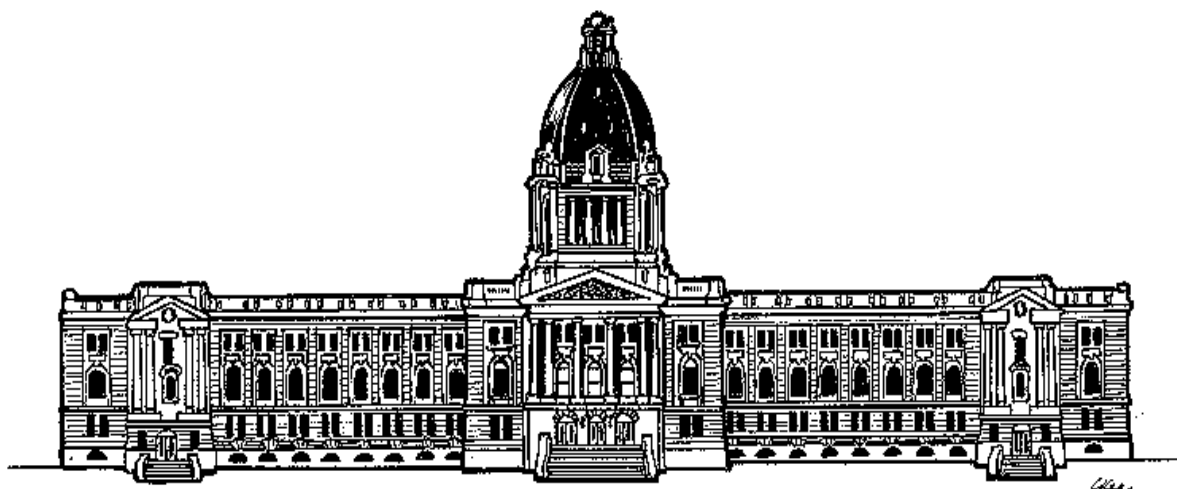




# **Standing Committee on Health Care**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

**No. 2 – June 11, 2001**



**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 10:37 a.m.

**The Chair:** — Thanks very much for everyone coming on a Monday morning. Everyone got a copy, a draft report of the steering committee minutes. It was previously distributed but Viktor, knowing the most of us forget things, gave us each another one.

The first item on the report is the hiring of Leslie Anderson for the contract position of researcher. And Viktor can give us an update on how far he has gone with this.

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — Okay, pending the committee's approval of the report of the steering committee, the steering committee had actually directed me to contact this person and ask her if she's at all interested in the position before we actually go ahead and start making decisions. And she has indicated to me that she is certainly willing to consider an offer from the committee for the position of researcher.

**The Chair:** — So then it just remains for us to give Viktor the approval to go ahead and make those arrangements. Any questions?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Was there any discussion with your preliminary conversation with Leslie Anderson about remuneration for the position and how that might work?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — There was. Perhaps if we're going to discuss the details we might to just . . . (inaudible) . . .

**The Chair:** — We're going to do it in camera if we discuss any details so *Hansard* will leave. Do you want to do that?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — In terms of broad context, there was some discussion about some remuneration. That's all the question there was. That's simple enough.

**The Chair:** — So I think you're asking what falls within our ability to handle this? Does anybody else have any questions?

If not, is it the committee's wish to have Viktor go ahead and hire Leslie Anderson? Agreed?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Madam Chair, I will move that the Clerk be authorized to offer Leslie Anderson the contract position of researcher to the Standing Committee on Health Care.

**The Chair:** — Before we do that, what we were actually talking about was that we move the whole draft . . . the report into the record.

**A Member:** — Just for acceptance?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — Just so that the members . . .

**The Chair:** — Yes. And then we'll go through and discuss it.

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — . . . I move that the committee accept the report of the standing committee which reads as follows and

then we'll open up the entire report for discussion if need be.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Okay, I'll move that the committee accept the steering committee report as presented.

**A Member:** — Please read it into the record.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — And read it into the record.

I'm not going to read this whole thing?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — If you want me to read it, I will. But it should be on the record.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — It becomes a document as part the . . .

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Attach it as a appendix A.

**The Chair:** — So all in favour?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Now item no. 1, and Mr. Gantefer has moved that we authorize the report?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — I move that motion.

**The Chair:** — Do we get the motion?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — Well we've moved . . .

**The Chair:** — The whole report.

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — We've moved the whole report so we don't need to move it item by item now. But if there is discussion then we can discuss it section by section.

**Mr. Thomson:** — This was not my understanding of what we were doing, because there are several sections in the report that I'd like to have discussion about and have the ability to change.

So if we've simply received the steering committee's report then I'm fine with that. But if we've already accepted it I would have to move that we reconsider.

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — No we haven't adopted it. We've just moved the report into the record and now it's up for discussion on whatever items you wish to discuss.

**Mr. Thomson:** — On the Leslie Anderson issue, I have not seen Ms. Anderson's c.v. (curriculum vitae) at this point. And certainly before she starts with the committee I'd be appreciative of the opportunity to become familiar with her background.

**The Chair:** — So we're all clear that procedurally we can amend any item we talk about but we don't have to move it separately for acceptance. Is that about it, Viktor?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — That's correct.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Do you need some more time, Mr.

Thomson? Anybody else? Then we're okay to move on to item 2?

