



Special Committee To Prevent The Abuse And Exploitation Of Children Through the Sex Trade

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PREVENT THE ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN THROUGH THE SEX TRADE
1999**

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Humboldt

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Saskatoon Greystone

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Ms. Woods: — The first item of business will be the election of the Co-Chair.

Ms. Draude: — I move:

That pursuant to an order of the Assembly agreed to on December 15, 1999, Ms. Arlene Julé and Mr. Peter Prebble will be elected to preside as Co-Chairs of this special committee.

Ms. Woods: — The question therefore is for Mr. Peter Prebble and Ms. Arlene Julé to be appointed as Co-Chairs of the committee. Does anyone wish to speak to the motion?

Are you ready for the question . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No there's no seconders required in committees. All right I'll put the question then. All those in favour? All those opposed? Carried.

And I'll invite the two of you to preside over the meeting.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Good afternoon everyone, and I'm very pleased to be here sitting at this table co-chairing this very special committee on the child sexual abuse and the exploitation of children in our province. And our endeavour today and in the forthcoming months is going to be hopefully to alleviate this problem and to deal with it in a way that is very meaningful and helpful to children in the province.

I'm most pleased with the members of the committee, and I thank you for consenting to come and sit with us and also to work again, in the future, on strategies that we might together put forward in the way that the committee designates in order to deal with this whole situation.

So, Mr. Prebble and I are going to be going through today's agenda simply changing off, I guess you could say, or taking our share of the responsibility for chairing by going through three . . . rather each item on the agenda in as timely a fashion as we can. And we'll move on with the agenda today to the point where we can deal with what we can deal with, making sure we're thorough. And the other items on the agenda may have to be put off to another day.

However, we will get started and I'll invite Mr. Prebble to just get started with item #2 on the agenda.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Well, I'm just conscious of the clock, and I think we've informally decided we're going to try to wrap up by about five to three and so we've got a half an hour.

Probably the first thing we should do is set a date that's going to work for all of us for the next meeting of our committee. And Arlene and I had tentatively talked about the idea of meeting on January 5 and we're just exploring that date with you. She's going to be out of province from, I think, the seventh on. Is that correct . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . During January. So if we were going to have a meeting in January, it would need to be early on. And I'm assuming we don't want to meet between now and New Years.

So, is January 5 a possibility for . . . let's go around each. Is it workable?

Mr. Harper: — Well, that is not a problem. Yes, I have no problem with January 5.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — What's it like for you, Carolyn?

Ms. Jones: — Well I didn't bring a calendar with me but, as far as I know, it would be an acceptable date.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — And June, what's it like for you? Is it fine for you?

Ms. Draude: — Fine.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Well, shall we be look at a January 5 time then? We need time to be able to drive here. So how would people feel about meeting . . . when would you like to start? Would you like to start at around 11 or do you want to wait until after lunch? Do you have a preference?

Mr. Harper: — I would move that we should leave that to the members of the committee that have the furthest distance to travel. I'm a mere 15 minutes from here so, and it's quite convenient for me, but the other members here . . .

Ms. Jones: — What day is January 5?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — January 5 is a Wednesday. It's . . .

Ms. Jones: — Okay. That's enough to know. I have LICs (Legislative Instruments Committee) on January 5 and they begin at 1:30; so I'm really sorry, I apologize.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Okay. So if you were going to be available it would need to be in the morning. Or are you saying you wouldn't be available?

Ms. Jones: — Well I could be available. It would mean coming down the night before.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Right, okay.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — If I may just make comment to that, Carolyn. I think that with me, that's conducive to my schedule also. At 1:15 in the afternoon the day of January 5, we also have a meeting here in the legislature so the afternoon would be quite difficult. And I guess dependent on what the other members of the committee indicate as far as their preference of time, January 5 is good with myself and with Ms. Draude, and your members, it seems. But it looks like the morning would be most likely the better time.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Let's schedule it then for the morning of the 5th. Shall we say 9:30? How does that sound?

A Member: — Sounds good.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Could we put that just a little bit later. It's because of the distance that Mr. Toth would have to drive to get in; and if he's not able to come in the evening before, it will make it difficult for him to be here by 9:30.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'll be driving down that morning I know, so . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Well, if we start at 10 . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — If we go from 10 to 12, that would give us two hours, which is not a lot of time for the . . .

