believe, is justified at this time.

The Chair: Perfect. Thank you, MLA van Dijken.

Any further discussion? MLA Shepherd, I see you online.

Mr. Shepherd: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. I would echo what Mr. van Dijken said. I certainly can see value in having an additional week. Of course, we know that last year government members did feel they did not have enough time to review some of the budget documents, which led to an extended delay for some of the officers, well into January. So I think it's prudent that we look as a committee, then, at how we can avoid that sort of thing in the future, and just want to recognize that the officers, of course, have the opportunity to contact you, Mr. Chair, if there are any concerns about being able to meet that request to have those budget documents to us by this Friday. I think I will speak for myself as a member of the committee that I am open and amenable to adjusting the date of our meeting, if necessary, if officers are not able to reasonably meet that timeline.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Perfect. Thank you.

Of course, this isn't a motion, so no votes. I just appreciate the will of the committee to carry forward in this manner and, of course,

get as much information as we can so we can review it in fulsome detail.

Other business items. We have the report on the audit results for the Auditor General. As committee members are aware, the Auditor General is responsible for conducting the audits of the officers of the Legislature. However, this committee is responsible for arranging the annual audit of the office of the Auditor General. We have an agreement in place with the firm of St. Arnaud Pinsent Steman to conduct the work for us through 2027. The principal auditor handling the files has changed this year. The practice promotes auditor independence, and it is consistent with best practices in the industry.

On July 3 the deputy chair and I met with the auditor team, the Auditor General, and senior staff in the office, and I'm pleased to confirm that the 2023-2024 audit was completed without any issues identified. The Auditor General includes a copy of the final audit documents to his office. That's the annual report. If committee members have any questions, they may raise them during the upcoming budget meeting.

Are there any other discussions for business? Seeing none.

Our next meeting date will be December 6 to meet with the officers regarding the budget submissions. Of course, we'll update committee members if there are any changes on that due to some feedback we may have.

With that, we're getting to the favourite part of the meeting for everyone. Is there anyone who would like to make a motion to adjourn?

Mr. van Dijken: Move to adjourn.

The Chair: MLA van Dijken, a motion to adjourn. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed? Online, those in favour? We're going to say motion carried, from what I saw.

Thanks, folks. We'll talk to you later.

[The committee adjourned at 10:09 a.m.]