Now there has been some discussion about this item that we . . . I think the June dates are pretty much . . . we pretty much have to leave them the way we've set them unless the timing is different. If someone wants to move any different timing?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. A couple of points. I think that these dates are subject to the fact that we could first of all get suitable agencies or, or whatever to appear. And it's just a small detail and I recognize that substitutions are possible, but June 18 is impossible for me.

The second thing is, is that I think — and I don't know what the members opposite situation is — but I know that you know we have caucus at 10 in the morning and even to start at 10:30 is helpful so that we can at least participate for a short while in our caucus activities.

So I, in reflection afterwards, would like to suggest the possibility of starting at 10:30 for these meetings until 12 instead of 10 o'clock, in light of letting us at least . . . and perhaps on the government side as well I'm sure have caucus responsibilities. So it would certainly help that way — the idea of 10:30 to 12 noon. Especially during the session and in light of the fact that with whatever advertising happens it's going to take a little time for people to respond and schedule meetings. So I think that might be adequate time.

**The Chair:** — So you want to leave off the 18th of June?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Like if we get a good response from, from agencies that, that we need the time, I would suggest we fill it like the 19th, 20th, and those sorts of things. And then if there's a good response that we actually could have a productive meeting on the 18th then by all means go ahead and I'll substitute. But don't start filling the 18th if you're going to have the 20th with nobody to come.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Anybody else have problems with that?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Can I ask a question concerning the scheduling? Mr. Gantefer has made reference to the fact that we would want to start scheduling the groups as soon as possible. Did the subcommittee give any thought to inviting Mr. Fyke to appear to give us a more thorough overview of his report?

**The Chair:** — We didn't in that context. We did talk about bringing him in and whether he would be considered one of the witnesses that we would have to pay to come. So we did consider that we might want him to come, but what for we hadn't discussed.

You're talking about before we get into actually hearings, we should have a bit of a . . . sort of an in-service for ourselves.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Well I guess it relates to what our job is. I think the reference, and I don't have it in front of me, basically is to listen to what people of the province — health care organizations and individuals — are saying about Fyke and to report accurately and fairly the results of those consultations or

that information being brought forward.

I don't take it in any way to say that we're supposed to make recommendations about the appropriateness or not of Fyke. It was simply to report so the need for us to have more of an understanding about Fyke in our current responsibility I don't think is nearly the issue that it might be in another type of a reference.

So I personally think unless there's something that comes up that we don't understand or that the people don't understand that . . . I don't know that that's appropriate necessarily.

**Hon. Mr. Melnychuk:** — I agree with Mr. Gantefer's comments with regard to Mr. Fyke. I think if during the proceedings that there were groups that reported on their interpretation of Fyke and there was some clarification required from Mr. Fyke, then there was a possibility that we could call him for that clarification. But unless that circumstance arose, I don't see any reason why we would call him specifically.

**The Chair:** — Any further discussion?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Well I'm fine with that. It's just that it seemed to make some sense that we would invite the person whose report we're going to seek input on to make sure we understood what was in the report before other people comment on it. But if the members feel familiar enough with it, that's fine; I'm prepared to accept that.

**The Chair:** — We had some discussion about putting together a binder for the committee members and including information on the report itself, the EMS (emergency medical services) report, because people will I'm sure wrap their conversation with Fyke around the EMS also, and copies of the major submissions that were made from the major groups like SAHO (Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations) and SUN (Saskatchewan Union of Nurses) and the SRNA (Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association) and the SMA (Saskatchewan Medical Association) that we may want to be able to refer to when people are coming to talk about what they think. You may want to have already read what they've reported.

So the Clerk is putting together a binder for us and it will include the report and a couple of other items, and the HSURC (Health Services Utilization and Research Commission) study on the impact on the communities, the 52 communities, the impact of the conversions of the 52 hospitals. And that's something probably that would be useful also for us to have. If anybody has any other information they'd like included in the binder, we can certainly gather it.

So have we agreed then, we'll start at 10:30 on the 19th and go for 10:30 on every subsequent day, and only use the 18th if necessary. Agreed? That's June.

Now we're talking about July. And I know there's been discussion that we don't sit three days; we sit two days and one evening. Are we also wanting to start at 10:30 the first day?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — I think intersessionally, you know, there isn't the caucus requirement so 10 works for me. I think that we'd better say that it's not so much June and July, but it's

while the session is on and after the session prorogues.

**The Chair:** — Yes, we've got that sort of assumption, the proroguing, so we won't assume that . . . I mean we'll assume it but it's not a done deal obviously.

So if we have to go into July, the same times would apply that apply to those last three days in June . . . those five days of June. Right?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Can I also assume that if we end up going into July with the regular session that of course we'd be on extended hours and as such our meeting time would be highly restricted. So we may not be able to meet at all if the House is obviously meeting from 9:30 in the morning till midnight.

**The Chair:** — Because we have no other venue to televise from. So we'll adopt this conditionally.

Now I'm still back to dropping one day. And I've heard some people say drop Tuesday, and I've also heard some people say drop Thursday. So any discussion about preference — Tuesday, Wednesday, and Tuesday night? Seeing no disagreement, then that's it. We're dropping Thursday.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — So we'd sit from 7 to what?

