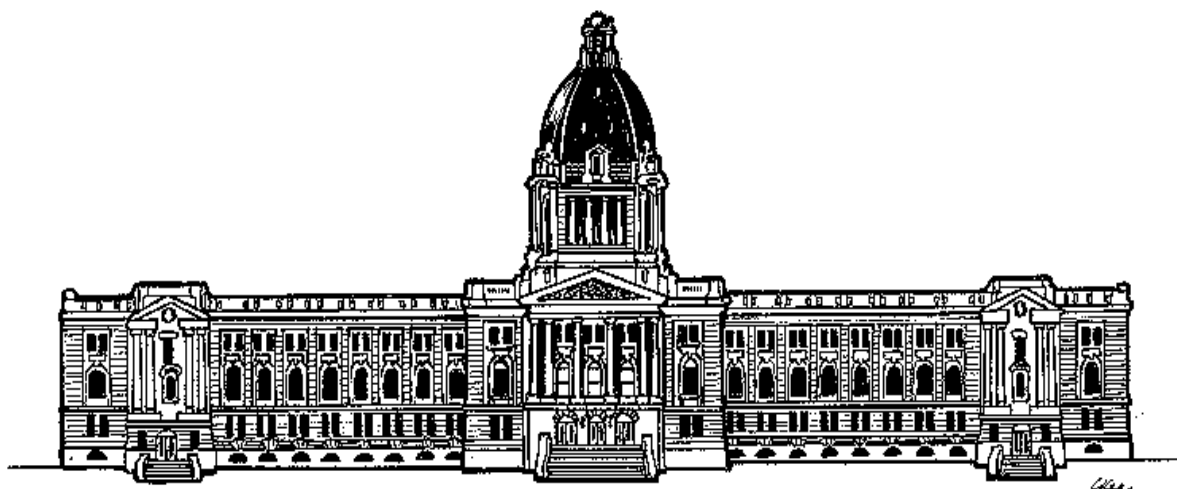




Standing Committee on Health Care

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fourth Legislature

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
2001**

Judy Junor, Chair
Saskatoon Eastview

Hon. Jim Melenchuk, Vice-Chair
Saskatoon Northwest

Brenda Bakken
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Hon. Buckley Belanger
Athabasca

Bill Boyd
Kindersley

Rod Gantefoer
Melfort-Tisdale

Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone

Andrew Thomson
Regina South

The committee met at 17:09.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — Just to get started, it being Monday and we're sitting this evening. Hon. members, it is my first duty at this meeting to preside over the election of the Chair, and I will call for nominations for that position now. Do I have any nominations?

Mr. Thomson: — I move that Judy Junor be elected as Chair.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — Any further nominations? Can I have someone move that nominations cease? Mr. Wartman, okay. Thanks.

Mr. Wartman has moved that nominations close. All those in favour of the motion? Agreed.

I declare the motion carried. And I would invite one of the members to move a motion that Ms. Junor be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health Care.

Mr. Thomson: — I move:

That Judy Junor be now elected to serve as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health Care.

Motion carried.

I invite Ms. Junor to take the Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you. Our next order of business then is the Vice-Chair. So we need nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Thomson: — I nominate Dr. Melenchuk.

The Chair: — Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, then will someone move nominations cease?

It has been moved by Mr. McCall that nominations be ceased. All in favour? Agreed.

We have a motion moved by Mr. Thomson:

That Mr. Melenchuk be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Health Care.

Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Motion is carried.

Mr. Melenchuk has now been elected as Vice-Chair.

The Chair: — Our next order of business is to establish a steering committee in order to set an agenda for the committee and decide how . . . and how we are going to proceed from here on.

I have a motion that's been prepared by Mr. Kaczkowski, and it reads this way. I'll read the motion first of all.

That a subcommittee on agenda and procedure called the Steering Committee, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair and a member to be appointed from the opposition, to make recommendations to the committee on the following

matters: how the committee should proceed to study its order of reference; selection of the committee researcher and any other assistant as might be necessary; times and locations of hearings; witnesses; committee budget; quorum for the purposes of receiving testimony.

And further, that the subcommittee shall meet as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair.

Could I have someone to move that motion to establish the subcommittee or the Steering Committee? Mr. Wartman, the motion made by Mr. Wartman. Any questions on that? Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

So now we need to appoint the members.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — Actually, I suppose technically we should have had the member's name in that so if you could just ask for an opposition member to . . .

The Chair: — Would you put forward a name to sit on the Steering Committee?

Ms. Bakken: — I would nominate Rod.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — Okay, we'll just include Mr. Gantefoer's name in the original motion.

The Chair: — Okay. That's okay?

Mr. Kaczkowski: — If you could please. I'd appreciate that.

The Chair: — Yes. The last item of business is how we hold the hearings because this room is what we anticipated putting the television cameras into and we can't get them in, in a timely fashion. So we need to discuss . . . Viktor can talk about how we could actually do this. We're going to have to do this room eventually, and we'll probably do it, but for our purposes we'll be heading off into July if we don't have another mechanism to do this. So Viktor has a suggestion.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — Right. There has been a certain amount of discussion by those behind the scenes, including broadcasting and recording, as to what's possible and what's not as far as televising the proceedings.

At this point in time, it would seem the most viable option is to use the Legislative Chamber itself. Since the cameras are already there, it doesn't mean any work to get it all put together.

If we were to use this room, you're looking at two options: either buying the equipment, the cameras that are necessary to televise the proceedings, since it's anticipated that in future committees will be doing that more frequently anyway. There's a lead time of at least two weeks to order the cameras. Then they have to be put in which is another two weeks. And you're looking at a significant amount of money, which we'd have to go to the Board of Internal Economy with.