Ms. Jones: — If it's only my afternoon agenda, I mean we could probably go a little longer.

Mr. Harper: — I have LIC also.

Ms. Jones: — Yes. See, you said you're available and you're not.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Well, maybe we should discuss a little bit more. Are the other members here agreeable to coming by 9:30? Because that extra half an hour means that it would allow us a little bit more time, then maybe we should consider that. Is 9:30 all right with you, Carolyn?

Ms. Jones: — Whatever. If you want to check with Mr. Toth, but whatever. I'll come in the night before in all likelihood, so . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Right. I'll certainly give him a call and if there's any problem with that I'll refer it back to . . . to the Chairs.

Mr. Harper: — So will we assume it's at 9:30 unless we hear otherwise?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Exactly.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Let's assume 9:30 unless we hear otherwise then. So 9:30 to noon on the 5th of January, and Arlene I'll turn it over to you to deal with the first of these organizational items. We thought that, I might just say in sort of prefacing this, that we thought there were you know a couple of briefings and some initial preparatory work that we should do for the . . . for the next meeting. So Arlene why don't you take number (a).

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right. We had discussed having a briefing from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as to the proceedings of a committee and other items that it might be advantageous for us to hear from the Clerk on. So we would hopefully be able to have that done on January 5th.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Are you available that day? So that we can just consider that to be finalized. Okay.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'm sorry I forgot to talk into the microphone.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I maybe will take item (b) also then.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Of course, please do.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — We'd also discussed arranging for a briefing from some of the government officials that would be necessary in order to get an over . . . overview basically on government's work so far in this area. And other items that maybe Mr. Prebble might want to expound on a little bit. Only, I'll let you comment on that a bit more.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I think we could benefit from having a briefing particularly from the Department of Social Services on the work that they've already done, both within the department and in terms with community groups on this issue. And that we would schedule some time for them. So if you were agreeable, we will either through the Clerk's office, or Arlene, or I directly would contact them to see whether they would be available for the 5th in the morning.

So I think our most senior official in Social Services who is responsible for this area. How does that sound?

Mr. Harper: — Agreeable.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — That's agreeable with me. I just am going to request that when they come, that if they could possibly provide for us some transcripts — or maybe transcripts is not quite the right word — but information, written information on this so that we can review it after we leave the meeting.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — That's certainly agreeable with me.

Mr. Harper: — Yes, very agreeable.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — And item no. (c), we have also discussed asking the committee for permission for the Co-Chairs and the Legislative Assembly staff to prepare . . . draft a budget for the committee to work on. And that's something that we will do and mostly likely do outside of the committee, but if we can get your permission on that.

Mr. Harper: — Do you need a motion to that effect?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Why don't we do that, Ron.

Mr. Harper: — Okay. I'd be more than happy to move a motion to empower the Co-Chairs, along with the Legislative Assembly staff, to prepare a draft budget for the purposes of the committee.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Is everyone agreed with that motion?

Members: — Agreed.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right. We also would like to have some preliminary discussion on the role of the committee. Although it may seem evident to some people, the need to have

a committee to discuss this very important issue, we have to be very succinct, I think, in describing what our role is as a committee in order to get right to the work that we need to do.

And we need to discuss how we're going to arrive at recommendations that might be put forward and what sort of solutions we will be reviewing that possibly have been introduced and recommended before by other groups in the province and interprovincially also.

So there's a whole gamut of ways that we can go about this, and we need to have discussion from the committee to make sure that we're all on the same page, and we're all agreeable as to how we're going to go about arriving at recommendations because of course the hope of both, both Mr. Prebble and myself, is that we will end up with recommendations that will be valuable here to make sure that the committee's purpose is successful.

Mr. Harper: — Well I personally think it's important to have such guidelines, I guess, so that the committee keeps their focus on the issue and the aspect of the issue. It's a little like an old neighbour of mine used to say — if you don't know where you're going, you'll never know when you get there. So if you don't have some guidelines as to what direction you're going and what it is that you actually want to achieve, then you'll never know if you've been successful.

So I agree that we certainly do need to design that as soon as possible.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. Does anyone else have any comments on this? We . . . Yes, Ms. Draude.

Ms. Draude: — I'm very hopeful that we will come . . . that we will have drafted a mission and a mandate and goals, so that we aren't just going to sit here and talk about things that everybody has talked about without having any authority to bring forward in any kind of powerful enough suggestions and recommendations that the legislature will look at it, with saying that this has been a very . . . that the committee has done a lot of work, that it's valuable work, and that we can come up with a conclusion that's satisfactory to everybody.