**The Chair:** — 9:30? 7 to 9? 10? 7 to 10?

**A Member:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Great. Okay. That's quick.

Okay, then we've also . . . number three is that we authorize the Clerk to establish a place for the committee on the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and on their Web site. So that would have us running across with advertising?

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — No. Advertising is separate. This is just to post us on the Legislative Assembly's Web site.

**The Chair:** — Okay. This is our own Web site. Right. Or our own information. Does anybody have any discussion on that one? Agreed? Okay.

And then we want to commence our advertising June 16, giving notice of our proceedings in Saturday's edition of each Saskatchewan daily and also in each weekly. The number of times we can advertise will be dependent on the advertising deadlines of each newspaper. And we want the last advertisement to be run in the daily newspapers no later than June 30 and the weeklies no later than July 6. And we'll also be placing an advertisement on the parliamentary channel and on the Internet. Ms. Bakken?

**Ms. Bakken:** — If advertising isn't commencing till June 16, how are we going to have meetings the week of June 18, 19?

**The Chair:** — Some people have already called.

**Ms. Bakken:** — They have?

**The Chair:** — Yes. Not a lot. But people are already asking

where to call and I've already got some people interested. Whether we can set them up that fast, I don't know.

But this is, I think, what Mr. Gantefer is saying: don't start the 18th if we have people interested; put them on the 20th perhaps.

So does anybody have any discussion on starting the advertising? Mr. Thomson?

**Mr. Thomson:** — I think the dates for starting it are fine.

The question I have is the content of the advertising. Will we be asking people to provide us with a written overview of their views or a written submission to us in advance of them appearing, so that we may have some advance advice as to what they intend to tell us so we may become familiar with their arguments?

**The Chair:** — And the subcommittee hadn't discussed that, but we surely can now.

**A Member:** — Is that normal practice in here? Is that what people have asked for in times past?

**The Chair:** — I don't know. Is it normal practice? Is that what happens when people submit — they have to present ahead of time?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Not usually.

**Mr. Thomson:** — In the House of Commons I think it is.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — The only concern I'd have with that is timing.

**A Member:** — It's not required.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — I don't think it's required. And I'm also concerned about the timing because we're on a pretty tight timeline.

And we wanted to say that by July 6, I believe, that that would be the last date for notifying the committee that you want to appear, and at the end of July, sort of, we would accept written submissions.

So it's not just appearance. I think there'll be a lot of just written submissions that people want to send in without appearing necessarily.

So I think we've got a time problem here for people to get notified that this is occurring; to write something up and send it in ahead of time is going to be quite onerous for presenters. So I think we have to take a chance on the fact that when they present, I would think that if you're coming to present something, that copies be made available to committee members.

**Mr. Thomson:** — The reason I ask this is that it would seem prudent if we were able to separate the various issues so that we could have some sort of a focus as we deal with this. People who are interested in talking about governments, we may want to structure those into one day or two days or a series of days to

listen to the view on governments.

I'm not sure how we're going to differentiate; for example, if every union local decides to . . . well they want to appear. Is there a sense to that or should we simply have the heads of these groups appear?

Do we need to have repetition, as we saw with the Tobacco Committee . . . or sorry, the Safe Driving Committee where every single group of SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving) I think appeared before the committee, basically with the same presentation. Is that a wise use of our time or should we have some ability to receive their reports without necessarily having to have them all appear? How do you plan on scheduling this or how do you plan on organizing this?

**The Chair:** — Viktor has a couple of points he'd like to raise.

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — Okay. I think there's sort of two issues there. I know certainly in hearings I've dealt with in times past it has been a problem where you do get locals of the head organization appearing over and over again and saying basically the same thing.

The idea in this process is that we would keep a record of requests to appear and that list of requests would be circulated to the steering committee members, and if it's evident that you are going to get a lot of repetition by subgroups of one organization, then it's certainly up to the steering committee to say okay, we give them lower priority to appear in order to allow for more divergent range of people to present.

Or we could just say when the organization calls in, is that we are willing to perhaps give the head organization an hour on the proviso that all the sub-organizations do not make presentations or they minimize the number of sub-organizations which want to appear.

As far as then people submitting written submissions ahead of time, I can see that being useful to the committee. However, given the fact that we are starting up in a week or two, it may be very difficult for a lot of people to do so. And we're not necessarily asking that anyone who appears to make a presentation . . . there is no requirement that they do submit a written document. If they just want to make an oral presentation and leave it at that, they're welcome to do so.

I'm just thinking in terms of the practicality of scheduling witnesses, if you're trying to sift through all the different groups and what they want to say and then try and group them, I'm not sure that there'll be enough time to do that. And I'm not sure whether we really want to, as a committee want to go through an exercise like that where it's structuring the hearings.

I mean, I can see your point as far as making it easier to draw themes out, but given the time frame we're working within, I'm not too sure whether it's . . . how practical that is.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well I guess the question that I have then is who is going to decide who can appear if we're going to start, you know, saying, well, you know, only the head people from the organization can appear? Where is the line going to be drawn and who is going to make this decision?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — That's something for the subcommittee to decide. I'm hoping that it won't be an issue. I'm hoping that it may work out that given the amount of time we've scheduled for meetings and the number of requests we get, we should be able to schedule everyone. If we find we're not in that position, I think it would be up to the steering committee itself to decide how they wish to proceed further in order to accommodate everyone.

