



Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN CORPORATIONS
1999**

Andrew Thomson, Chair
Regina South

Ron Harper, Vice-Chair
Regina Northeast

Graham Addley
Saskatoon Sutherland

Greg Brkich
Arm River

Wayne Elhard
Cypress Hills

Ben Heppner
Rosthern

Lindy Kasperski
Regina Sherwood

Don McMorris
Indian Head-Milestone

Peter Prebble
Saskatoon Greystone

Kevin Yates
Regina Dewdney

Ms. Woods: — I call the meeting to order. I suspect all of you know who I am. I'm Margaret Woods. I also go by the first name of Meta; if you hear that anywhere, it's just a nickname for Margaret. I'm the Clerk to the Crown Corporations Committee and this morning what we intended to do was just have a very quick meeting to elect the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and have some preliminary discussions.

So without further ado we'll go right into the election of the Chair. So if I could call for any nominations.

Mr. Yates: — I would like to move a motion:

That Andrew Thomson be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Ms. Woods: — Okay. Are there any other nominations? Okay if I could have a motion for the nominations to cease. Mr. Harper. The motion therefore is that nominations for the position of Chair close. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is agreed to.

It has been moved that . . . actually I'll call for someone to move the motion that Mr. Thomson be elected as Chair.

Mr. Yates: — I would move:

That Andrew Thomson be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Ms. Woods: — The question therefore is that Mr. Thomson be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? All right, I'll invite Mr. Thomson to take the chair.

The Chair: — So I'm told now we need to elect a Vice-Chair, and I would call for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Addley: — I move:

That Ron Harper be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Addley. Are there any further nominations?

Mr. Yates: — I move that nominations cease.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Yates. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed? It's carried. So we would now accept a motion that Mr. Harper be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Mr. Addley: — I move:

That Ron Harper be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

The Chair: — It's been moved; is there any discussion? All those in favour? Opposed? It's carried. Congratulations, Mr.

Harper.

A Member: — He didn't get as many votes though.

The Chair: — The only other item of business on our agenda this morning was to talk a little bit about our work plan. Let me begin by saying thank you very much for your support as Chair of the committee.

I note that with the exception of Mr. Kasperski and Mr. Heppner, I believe all of us are new to the Crown Corporations Committee. I don't know if Mr. Harper served on it previously. This probably means that we should, at some point, come together and do an orientation session so we have some understanding as to what the role of this committee is, what normal business would be, and then also set out some work plan.

Mr. Heppner and I had some discussion about this yesterday and I understand that we are looking at still needing to review the 1998 annual reports, and the 1999 reports will of course become available when the spring session is called.

Mr. Heppner and I were discussing the possibility of coming back the last week of January or first week of February. I don't know if members have any particular views on that.

We were thinking about doing probably a two-day orientation session and start at least laying out something of a work plan although I don't think we would . . . One day would be enough, okay.

So is there any discussion, any views?

Mr. Prebble: — Andrew, what I was going to suggest is that if we're going to come down, let's have long days, yes, and try to reduce the number of days. Now I don't know how Regina members will feel about that, but as an out-of-town member that would be my preference is to . . . And I don't know . . . (inaudible) . . . Again, I don't know how you feel about that.

A Member: — Yes, I'd sooner have a big day and go home.

Mr. Prebble: — Yes, exactly. Exactly — let's go for it.

The Chair: — So is it the view then that we should do a one-day orientation and then do another, perhaps call in CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) and ask them to start with some review as to . . . is it their annual report you want us . . .

Ms. Woods: — What the committee has done in the past is they've invited CIC to give an overview of all the Crowns that are within their purview. So that might be an option the committee might want to consider, to have them come and lay a bit of a foundation as to what the Crowns are doing, particularly because there's so many new members on the committee.

Mr. Kasperski: — Yes, I would think that would be very good advice. To do the orientation, then to have CIC right away would make a lot of sense. Because it would certainly, I think, you'd find it'd be most informative on that.

And certainly you know, speaking as a Regina member too, I'd just like to say that, you know, I was flexible. And I think when we're out of session, you know, as much as we can to accommodate the out-of-town members and their schedule. And how that would work is . . . you know I'd certainly . . . That's been our tradition to try to do that as much as possible, Ben, I think, you know, when we're out of a session.

Mr. Heppner: — Especially the fact that Regina has limited mileage.

Mr. Prebble: — Just speaking personally I know I'd prefer the first week of February over the last week of January. I think January a lot of people take holidays. In February we kind of know it's fair game to need to be around.

Mr. Heppner: — Anyone who is taking holidays, I think we should know that now so we can just avoid that, because we can do that right now.

Mr. Brkich: — I am looking at the last two weeks in January.

The Chair: — We maybe want to say that second Wednesday of February? Because I don't want members to all of a sudden come back and be pulled out of their riding right away.

Mr. Addley: — February 9?

The Chair: — Is that the date?

Mr. Addley: — Yes.

The Chair: — Does that meet with . . .

A Member: — Mr. Chair, so it would be for the 9th?

Mr. Prebble: — It would be a two-day session, Andrew? Is that . . .

The Chair: — Yes, it would, Peter. So we'd look at the 9th and 10th if that was . . . So we're agreed on that then. I think that that is it, unless members have any other items they want to discuss. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Mr. McMorris: — So you want to start early on the 9th, then; come down on the 8th for anybody that's travelling. Or, do you want to start midday on the 9th and go all day, 10th?

Mr. Heppner: — I guess it depends how long the orientation's going to be.

Ms. Woods: — I think in the past all that it has consisted of is just a presentation by the Clerk. So that could be anywhere possibly around an hour, hour and a half in total. If the committee wants, they could invite other individuals to speak to them, such as the Provincial Auditor.

Mr. Prebble: — I think what my suggestion would be to go for, you know, at least an eight-hour session. I mean I don't want to impose my views on others so I'm just making this as a suggestion and I want everybody else to feel free to say no. But I mean, I wouldn't mind sitting in the evening too and just, you know, rolling forward with like basically like we do a

legislative day.

Mr. Yates: — May I suggest that maybe we start at 1 o'clock or noon and roll into the evening.

A Member: — If need be.

Mr. Yates: — If need be and then the next day start early, and then we can wrap up early so people can go home that day. Sort of maximize that amount of time at home, and . . .

The Chair: — So we're agreed then on a 1 o'clock start on the 9th and a full day on the 10th. Let's say start at 9:30 on the 10th . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . We'll see how long it takes. Seeing no dissenting voices we're agreed on that.

Any other items? I see none.

Motion to adjourn would be in order.

Mr. Yates: — I move that we adjourn.

The Chair: — All those in favour? Agreed? We are adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.