I know that when the SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving) committees worked two years ago, it was an all-party committee and they did do some very good work. And I think that is my goal that we actually do come up with something that's going to make a difference.

We just don't have meetings for the sake of having meetings. It's a waste of everybody's time and efforts. So if we go into it knowing that we want to be able to go to the legislature and say, much like we did with the drinking and the SADD committee, that I think we . . . then we would have, then we will have done something worthwhile. So I'd like to see that we have a mission, a mandate, and a goal.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — It's not clear in our terms of reference, but it's my presumption that our objective would be to put together a package of recommendations that would give us legislative strategies and community-based strategies to try to

reduce or completely stop the exploitation of children in the sex trade.

And that's what we're about. Like the presumption here is that we're trying to stop this but it's not actually said in our mandate. But I'm presuming that that's what we all want, is that accurate to assume?

Ms. Jones: — Yes, I think that's pretty accurate.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — So basically what we're about is trying to put together a set of strategies that will, both legislative and community-based, that will result in a substantial reduction or the complete elimination of the involvement of children in the sex trade.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — In order to arrive at that in other places, and actually certainly the efforts of Saskatchewan so far have been admirable in trying to deal with this. However, we still are at a situation in the province where there are gaps in obviously the methods that have come forward, and the action that has come forward has not been effective enough.

And so in order to assist even more, it's my hope that . . . and suggestion that we look at some of the municipalities and community groups that have already looked at the area of child sexual abuse on the streets and otherwise, and have proposed some solutions like reducing the demand for juvenile prostitutes by possibly increasing fines or amending The Child and Family Services Act where need be, and to be able to . . . you know, so that there's child abuse charges that are laid.

There are other possible solutions and programs in place in other jurisdictions and we hope . . . I would hope that we will end up being able to uncover some of the work done in communities in other provinces also and have a look at how that can be of assistance to us here in our endeavour to combat this problem.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I've just got one suggestion, and this is for us to think about in terms of the role of the committee and the analysis of the issue.

And that is that it seems to me that there's kind of three broad areas where we could constructively do work. One is in looking at strategies around deterring johns, the people who are sexually abusing children.

One is around what we do for safety and security of children under the age of 18, in terms of getting them off the street.

And one is what we do in terms of long-term support and care for those children, so that they don't return to the street and they can rebuild their lives.

Now there may be other areas of work as well, but those it seems to me are three that we should particularly come forward with recommendations around. And not just recommendations about what the province can do, although obviously that won't part of it, but also recommendations around what we can do to support people at the community level, the municipal level.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — And it is my hope that we would stay very open-minded or make sure that we are open-minded at looking to alternative methods of assisting children — pathways of support that have been helpful and proven helpful. And it's my hope that we will hear from some of those organizations and those groups of people and individuals that may have recommendations to put to us about why they have achieved some success.

There's a necessity, too, to look at survivors and hear from survivors of sexual abuse and to hear their stories because they are the very people that have survived this and may have considerable amount of good advice to bring forward. And so it's my hope that we'll include those kind of people.

I think that's very important because it looks at the long term; it looks at the future and it looks at how we can break the cycle of sexual abuse. And I think that's a very important part of this committee.

And so I agree with Mr. Prebble very much that we need to look at legislative action. We need to look at pathways of support from communities and we need to look at the root of the problem to ensure that we do break the cycle of child sexual abuse.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Are there other comments on what you'd like to see the role be or how you'd like to see us approach looking at solutions?

Ms. Draude: — Yes, I would hope that besides looking at the long-term support and safety and security . . . (inaudible) . . . I'd like to examine a lot of . . . to come up with the reasons why children are going into the sex trade in the first place. And we have to know why it's happening before we can actually stop it.

So we have to . . . I think that could possibly be our first step, in understanding, being cognizant of the issues that bring the children there in the first place. So rather than just saying we'll help them afterwards, let's see if we can stop them from going in there. So that would be my goal, or one of my things that I think we should deal first with.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes. I thank you for those comments, Ms. Draude. Because when I mentioned we need to get to the root of the problem, that is exactly what I was referring to.