**Ms. Bakken:** — And if we have more presentations and yet we're out of time, are we going to be free to say we need to schedule more . . . ?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — The steering committee can recommend we sit for additional days to accommodate all the witnesses, sure.

**The Chair:** — I was just going to say we do have the timeline to have the final report in so we might have to sit in August which we hadn't contemplated. But we don't have a lot of leeway any further than . . . we have to give our researcher time to compile and put together a report and get it back to us. So we do have some time — a little bit of flexibility but not a lot.

**Mr. Thomson:** — I think if we are going to ask people to appear before our committee that there is nothing wrong with us asking them to provide us with a brief two-page outline of what they want to present to the committee.

Clearly they're going to have thought this through before they ask to appear. I don't think it's an onerous task for them to have it. And that way if we are not able to hear them, at least we have their submission on the record. But to ask us as committee members to come into meetings and not have any idea what these groups are going to say so we cannot have intelligent questions to ask them I'm not sure is a productive exercise. Maybe what I'll do is I'll just ask you to refer this back to the subcommittee.

**The Chair:** — Okay, because I want to get the advertising started but it is an item that we may have to include in the advertising if we feel strongly about it. The advertising as we see now will have the committee's name, the location, the mandate of the committee — I would think people should understand what we're actually mandated to do — and the location and the timing of it. This is what it's reading?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — I've drafted a copy of the . . .

**The Chair:** — Do we each have a copy?

**Mr. Kaczkowski:** — No I don't. I just brought what . . .

**The Chair:** — Okay, so it will say:

The Standing Committee on Health Care will meet to receive and report on representations from interested parties and individuals with respect to the final report of the commission on medicare (the Fyke report). The committee is scheduled to hold public hearings for approximately six weeks commencing Monday, June 18. (So we might have to change that.) These hearings will be held at the Legislative Building in Regina.

Interested people who wish to be considered to make an oral presentation should contact the committee Clerk by Friday, July 6. Interested parties contacting the committee after this deadline may not be guaranteed a time slot for making an oral presentation.

Anyone wishing to submit their views in writing to the committee are invited to do so. These submissions may be sent to the address provided below and should be received by the committee no later than July 27. Written submissions will also be accepted electronically and should be sent to the following address.

For further information about the committee and its proceedings, you may contact the Clerk of the committee or view the committee's Web site at . . .

And then it's myself and Viktor, and the address and the phone numbers.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — Perhaps we can address this issue: what if we asked in the ad — it would be the committee would appreciate it if you could send a synopsis of your oral presentation ahead of time — and allow them to do it on a voluntary basis.

**Mr. Thomson:** — I don't understand why we need to make this voluntary. We're asking people to appear before a legislative committee — surely they have gone through the work to prepare their views. And asking them for a brief overview is not an onerous task for them, so that we can be prepared. Otherwise I'm not sure what exactly our role is, other than to simply sit and watch if we're not . . . Is it all presentation or are we going to have an opportunity to ask questions?

I don't think this is an exceptional point. On the other hand, if other members are not interested then I'm prepared to forgo it. It would just seem to be much more productive for us to have an advance view.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Yes I think that there's two issues here. Number one, I agree with Andrew that we should have some sort of a synopsis prior to the actual committee hearings, to prepare possible questions with regard to their presentation. And secondly, I think it would be also useful for the Clerk to have a summary of that potential presentation in terms of scheduling.

If you have for example a group that says they represent the Pipestone Health District and they wish to make a presentation, well what is their presentation about. Is it strictly going to focus on governance management issues? Will it be talking primarily about primary health care reform?

It would be useful to have a summary in terms of scheduling. And it would be useful to have a synopsis in terms of the committee, in terms of improving the actual work of the committee in terms of how questions are asked of the presenters.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Well I don't fundamentally disagree with what you're saying, but I want to make sure that we keep ourselves focused on what our job is. Our job is not to interpret,

is not to debate, or to be argumentative with people's opinions. Our argument is to receive and report what those individuals and interested parties feel about the Fyke Commission. It is not to make interpretations on are their feelings or their opinions right or wrong, but to articulate what they are.

So it's not as if we have to understand this and come up with the final position on what the government's direction should be on Fyke. That isn't the mandate of this committee. It's simply to listen to and to articulate fairly what was said.

So I think it takes the responsibility of the type of questions off. We shouldn't be debating their position. We should just make sure it's clear for the record and that's it. And that's a pretty simple questioning methodology. It's not like we're trying to probe to see if they're right or wrong or if their opinions are more valid than Mr. Fyke's were. That's not our job.

And so we've got to keep that in front of us. And if it would be helpful to make sure we do that, to have a short synopsis of what people are saying, for scheduling or whatever, I don't have a problem with that. But I don't want us to get carried away about taking more of a job on ourselves than what the mandate was. Our job is to listen and to report.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — Can I raise one concern as well?

**The Chair:** — Sure.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — I mean I don't disagree with what's being said here. It's just that if it becomes . . . for organizations who are used to dealing with legislatures and legislative committees, obviously it's not going to be a problem for them. If you are wanting to hear opinions of people on the street, of individuals who wish to come and speak to the committee, if you start setting up a series of hoops for them to jump through such as submitting a written document, submitting a synopsis, my concern is that you put them off.

