

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES**



**FIRST REPORT  
OF THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE**

June 14, 2016  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Legislative Assembly of  
Saskatchewan

Committees Branch



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June 14, 2016

To the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:

The Standing Committee on Privileges presents its first report, regarding the privilege motion raised in the Legislative Assembly on June 2, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller, more detailed signature.

Hon. Corey Tochor  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Privileges



## Order of Reference

The Government House Leader, Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff, raised a question of privilege on Wednesday June 1, 2016 concerning the premature release by the Member for Saskatoon Nutana, Ms. Sproule, of confidential, embargoed information about the provincial budget. The Government House Leader believed that the early release of budget information constituted a contempt of the Assembly.<sup>1</sup> On Thursday June 2, 2016, the Speaker, Hon. Mr. Tochor, determined that a prima facie case had been established and permitted the Government House Leader to proceed by moving a question of privilege.<sup>2</sup> The Government House Leader moved the question of privilege motion in accordance with rule 12(5) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. The motion read as follows:

“That the early release of embargoed budget information by the Member from Saskatoon Nutana and the opposition caucus clearly constitutes contempt of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan by preventing all members from exercising their duties and responsibilities as Members of the Legislative Assembly; and further

That this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges for a full investigation and a report with a remedy to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.”

The question was debated and adopted by the Assembly on recorded division. Effectively the motion became the committee’s present order of reference and is the subject of this report.

## Organization

On Tuesday, June 7, 2016, the committee appointed a steering committee to establish an agenda and priority of business. The steering committee consists of the Speaker as Chair along with the Government House Leader and the Member for Saskatoon Centre, Mr. Forbes.

## Committee Investigation

The committee conducted its investigation on Wednesday June 8, 2016. The Member for Saskatoon Nutana and Mr. George Soule, Chief of Staff, Opposition Caucus, appeared before the committee and answered questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Attached as Appendix 1 — The Government House Leader’s case and question of privilege provided to the Speaker and distributed to members in accordance with rule 12(1) of *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

<sup>2</sup> Attached as Appendix 2 — Statement of the Speaker published in the *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, dated June 2, 2016, “Statement by the Speaker: Ruling – Budget Leak – Prima Facie case established.”

## **Remedy**

The government members of the committee proposed a course of action as follows:

That no sanctions shall apply with respect to the 2017-18 budget document and technical briefings except that the budget document will be provided to a single opposition MLA who will be personally responsible for ensuring that the embargo agreement is honoured; and

That if any further embargoed materials related to the budget or any other embargoed matter are released prematurely by the official opposition, they will be prohibited from receiving embargoed materials and attending embargoed events for the remainder of the term of the current Legislative Assembly.

## **Recommendation**

Your committee recommends the following:

1. That upon concurrence by the Legislative Assembly, the remedy presented by this report be accepted by the Government of Saskatchewan; and
2. That in consequence to the concurrence of this report by the Legislative Assembly, the imposition of the terms and conditions of the remedy proposed by this report, if applied by the Government of Saskatchewan, shall not be the subject of any question of privilege.