When you bring up this point, this very important point, I think it's important to know that . . . for the committee to know that Mr. Prebble and I have been discussing the relevance and importance possibly of an advisory committee and also of having hearings from people throughout this province that have been exploited through the trade, so that we have actual references to the committee from people that have experienced this, this . . . this horrible sort of activity in their lives. And I think that those people, among others, will be able to certainly let us know why, why this problem is here at all.

And that's our hope that we'll be able to have as part of the committee, in time to come, people that are going to be presenting to the committee to inform us.

Ms. Draude: — I always think that it's rather a foolish waste of time to reinvent the wheel, so I'm just wondering if we have any . . . if there's any research in other jurisdictions that we could look to to see if this work has been done in other areas that would at least give a bit of a guideline. Because if other jurisdictions have done it, then let's look at that as well.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I would agree with you there. There will be more discussion, I guess, around how we will access the people from other jurisdictions that have certainly put forward solutions and recommendations, how they arrived at that. And we will certainly be discussing that, because I agree with you — it's no use to re-invent the wheel.

I think it's important to have a review of what's been done in the province so far by individuals, organizations, groups, and as well as groups in other provinces and to see how they have dealt with it; what has been successful, what has not been successful. And I think we can do that, and we should do it in a way that is perfunctory, to the point, and done as quickly as possible without regurgitating unnecessarily.

So there are reports that have been put out in the province already. There's been reports from the cities of Regina and Saskatoon, from the police, as well as community organizations, and I think that we need to access those reports. And possibly, I think it's our hope, that we will be able to have some of those groups present to us here.

But we will also be looking at the reports that have been tabled already. And it's my hope that the representative from those groups will be able to tell us when they come what has worked, what has not worked as a result of those reports. And maybe, you know, further out from that they may be members that could sit on an advisory group to us later on.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'm just going to suggest — we've got about 10 minutes — and I was just going to suggest that we move on to the next item, if that's agreeable.

And I'm also going to suggest that we add an item here, and that is with respect to staffing. I think we should . . . If it's agreeable to members, we maybe make this an item immediately after the question of public hearings because I do think we need to talk about that right away.

But with respect to . . . Is it the wish of members that we hold public hearings around the province? And if so, where would you like to see those meetings being conducted?

Ms. Jones: — I think, if I may, there's obviously some main centres that have some main problems — the larger cities. And I don't know if there's a necessity, and perhaps some of our rural members would have a better idea if, you know, if it's — I don't know that it's a problem in Humboldt or Tisdale or Assiniboia, you know. But I think certainly Saskatoon, Regina, North Battleford, Prince Albert. I should try and find a south one. Swift Current perhaps? Or Weyburn.

Ms. Draude: — I know that Yorkton will be important.

Ms. Jones: — I'm sorry.

Ms. Draude: — I believe Yorkton would be important.

Ms. Jones: — Yorkton would . . . Yes, you're right. So I mean, depending on our time frame and our budget, those would likely be important centres to try to hold hearings in. But I also think that we should, you know, expand it beyond that and open it up somehow to submission in either written or electronic form because I think you can reach a lot more people that way.

But it does then require advertising in order for them to know that we're seeking this input from them. We would have to take up in rural newspapers. I don't know that we need to in the city, other than the public hearings. But I mean you could include the draft or the submission or electronic submission when you're advertising for the meeting. But I think in the rural areas you'd have to do some special advertising in order to solicit input from people in smaller communities.

However, I'm not averse to holding them in smaller communities as well. I mean they're not entirely insulated from this type of problem.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I'd like to make a comment in reference to that. I think it's important to have some of these hearings in some communities other than the major cities for the simple reason that many of us have heard that poverty is often one of the underlying factors or reasons that drive people out of the rural communities and certainly into cities to try to seek employment. And oftentimes naiveté on the part of young people sometimes, you know, they end up in this kind of crucial situation.

And also because there is no doubt in my mind — in many people's mind in this province — that child sexual abuse stems from their younger lives, and there are people out there in the province that do want to have something to say about this. And it often is happening before children end up on the streets, and so there is like a great concern in the province about this activity as well as the activity of incest. And we have to be really forthright, I think.

And also we have to be there to allow the people of the province to come forward, if they should so wish and to talk about some of the roots of the problem and where the problem stems from.

So I think it's important to have some hearings in, I wouldn't say, really small communities in rural Saskatchewan; but I think that we need to be able to have some in places like Yorkton, possibly Humboldt, North Battleford, as well as Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert.