**The Chair:** — Any further discussion?

**Mr. McCall:** — I just have . . . (inaudible) . . . points pursuant to what Rod was saying.

**The Chair:** — Is the advertisement still circulating? We'll just make sure everyone sees it.

**Mr. McCall:** — Yes, pursuant to what Rod was saying, I couldn't agree more, and it isn't, you know, our purpose to interpret things. But in the interests of casting the net as wide as possible from the get-go, so that you are able to maintain that balance between the urgency of the task that we're engaged in and getting as broad a consultation as possible, to my mind a two-page summary or a one-page or what have you, that would be a very useful tool in that process.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Boyd, did you want to speak while we're waiting for the motion?

**Mr. Boyd:** — Well it isn't related to the motion.

**The Chair:** — It's about the advertising though, right?

**Mr. Boyd:** — Yes.

**The Chair:** — Might as well do that while we're waiting.

**Mr. Boyd:** — All right. On the steering committee's draft and in the advertising, I see no provision whatsoever for the committee to meet outside of Regina. And that's certainly a concern of mine.

I note with interest in today's newspaper, the community of Moosomin is, for example, wanting Mr. Romanow to come to their community to put forward their views on health care reform. And I suspect that there may be others as well. And I think that the committee is . . . I think incumbent upon them to consider other locations besides Regina.

**The Chair:** — We have a technical problem, because we have said in our promise . . . in our set-up of the committee that it would be televised. So to televise from other places than the legislature . . . Even here was difficult. We can't use this room; it won't be ready in time. So we have one place to use, and that's the Legislative Assembly itself.

So to take it outside of Regina, there are some technical problems. And not only timing — as well as the technology itself.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — The terms of reference of the committee do not provide for the committee to travel. We need the . . . We don't have authority from the House to travel.

**Mr. Boyd:** — That may well be, but I still am of the view that, notwithstanding technical problems or anything else . . . I don't think anyone in Moosomin is all that particularly interested in whether they're on TV or not. I think they're interested in having their views heard.

And I think the committee; it's incumbent upon them to consider that. And the fact that the government in its wisdom has not allowed for that I think is very remiss and it should be something the government speaks to when they are prepared to speak to the whole idea of having this type of a committee.

The committee should be listening to the views of people all over this province and not just simply the people who are in close proximity or are prepared to travel to Regina.

**The Chair:** — And I think that you've . . . people have expressed that view before. We did have a fairly tight motion to establish the committee, fairly tight time frame as well as mandate. So we are left with this, unless we have some other mechanism that we think we can change it. But it will . . . it would involve a fair amount of difficulty.

And I think that people will have an opportunity, because this is the first brush with the Fyke Commission as a whole, for communities and individuals and groups. This is not the end of the discussion about what's going to happen with health reform; I don't anticipate. That's my opinion; I'm not speaking on behalf of the government.

But this is the first opportunity for people to respond to the committee . . . to the report as a whole, and there's going to be

other things coming out. We're not recommending what's going to happen in health reform; we're only going to say what we've heard.

So people are not . . . this is not the end of their opportunity to speak to issues that are in this report or will arise from what happens with this report.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Well if you have ideas as to where the government is headed with respect to other opportunities, I'd be very interested in hearing those. I'm not aware of any other opportunity. At the moment this is the opportunity and the only opportunity until someone decides otherwise. And at this point I'm not aware of any other opportunities, and perhaps the Chair would perhaps be willing to share those with us.

**The Chair:** — I'm not aware of them either. I'm saying I don't anticipate that what happens here is the end of the health reform debate.

**Mr. Thomson:** — Madam Chair, just to respond to Mr. Boyd's point. In the same way that we are not here to debate the validity of the opinion of the individuals, we are not here to debate the validity of the conclusions of Mr. Fyke's findings.

We are simply here to take testimony and, as such, we can take the testimony here. We have mechanisms in place to have citizens' groups appear before us and it would seem to me that this is a good way for us to embark on this.

For us to all of a sudden become a travelling road show, I think serves little benefit. We have a tight time frame. This is easiest for us to schedule people to appear here in Regina, and I believe there are mechanisms in place for people who are not . . . for whom this would be a financial problem to have some ability to appear before us.

The House is set for us, very clear terms of reference, and one of those terms that is missing is the ability to travel. This is different than a special committee. This is much more typical of a regular standing committee which don't have the ability to travel.

**Mr. McCall:** — Yes, I would just, you know, add to Mr. Thomson's points in that even in the debates around the striking of the Health Care Committee and around the tabling of the Fyke Commission's report, there is recognition on all sides, I think, of the urgency of this situation. And, you know, with the activities of this committee, we're trying to strike a balance, you know, working with a timeline where we can get . . . where we can address the urgency of the situation, which members of the opposition certainly commented on in the past debates on this subject, and provide for meaningful opportunity for people to give their take on Fyke.

So again, you know, to maintain that balance I don't see how turning it into a travelling road show is going to achieve that, especially since the Legislative Assembly has got the ability to broadcast to every corner of this province so that people have a very sound idea of what's going on. That's all I'd have to say.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Well undoubtedly it was a very deliberate move by the government to limit the amount of opportunity and



discussion, I think, of people. And that's unfortunate. While some people may believe that the capital here is the centre of the universe, there are many places in Saskatchewan I think that would like to have opportunity to have this debated, and not just debated, but their views put forward.

