STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-Ninth Legislature

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

Hon. Randy Weekes, Chair
Biggar-Sask Valley

Ms. Vicki Mowat, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Fairview

Ms. Carla Beck
Regina Lakeview

Mr. Fred Bradshaw
Carrot River Valley

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Greg Ottenbreit
Yorkton

Ms. Nicole Sarauer
Regina Douglas Park

Mr. Doug Steele
Cypress Hills

[The committee met at 11:17.]

The Chair: — Okay, let's get started. Welcome everyone to the first meeting of the Standing Committee on House Services for the twenty-ninth legislature. My name is Randy Weekes. I'm the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chair of this committee. As you can see from the agenda, we have several items of business to attend to today.

First, I would like to introduce the members of the Standing Committee on House Services, pursuant to rule 139(1). The government caucus has designated Fred Bradshaw, Hon. Jeremy Harrison, and Greg Ottenbreit as members of the Standing Committee on House Services, and the opposition caucus has designated Carla Beck, Vicki Mowat, and Nicole Sarauer as members to the Standing Committee on House Services.

Our first item of business will be the election of a Deputy Chair. I just want to remind members of the process. I will first ask for the nominations. Once there are no further nominations, I will then ask a member to move a motion to have a committee member preside as Deputy Chair. I will now call for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair. I recognize Carla Beck.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you. I nominate Vicki Mowat.

The Chair: — Any other nominations? Seeing none . . .

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I'll move the motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair: — Okay.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I would move:

That Vicki Mowat be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

The Chair: — Okay. Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Okay. No opposed? I declare the motion carried.

Members, we will consider the committee's first report. This report reflects the work of the committee in consultation with the House leaders and the Clerks-at-the-Table to identify and develop temporary modifications to the processes, practices, and *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* in order to facilitate the sittings of the Legislative Assembly during the period December 1st, 2020 until March 1st, 2021 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A draft of the report was sent to the members. Do members want to discuss this report? We would go in camera if you would like to discuss it. It's your option. Yes, Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to speak to any of the details or substance, but I would just like to say thank you to the Opposition House Leader for the work that she put in along with myself on the government side, and sincere thanks to the Legislative Assembly staff who did a great job in making recommendations and in implementing those in the form of the House Services Committee report we have in front of us. So I just want to say thank you in that regard.

The Chair: — Ms. Mowat.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would also like to extend my thanks, both to the Government House Leader and also all of the staff who were involved in working on the report. For anyone who has taken a look at it, it is quite extensive to figure out how to manage in the times of COVID. So thanks to all for their co-operation and for all the hard work that went into this.

The Chair: — I'd just like to introduce Mr. Doug Steele who is attending the meeting.

Okay. Seeing no further questions, I would ask a member to move the following motion:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — So moved.

The Chair: — Mr. Harrison has moved. All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. I declare the motion carried.

Okay, committee members, we will now consider our organizational motions. At the beginning of each legislature, a steering committee is appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings. I will now ask for a motion for the establishment of a steering committee. Who would like to make that motion?

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I'll make that motion.

The Chair: — Mr. Ottenbreit makes the motion.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I'll make the motion:

That the steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings, and that the membership be comprised of Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, and Ms. Vicki Mowat; and further,

That the steering committee shall meet from time to time as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair, that the presence of a majority of the members of the steering committee is necessary to constitute a meeting, and that substitutions from the membership of the Standing Committee on House Services be permitted on the steering committee.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Ottenbreit. Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried.

Next item of business, the committee will consider the composition of the standing committee pursuant to rule 122(1). Mr. Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw: — I move:

That the standing committees' member ratio shall be six government members and one opposition member, except for the Standing Committee on Privileges which shall be five government members and one opposition member.

I so move.

The Chair: — Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried.

Next on the agenda is consideration of the memberships of the standing committees. I would like to table two documents: HOS 1-29, Government caucus standing committee membership; and HOS 2-29, Opposition caucus standing committee membership. I would ask a member to move the following motion:

That the lists of members to serve on standing committees, as tabled by the government and the opposition caucuses, be adopted and reported to the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I guess I have the motion right here. It's been signed already. I would move:

That the lists of members to serve on standing committees, as tabled by the government and opposition caucuses, be adopted and reported to the Assembly.

The Chair: — Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried. We will now consider the allocation schedule. Pursuant to rule 139(3), our committee determines the allocation of government ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations to the various committees. Members, a draft of the allocation schedule has been distributed to you. I would ask a member to move the following motion:

That the allocation schedule be adopted as per rule 139(3) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

Who would like . . . Mr. Ottenbreit.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I make the motion:

That the allocation schedule be adopted as per rule 139(3) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

The Chair: — Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried. Next on the agenda is consideration of the appointment of a subcommittee to make recommendations for the revision of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. Would a member like to move a motion? Mr. Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw: — I move:

That a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on House Services consisting of the Speaker, Hon. Jeremy Harrison, and Ms. Vicki Mowat be appointed to study and make recommendations on revisions to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

I so move.

The Chair: — Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried. Members, we will now consider the committee's second report. This report outlines the committee membership and decisions of this committee. A draft of the report is before members. Are there any questions in relation to this report? Any questions? Seeing none, I would ask a member to move the following motion:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Ms. Sarauer.

Ms. Sarauer: — I'll move that motion.

The Chair: — You shall make the motion. Are the members ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I declare the motion carried. Okay, members, that concludes our business for today. Thank you, committee members. I shall now ask for a member to move a motion of adjournment. Mr. Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw: — I will so move.

The Chair: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — This meeting is adjourned to the call of the Chair. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 11:27.]