Mr. Harper: — Yes, I'm just wondering if we want to go so far as to limit ourselves here today as to the communities that we're going to hold our meetings in. Or perhaps we want to leave that flexible for a decision that can take place at some point in time further down the road as we gain a greater knowledge of the issue that we're dealing with and perhaps the expansion of it and the broadness of it.

It may be that we may have to meet in not five or six or seven, but maybe 15 or 18 communities throughout Saskatchewan.

Maybe that's what we'll identify. And I don't know that we want to limit ourselves here this afternoon as to the number of communities we're going to meet in, and then find ourselves in a situation where we're going to have to rethink that sometime in the future.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes, I would agree with you. It's just that on consideration for the budget we have to come up with some sort of an idea here today about how expansive the hearings would be.

Mr. Harper: — But with that in mind, I think that we want to leave ourselves some movement in that budget for a possible expansion of the number of communities that we have mentioned here, that we may want to expand that to include others.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — That's a good point, Ron. Right now we've got six communities that have been identified: Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton, and Humboldt. Are there . . . if we said that we're looking at hearings in six to nine communities — do you think that would be a reasonable basis around which to build a budget?

Mr. Harper: — Peter, it would . . . just my own personal opinion is that I would rather us look at say six to twelve, and then if we decide to go with nine or ten we have the flexibility of doing that. Rather than limiting ourselves to nine and then finding out at some point in time that we wish we would have had twelve. You know.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Right. Sure.

Mr. Harper: — I'm a firm believer it's always easy to do less when you have the resources to do more. My fear — and I have absolutely no prior knowledge of this issue at all — but my fear and my thoughts is that we may find that this is not just an issue that is isolated to the larger communities of our great province here. It may be an issue that has its roots very, very deeply in rural Saskatchewan, and that there may be, the resolve to it may be that we'll have to go out there and talk to some people that are, you know, facing it on the front lines.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I think it's, it's . . . there was some fine points that you make and it's really important to remember that we have northern communities in this province that we may, we may be asked to go to and we also have reserve communities and so on that might be beneficial to have hearings at.

Ms. Draude you had a comment that you wanted to make just a little bit earlier and hope . . .

Ms. Draude: — Oh, I think, probably, just about the same thing that Ron had indicated. We're sort of the chicken and egg scenario right now. Until we do research, we're not going to know how much budget we're going to need and we won't know what, how much we can do until we know how much money we have. I also thought that, you know, it's probably someplace we're probably going to have to go to, and if not to the North, we should be meeting with FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) or tribal councillors, or some

people that give you this input on another, from another point of view. So it's always easy to say that this is how much we need and we can cut back. Probably not very easy to say we need more.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — There is the option, as time . . . Oh, sorry.

Ms. Jones: — I have a question and a comment. The comment first is that perhaps there is some way that we could divvy up the map and have some sort of regional meetings that could possibly take in, you know, Melfort, Tisdale, Carrot River, or you know, some sort of a regional meeting and advertise in that area.

Often-times I think it might be difficult for . . . particularly if there are open hearings in smaller communities, it becomes more difficult for people to come and tell their story.

And the question that I had relates back earlier to a comment that you made about incest and sexual abuse per se. And I'm wondering if we're expanding the role of our committee beyond what it was intended to be, or if that indeed is the mandate of the committee.

I think it started out being in the sex trade and prostitution area. And I think if we were to begin expanding our role to the extent of just child abuse or child sex abuse, we would be getting into a very large committee with a very large budget. So I think we need to be mindful of how we portray ourselves. Unless I'm incorrect, and maybe we need some discussion around that.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — No, I think our mandate is pretty clear around that, that we're dealing with children in the sex trade. But I think where the issue of domestic abuse will be relevant is that domestic abuse is often the beginning, you know, one of the contributing factors to children becoming involved in the sex trade.

So to the degree that it's a contributing factor, I think we should, you know, have a look. But I don't think we should broaden our mandate to be a committee that is focused on trying to stop all child sexual abuse, or I think we're getting outside of the authority that the legislature has given us.

Ms. Jones: — That was my concern.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Do others share that interpretation or is that . . .