Urgency requires opportunity, and the opportunity to speak to the community should be paramount, not just whether or not there are technical glitches or whether or not, as some of the committee members refer to it as, as a travelling road show. I suspect that people in other areas of this province would not see it as a travelling road show. They would see it as an opportunity to present their views to a committee that has been struck to hear their views.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well I think that your referral to that this is only one avenue and that this debate is going to go on, if that is the case, that needs to be made very clear now, not after the fact. Because it is our understanding as well as I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan, that this is their opportunity and then that something is going to be done by this government to address the seriousness of the health situation. And that's what we were led to believe.

And if that is not the case, and that this is going to be dragged on and there's going to be further hearings of whatever nature those might be, that the people have a right to know that.

Just further on to what committee members have referred to, that this is about listening to the views of the people that are able to come here. It's also about giving a voice to the people that want to be heard and that are tired of having to come to Regina for everything that they do, and feel that they are just as important as the people that have the opportunity to come here and that they should be heard and listened to; and that this government represents all the people of Saskatchewan, not just the people that have the ability to come to Regina.

**The Chair:** — And I think that's why the committee has . . . or the subcommittee has recommended that we have the Web site. We have many different ways for people to submit reports other than in person.

And I think we've used the word debate several times here, and that's not what we anticipate. What we've all said, our mandate is not to have a debate here; we're just going to be receiving opinions. So there are different mechanisms for that to happen other than in person. Were there any further comments?

**Ms. Bakken:** — Can I just ask then, what does it mean under the establishment of the standing committee where it says, to examine witnesses under oath. Are we not to question these witnesses as to why they are expressing the views they are? Or what does that mean?

**The Chair:** — What are you reading from?

**Ms. Bakken:** — I'm reading out of *Hansard* — establishment of the Standing Committee on Health Care — it says:

. . . with the power to send for persons, papers, and records, (and) to examine witnesses under oath;

**The Chair:** — I'm sure we have the ability to ask questions. That's certainly inherent in all standing committee work as far as I've been led to understand. But that doesn't mean we debate.

**Ms. Bakken:** — I didn't say a debate. But we have the opportunity to question and understand why they have the views they have. We would not have that opportunity if they're not appearing before us in person.

**The Chair:** — Well we don't need it for everybody perhaps, but there's other opportunities for people to submit their opinions, is what I was saying. We don't just have one avenue.

Is there further discussion?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — I think when the original mandate was approved by the Assembly with regard to the committee structure and the fact that groups would have the opportunity to provide input and report on Fyke, that the understanding was that we would attempt to maximize, under the timelines allowed, for the numbers of groups that could make their presentations.

Certainly we are in a legislative session at this point in time. It would be extremely difficult for the members of the committee, who are all members of the Assembly, to move to locations, travel outside of Regina at this time. Certainly would not allow for some of the corresponding times that we have allowed for during the weeks in June.

Secondly, when we wish to maximize the exposure of the committee, having meetings here that are televised to 118 communities through the legislative channel as opposed to having a meeting in Moosomin or Swift Current where there is not the opportunity to have the same television capability without excessive expense provided. I think it's imperative that the people who live in northern Saskatchewan or in North Battleford should have the opportunity to hear what the group from Moosomin or from Hudson Bay has to say.

And the only way that is possible is by having a single location here in Regina televised to every community, every community in the province of Saskatchewan.

And if other members have other suggestions as to television capability, how you could organize TV time on SCN (Saskatchewan Communications Network) at this point in time and to have verbatim transcripts then . . . this has been debated at the steering committee level and it has been found that we are not in a position where we could, before the end of August, have a report completed and provide coverage to locations outside of Saskatchewan. And it's really a technical problem and if there's suggestions on how we can get around that technical problem, then I'd be more than willing to hear them.

**Mr. Boyd:** — Well I can make a couple if you like. There's no reason in the world that it has to be live television — taped television, taped opportunity. My God, you can go down to Krazy Kiley's and buy a camcorder for 200 bucks and do it with that if you choose. And I suspect the quality would be such that it wouldn't be a problem for most people to pick up any and all of what was happening.

You make it sound like the government or that this committee structure that the opportunity and the timelines and everything were unanimously agreed to by the legislature which was most certainly not the case.

**Mr. Thomson:** — Point of order. Point of order. This discussion falls outside the terms of reference of this committee. If the members had wanted to discuss this, they should have discussed this during the terms of reference debate which the Assembly had.

It's not the committee's place to debate its terms of reference. It may only function under the terms of reference.

**The Chair:** — Thank you your point is well taken. I was just going to actually raise that.

**Mr. Boyd:** — May I speak to that point of order, Madam Chair?

**The Chair:** — Yes you may.

**Mr. Boyd:** — We are, we are giving thought to whether or not there should be opportunity outside of Regina to have opportunity for people to address the committee. And in the discussion about advertisements we most certainly need to clarify whether or not the committee members are prepared to listen to submissions outside of the, outside of the Legislative Assembly. And I think it is incumbent upon us to consider that.

**The Chair:** — And I think the point of order was that our terms of reference don't allow us to consider it and that's what I would also have assumed from the terms of reference. So I think we should get back to our discussion about the advertising, and I believe Mr. Thomson has a motion.

**Mr. Thomson:** — I would move:

That witnesses be asked to provide the committee with a short synopsis of their presentation at the time of their request to appear.