It was also suggested that we just hire people to come in with

cameras and equipment. Those people would have to come in from Calgary. Once again, there's a lead time of at least three or four weeks for them and there's no guarantee that at this time of year people would be available.

So the suggestion has been made that we use the Chamber since the facilities are there. The only problem with that is that the committee would have to make a recommendation back to the legislature indicating . . . asking the legislature for permission to use the Chamber for the committee's proceedings.

So we can do that now, we can agree to move a motion asking for that and proceed with it if you wish. It's up to the will of the committee as to what you would like to do.

The Chair: — So if we move the motion to do that, then it gets presented tomorrow to the Speaker as a report from the committee?

Mr. Kaczkowski: — If the committee agrees, it could get presented as a report by the committee tomorrow. And then a motion would be immediately put on the report asking the House for permission to use the Chamber for the proceedings.

I don't know whether anyone has any further . . . would like to comment on that.

The Chair: — Any questions or comments?

Mr. Wartman: — Will this be seen as temporary in terms of using the Chamber and that there will be still action taken to make sure that this room is set up for televising, or is that down the road yet with another committee's report?

Mr. Kaczkowski: — I think that would be . . . Sorry.

The Chair: — I would think from what Viktor is talking about that this would be a separate issue to be discussed and brought forward because it has to go through another channel of discussion and approval.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — And if I might also add, if we were to use the Chamber, what it would facilitate is two committees to meet at the same time. If we can be up and running, even if it allows us to use the Chamber for the last week in June or the second last week in June, it means that committees such as Crowns and Public Accounts can still use this room and we can commence our business a little earlier — hopefully.

The Chair: — So we need a motion:

That the Standing Committee on Health Care recommend to the Assembly that the committee be authorized to use the Legislative Chamber to facilitate the televising and Internet streaming of its public hearings.

Hon. Mr. Melnychuk: — I would so move.

The Chair: — Dr. Melnychuk. Any more discussion?

Mr. Thomson: — Can I just ask that when we are looking at meeting in the Assembly, given that this is a relatively small committee, that we give some consideration to sitting at the

Clerk's Table rather than sitting in the . . . three sword lengths apart from each other. I suspect we will be not needing the sword-length rule to be used in this committee, at this point anyway. But to simply make it a little easier to facilitate discussion around the table.

The Chair: — That's possible.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — I agree with you. Now the issue is actually what has to be done to set up microphones and things. So I'll have to consult with broadcast and recording to see how feasible that is. But I'll certainly make the appropriate inquiries to see if that's possible.

Ms. Bakken: — We will be having presenters though in the legislature. So would it not make sense for them to be in the centre and we are listening from the sidelines?

Mr. Thomson: — We would have to look at the way it would work but I suspect they would sit at a table separate from us so there would be a gap between our table and where they were.

Mr. Kaczkowski: — The Chamber was set up as I recall for the day when we had the Agriculture Committee sitting there. And I believe there was a table on the floor of the Chamber for witnesses . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Right, okay.

The Chair: — But we were all in the Assembly at the time weren't we?

Ms. Harpauer: — You could be if you wanted to be.

Mr. Gantefer: — I'm not opposed to Mr. Thomson's suggestion. I think it may be appropriate for the Chair and the Clerk to sit at the presiding table and then we could sit in other members' chairs so that we're in reasonable proximity so that it does tighten the thing up a bit.

Part of the thing that I'm concerned about is that if we're going to be meeting while the session is on — and I certainly hope that we do that as much as possible — there's issues of the books and the documents and all that stuff that'd have to be taken in and removed. And if we're meeting from, you know in the morning that creates maybe an unnecessary burden for staff to move that stuff around.

So I think we can be sensitive about proximity and not necessarily sit in our assigned seats for the legislative sittings but can tighten it up a bit. It would make it appropriate with the least disruption.

The Chair: — We can probably have our this . . . further discussion on this issue at the steering committee the first time we meet. Viktor can bring back what he heard from broadcasting services and we can have a further discussion. Is that all of our business?

Mr. Kaczkowski: — That's all the business I have.

Mr. Gantefer: — I have a question before we adjourn. And just on the steering committee's process and procedure. You numbered . . . you've mentioned a number of issues that the steering committee would deal with initially at least.

Is it the intent of the steering committee then to have these ongoing discussions and then make recommendations to the full committee? What I'm thinking of, for example, on the researcher position, is that going to be opened up? Or is this whole committee going to make the final decision as to the process for hiring potential part-time staff or whatever it is? Or is the steering committee going to pre-discuss this and then make recommendations or how is that process going to work?

The Chair: — I would think . . .

Mr. Kaczowski: — The normal process is that the steering committee acts as a subcommittee of the committee of the whole and the steering committee will agree to certain recommendations but they'll still have to be tabled and report to the full committee for either adoption or amendment. So it's not that the steering committee can act unilaterally. It still needs full committee approval of its decisions.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you.

The Chair: — Any further comments or discussion?

Mr. Gantefoer: — One final thing. I think that it might be useful to the steering committee if members of the committee made some idea of the availability of their calendars in the next while, because some are on other committees and we may have to arrange substitutions, some have other work to do. So I think it would be useful if the steering committee had some concept of availability of time of members.

The Chair: — Could we adjourn the main meeting and the three people on the steering committee could stay for a few moments?

Mr. Gantefoer: — Yes.

The Chair: — Okay. So we are finished?

A Member: — Do you need someone to move adjournment?

The Chair: — Yes. Someone move the meeting adjourned? Dr. Melenchuk?

Members: — Agreed.

The committee adjourned at 17:21.