Mr. Harper: — No, I agree with Peter; I agree.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Yes I would agree with that. It's an expansive problem, and I think that most people recognize that, that the complexity of issues that result in this problem of our children on the streets. It's mind-boggling and it's massive, and it is probably too much for this committee as such to deal with the whole issue, but because there are connections that are very important to be brought forward, I think in order to eventually come to dealing with the root of the problems. And possibly some of the people that may present, for instance survivors of sexual abuse, may have some recommendations as

to how to look at solutions for the future.

So it's just a matter of making sure that there's an opportunity for people to have something to present at hearings or to have an opportunity to present if they should so wish.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I just — June I want to hear from you right away — I just wanted to say before, before I turn the floor over to you that we agreed we were going to try to adjourn at 3 and it's about three minutes to 3 right now.

Ms. Draude: — That's fine . . . (inaudible) . . . Mr. Chairman, that's what I was looking at. I think we had a very ambitious agenda and probably . . . (inaudible) . . . sitting . . . (inaudible) . . . all we can do. So I'm wondering if we don't get together before January 5 if there'd be any advantage to having a conference call just to get through some of the agenda . . . (inaudible) . . . I would open to it if it's something that . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I think we could . . . You know . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I'm sorry. Did you want to offer some advice?

Ms. Woods: — No, I just suggested that perhaps if the committee set up a steering committee, they could go over some of these details and present a report back to all the members at a later date.

Ms. Draude: — I'm just wondering if our committee is small enough that we're just about it.

Mr. Harper: — Yeah, we're just about a steering committee.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I think it would be beneficial for members to have the chance to have a preliminary discussion on all these items and then maybe the Co-Chairs could, you know, could draft something. And we can on the first item, but we can't on the latter ones yet without having more input from the other members.

I was going to suggest since we need to wrap up, that we have a very brief discussion on staffing and then adjourn. And discuss these other items, the rest of the items, at our next meeting.

But would you feel comfortable if the Co-Chairs were given the authority to draft a job description for . . . My understanding is that we're entitled to a staff position in addition to the help that we get from the Legislative Assembly Office, for this committee. And if we are going . . . The Committee on Tobacco Control is going to be advertising during the holidays and early in the new year around a position for that committee; and I think it would be useful if the ads went out at the same time and if we also advertised for a position.

So if you were comfortable, the Co-Chairs could draft a job description and we could begin to get advertisements into the newspapers. Is that your wish? Or would you like to see us . . .

Ms. Jones: — That's fine with . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Would you like to see a draft of the job description first?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — We have to make a motion.

Ms. Jones: — I take it that this person's ultimate goal would be to write the report as we give it to them. Is that . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Well they would assist us in writing the report. We would direct them in terms of what they write.

Ms. Jones: — Yes, I just didn't word it correctly.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Exactly, I know, I understand, Carolyn. I know what you meant.

Mr. Harper: — And they would operate during the sitting of the committee as a researcher and contact person . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — They would assist us with the organization of the public hearings.

Mr. Harper: — Perfect.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'm just going ask our Legislative Assembly staff to offer some advice in this regard. Do you have anything that you want to add with respect to the potential role of the staff position, Gwenn or Margaret?

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes — I'm not sure how I would say — Madam and Mr. Chair. The committee of course has the authority to hire whatever staff you feel you need. So you're not restricted to one, but that is probably a good place to start. And it may be sufficient in terms of research staff.

Your research staff can be very essential to your review by assisting you at the beginning in identifying resources, where you're going to get the information that you've already asked about, what other jurisdictions are doing, what programs are out there, what options you want to study. They should be able to pull together that information for you.

They can be helpful in helping to identify stakeholders and interest groups and individuals, some of them you've named already. And they would need to be followed up to find out who is the appropriate person and what the way to contact them would be, and to make arrangements for appropriate times to hear from them.

Researchers would be present during your hearings, and after the hearing would be able to do summaries for you of the evidence, of the testimony, so that you're not wading through piles and piles of evidence at the time you start to conclude your decisions for your report.

The researchers will be the point person with respect to inquiries from . . . in response to the advertising that would be done because you're not going to sort of be here at the end of the telephone line when those inquiries come in. They would be the liaison between the Chairs and the rest of the committee to hear from the input of the people who just call up and say, well what's it about and what are you doing and when can I talk to you and are you going to talk about this and so on.

The staff, and also the researcher, would also be then helpful in identifying at the end the issues that you want to come to make some recommendations on or perhaps identify some options, assist you in analyzing options that have been presented. What are the strengths and what are the weaknesses, especially things that have been tried in other jurisdictions.