**The Chair:** — Discussion? Discussion?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — A point of clarification with regard to the motion. At the time of the request to appear, it is my understanding from the advertisement that the request to appear would be made to the Clerk and that information would then be requested by the Clerk. Is that the intent of the motion?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Correct.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Yes, as I said before, I'm a little bit concerned about the onus of this on individuals, and you can make it sound as if it's no big deal, but if our job is to listen to the regular people of this province, I think that having a synopsis submitted when you make the request is certainly unreasonable.

I mean if a citizen in this province, Regina-based or rural-based, feels strongly enough that they want to ask for an opportunity to appear, you're forcing them to put in a synopsis at that time. I think it may be reasonable to have them indicate a topic or an

emphasis on their presentation when they come to present, but I think we should be doing everything we can to make this open and inclusive rather than restricted by these kinds of hoops that the Clerk talked about.

I'm not afraid of having citizens come and not being pre-warned about what they're going to say, because our job is to listen, not to debate. And all of our job is, is to listen, to ask questions for clarification, but not of debate. And so it doesn't matter to me a whole lot if they want to talk about governance or primary health reform or institutional restructuring or whatever.

I think that from my point, under this type of a mandate, we shouldn't be putting those hoops in front of them. And as I said, I'm not philosophically have a problem with it; I just don't think it's appropriate in this committee's mandate of listening and reporting fairly what was said.

And that is going to be given to us verbally; it will be given to us by submission over the e-mail; it will be given to us by written letters that will come in. And I think it's incumbent on the staff of the committee, the researcher, to make sure that they compile this in a fair and impartial way to reflect accurately and completely what was said.

So I personally am not really happy about the whole issue of putting these hoops in place. I think that we should leave it as open as we can.

**The Chair:** — Could I ask the mover for clarification. Is it the intent that this be a requirement or that we just ask for it?

**Mr. Thomson:** — That this would be a requirement.

**The Chair:** — And this is prior to them receiving a time?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Correct.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well I have to agree with Mr. Gantefer. I think that we are . . . the very word that you're going to put in the advertisement will scare people off and make them feel that they don't have the proper means to do that or the know-how to do that, and that's not the . . . should never be the intent of this committee.

We should be encouraging people, no matter at what level, to come forward and present.

**Mr. Thomson:** — I'd prefer to amend the resolution to remove the word synopsis and substitute brief overview. I'm not caught up in the semantics here. I can tell you that having spent some time in this Assembly that I know that people write very eloquent and pointed letters, outlining their positions, everyday to us. This is not different than that and simply provides us with an opportunity to understand more clearly what they may want to talk about so that we can more effectively reflect those views.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Yes, I think that in terms of the motion, that I would be prepared to support that at the time they request their appearance . . . to appear to the committee, that the Clerk ask this group to provide a written summary . . . to provide a written summary of what their presentation might be,

but that it not be a requirement for . . . be given time for making a presentation.

And certainly in my experience with committees, for example the Transportation Agency, when they were holding committee hearings, it wasn't a requirement to provide a written presentation but that there was a request to have one in advance of the actual oral presentation; but it certainly wasn't a requirement.

**The Chair:** — Would you like to propose an amendment, is that what you're saying?

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Well I think the wording of the motion is such now that it does not . . . it doesn't look like it would be a requirement. Certainly perhaps you could read it again and see if my interpretation is correct.

**The Chair:** — That witnesses be asked to provide the committee with a short synopsis of their presentation at the time of their request to appear.

**Mr. Thomson:** — Well it was my intent to make it a requirement but if members are interested in it simply being a request, that's fine.

And we could change the word synopsis to brief overview.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — Would it be at all helpful if we word it in such a way to provide a short synopsis at least so many days before their scheduled appearance, or is that not your intention in this? I'm just wondering at the time of the request or within five days of their request, so that way they aren't feeling that they can't make a request without providing this information.

**The Chair:** — Does that change the intent of your motion?

**Mr. Thomson:** — Well I'm prepared to . . . the intent is that we have some information in advance of them appearing. Now if the steering committee believes they can schedule people without some understanding as to necessarily what they want to talk about, or if the intention is just we're going to jump from subject to subject, that's clearly within the purview of the steering committee to establish these. I just think it would be helpful, obviously, to have some continuity so we're not jumping from governance issues, to specific hospital issues, to union concerns, to . . . but that's something for the steering committee to worry about.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — But again, Madam Chairman, the point is not to try to organize this in some organized fashion and to debate or discuss the merits of the argument. The purpose of the committee is simply to receive the information from individuals.

The challenge is going to be to sort it out into a final report for the researcher to put together under headings that may or may not relate to the way the Fyke Commission report is organized itself.

And so I don't have a problem about, if a presenter wants to come with a particular issue about governance and the next one wants to talk about primary health reform, I'm not here to

debate them on it. I'm here to make sure that their points and issues are clearly articulated and clearly understood on the public record both televised and in *Hansard*.

We're going to have a record of what everybody says in *Hansard*, so I don't need it before hand. And I don't need to sort of force people into sticking to a script. I could see an individual, or even an organization, that may indeed want to add or delete or modify what they say based on what they heard prior. So to have them send in this synopsis, to me, is a moot point. And I think that no matter how you construct it, it will seem to be an impediment for some people — an intimidation factor, if you like, to some people.