If you want to travel to other jurisdictions, they would be helpful in identifying where to go and who to talk to when you're there, and making the preliminary contacts on that basis. And the other staff assistance that you will need is administrative. The Clerk to the committee generally coordinates the resources that the committee needs, whether that's booking the room for holding the committee, arranging for the *Hansard*; and making sure that the records of the committee are prepared and created and kept; providing procedural advice to the Chairs and to the committee as a whole; ensuring that the researcher meets the deadlines that the committee has established; ensuring that the product that's created is prepared for the committee, whatever paper that is needed; and coordinating the preparation of the final report and its tabling in the House and working with the Chairs on all of the arrangements needed for holding the hearings.

Then in addition to the Clerk we will have administrative support that will do the actual detailed arrangements at hearing and meetings and lining up the witnesses and getting them the information they need and dealing with the other sort of administrative details that would be needed.

And as you're aware, the House has set up three and perhaps four special committees, and of course we're not staffed to handle any special committees because they're rare and we do them as they arrive. And we usually do one at a time. So we will be having to look for other resources within the Assembly.

And we usually have had a couple of individuals who've been able to be pulled off what they are doing and assist with committees. We've either lost those people or they're already fully occupied so we're a little restricted in that area. We will do hiring if we need to. We will also ask for some assistance from other jurisdictions to assist with the clerking of the various committees if that's required. And we do . . . often are able to make an attachment. That's a common arrangement with other jurisdictions with experienced table officers. They've given a short notice; we may have to do that. There isn't time to, you know, to recruit and train people.

But I think you're on the right track as far as the research staff. If we can go ahead and get some ads ready to go out so that early in the new year we can make some decisions as to staff, that's ideal.

Mr. Harper: — So once the motion is passed at this committee then, then the legislative staff would take care of all of those responsibilities of doing the job posting and the advertising and so on and so forth.

Ms. Ronyk: — Yes. We will try to do that and we will work very closely with the Chairs and so on. What we will be doing for the advertising for all of the committees is contracting a communications firm to do the putting of the ads into the

various papers, whatever papers are required, to then . . . An important thing if you're going to have hearings is that people have to know about them.

Mr. Harper: — Yes, right.

Ms. Ronyk: — Or you're not going to get people to show up. So not only do we need to put the ads in the paper, but it's really helpful if there's a professional who can contact the local media, local groups that may be interested, and make sure they know about it.

And it really helps with the profile of the committee if, when you're there holding a hearing in North Battleford, there's an opportunity for the Chairs or any member of the committee to have an interview with the local press and get some coverage of it, and that generates more interest and it ends up being worth the effort and the expense in doing that when you've reached as many people as you possibly can.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — What's your advice on number of staff? Do you recommend starting with one or do you recommend, from your experience with other committees, that we might want to look at more than one?

Ms. Ronyk: — Well in terms of . . . most other committees have managed with one. We used to have sometimes . . . Well actually, the environment committee ended up, had one staff but some of the other committees have had . . . because we were using some of our internal people and they couldn't be full-time, we had parts of people. It'd be fine to start with one, and then we would know as you proceed whether we need additional help.

And it may sort of fall into place, that there's a logical place to find that help and logical expertise that you come across in the work and it wouldn't necessarily mean a formal competition to do that.

As far as the other help that you'll need, from the clerking to the administrative support, we'll look after whatever is needed. If we can't provide it in our existing staff, we will look at it. It's just that we do know that the staff needs to do something in order to do it efficiently and we know that we just can't hire people off the street and do that. So we will do it . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'd be happy of course to . . . yes, thank you, June. We'd be happy to accept a motion from a member with respect to . . . (inaudible) . . . staffing.

A Member: — It needs to be written?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Margaret, is it necessary for it to be put in writing? At some point it is, obviously.

Ms. Draude: — . . . (inaudible) . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — The motion is that the . . . My suggestion for a motion is that the Co-Chairs be authorized to work with Legislative Assembly staff in preparing an advertisement for the hiring of one staff person who would undertake the responsibilities that have been outlined both by Ms. Jones and by our Clerk, Gwenn Ronyk, and who would . . . and

then the decision about how we go about hiring would be made at our meeting on January 5.

So all we're doing right now is agreeing that we want to have one staff person, basically to help us with research, organizational work, the preparation of the report, in terms of laying out options for us . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . to assist with the work of the committee, yes, to assist with the work of the committee, and that . . .

Ms. Draude: — . . . staff member but . . . (inaudible) . . . come to the timeline that we want to do this in .and if we want to do it in a shorter timeline than the original staff member might . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — If we have in the motion that we are to select one staff member and it is determined in our January 5 meeting that we want to try to have the committee work done in a shorter time period, does this motion preclude that we would not have the opportunity then to make a recommendation or a request for another staff member?

Ms. Ronyk: — Why don't you put one or more in the motion. And when you do the competition, you'll be getting a number of names and you may be able to choose two if you'll need it or one and a part-time. You know, that's possible.

Mr. Harper: — Would it be proper for us to start the process of the competition before January 5?

Ms. Jones: — No, you'd never accomplish that.

Mr. Harper: — No, I was saying start . . . I didn't say that the competition would be concluded January 5. I'm saying start the competition process before January 5.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Gwenn, when are you proposing to run the ads for the other committees?

Ms. Ronyk: — Well I think they're hoping to get them approved next week and then it depends what the time frame is for getting them into the papers.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Yes, so it may be the new year before it actually hit the papers, but the actual preparation of the ad would be before Christmas.

Ms. Ronyk: — It'll be between Christmas and New Year's likely before they actually get into the papers. Maybe you want to give us some advice as to where you'd like the ads run beyond Regina and Saskatoon. Do you want us to do the Moose Jaw and the P.A. (Prince Albert)?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — And the Prince Albert. I think in terms of fairness to people, yes.

Mr. Harper: — I think so. I would even expand that, include Yorkton.

Ms. Ronyk: — Yorkton has a weekly, right? Yes, we could put it into the weekly.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Why don't we put one in the . . .

Could I suggest that we put an ad in the papers that we have already . . . papers of the centres that we have already discussed as possibilities as places that we may have hearings?

Is that agreed by you, Mr. Prebble? That we place ads in the newspapers of the centres that we have already determined we may have hearings in.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — That makes very good sense, yes. So we're looking at Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton, Humboldt — that's for starters.

Is there any other locations? We talked about the North.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I think we need to run . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Do we want to run an ad for the La Ronge papers?

Mr. Harper: — Are there papers out of La Ronge?

Ms. Ronyk: — I think there's a weekly.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Yes, there's a weekly in La Ronge. Why don't we add La Ronge to the list so we've got a northern . . .

Ms. Jones: — . . . to cover. So you need this motion then?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — It hasn't been formally moved yet, so why don't we go ahead and receive a formal motion.

Ms. Jones: — Okay. I move:

That the Co-Chairs be authorized to work with Assembly staff to prepare advertisements for the position of one or more research officers and other positions as required.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Is there any further discussion on this motion?

Mr. Harper: — Not this guy.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Is there agreement on the motion? All those in favour?

Members: — Agreed.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — So it's carried.

And colleagues, I suggest at this point, I want to thank the Assembly staff for the extra time they've taken and the very short lunch break they took before going into this meeting. We really appreciate it very much.

And I thank them also for their advice. And I would like to suggest at this point that I'd entertain a motion for adjournment, and that we stand the remaining items on this agenda for our meeting on January 5.

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Chair, or Chairs . . . What's the proper term here?

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Chairs.

Mr. Harper: — I guess Chairs, okay. I move a motion that we stand the remaining items on the agenda, and I move a motion with the same or include in that motion the adjournment of the committee meeting.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Mr. Harper. Is there agreement on that? All those in favour? Any opposed?

Members: — Agreed.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — It's carried and thank you all very much. And my best wishes for a wonderful holiday and blessed Christmas.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I would like to add to that also. I wish you the very best of Christmases. It's the last Christmas of the 20th century and so it deserves extra-special celebration and I hope that you and your families enjoy it fully. And I wish you the very best in the new millennium.

And I hope when the clocks strike midnight that we'll all be recognizing that we've certainly come a long way, and we're going to be making our mark historically by entering the new millennium with the wonderful people of Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

Mr. Harper: — Well, thank you very much and I would like to also join in and wish everybody in this room the best and a very Merry Christmas and the best in the New Year. And I do truly believe that we've made some tremendous advances in our society in the last thousand years and hopefully we can improve upon those advances over the next thousand years. Thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I declare the meeting adjourned. Thank you all very much.

The committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.