And I think it's important that we not only listen to the institutions that are very professional and very able to make presentations, the advocacy groups and the organizations representing health care professionals, we have to make sure that this is seen to be as open as possible. And even given the physical limitations we put in an amendment when this reference was made, about that this committee should go out into the province, and the NDP (New Democratic Party) saw fit to defeat that. And I mean that's fair ball.

But the point is, let's not put any more impediments in place for rural people to come here and make their presentations — or urban people — who are not the beneficiaries of a professional association or an organization that they can use to be an advocacy group. Let's make it simple and open and our job is to simply hear and report.

**Mr. Thomson:** — Well, I understand where Mr. Gantefer's coming from and I understand where the Sask Party opposition is and that they are interested in this committee being tied up in knots.

I'm interested in this committee coming forward with reasonable reflection of what people tell us. It may make some sense for us to do that in an organized manner rather than the simple laissez-faire approach that the opposition is so well known for.

I'm not stuck on this point, if we're prepared . . . I'm prepared to simply withdraw the motion. I'm quite prepared to simply withdraw it. But I think we are already starting to see where this is going.

**The Chair:** — So then the question. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is lost.

So back to point four, our advertising will go out as it is written with a few amendments changing dates, and then we can move on to number five.

There is some ability for us to send out notices to key stakeholder groups, that the steering committee got lists . . . we can have a list of the health groups from the Health department that we could send notices for people to appear. Not asking them to appear, but to notify them in person or with a written invitation . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Written notice, yes; not necessarily inviting them, but notice of the hearings. And we can get that list from the Health department if the committee is agreeable. Discussion?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed? Okay.

The deadline for the request . . . for witnesses to request an appearance before the committee is Friday, July 6. And those calling to appear after that date may not be guaranteed a time slot. They may still be able to appear but we can't guarantee it at the moment. We really don't know the volume of requests we're going to get so this is basically just trying to set some parameters.

**Ms. Bakken:** — I just have a question about that because in . . . under the advertising, you have in the weeklies no later than July 6 and yet your deadline is July 6 for a request. So what is the . . . Something is wrong here. Either . . . one or the other has . . . should be changed.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — The idea was that we would start advertising as soon as possible.

**Ms. Bakken:** — But there's no point in advertising up to July 6, if July 6 is the deadline. So either we need to change the deadline or we need to not bother advertising in weeklies.

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — That gives us the flexibility if, for example, one of the weeklies only published on Tuesday, that way we could still get the ad out that first week in July.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well then we need to change the deadline, because there's no point to the deadline being the day that the ad comes out.

**The Chair:** — So can we leave that for the Clerk to establish because they'll be talking to the different weeklies. Right?

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — Right, exactly. It was a matter of not knowing what their actual deadlines were. And I see your point. There's no point in advertising Thursday, if the cut-off day is Friday. So up until . . . with the last ad to be run no later than what, Tuesday of that week, perhaps? Would that satisfy?

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well either that or change the deadline to the following Tuesday or something, whatever.

**The Chair:** — So that would be the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, July 10?

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well whatever it is.

**The Chair:** — Okay, move it ahead to the 10th then, or whatever the Tuesday is. I think it's . . . I think that . . . just roughly calculating.

Okay then the deadline for written submissions via post, fax, or e-mail would be Friday, July 27. Any discussion on that?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Now this is the one we had quite a bit of discussion on this, that each individual or group be given 30 minutes in which to make their presentation, and that would include time for questioning by the committee. And we may have some flexibility if we want to give certain individuals or

groups a little bit more time than the 30 minutes; but to give people an idea of how the time slots would run and what length of presentation we could fit in. We also wanted to highlight that if they have a written submission it can be 30 or 40 pages, it doesn't matter, but we would prefer then that they just highlight their submission so they don't . . . they know that they have to stay within their 30 minutes. And that will include any questioning.

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Further discussion, no? Okay, that was agreed. And that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair, number 9, be given the authority to schedule witnesses. The Clerk will provide the steering committee with lists of the groups and individuals requesting standing. Any discussion?

**Mr. Thomson:** — If standing orders permit us to create subcommittees to hear testimony to receive testimony, in the case that we end up with a large number of groups I would hope that the steering committee would consider the possibility of establishing possibly two subcommittees out of the committee to take the testimony, so that we may fit within our time schedule so we can report to the Assembly as required.

**The Chair:** — So depending on how, what type of response we get to our advertising, we may have to have another . . . we come back with another suggestion perhaps following that line of thinking. But at the moment the Clerk will have the authority in consultation with the Chair to schedule the witnesses.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Well I think that you're also bound by the point that the government members made a big issue of in terms of having to do it in front of television. So to have two committees meeting at the same time it wouldn't be possible to meet your own argument about televising it.

**The Chair:** — So if we do have a great volume of requests we're going to have to maybe revisit a few of these items, actually. Okay, so but the Clerk can at this moment start scheduling as people require. Agreed?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — And number 10, that witness expenses only be paid in the event that the committee decides that it wishes to call upon a specific expert witness who requests such reimbursement. Any discussion?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. That the Clerk in consultation with the Chair is authorized to make any other decisions that relate to the logistics of the committee's hearings as may be necessary. Discussion?

**Mr. Thomson:** — What does this mean?

**Mr. Kaczowski:** — For example if you've got a cancellation of a witness one evening and then you've got someone else who wants to appear or you've got someone who can only appear on that day, if you want to extend the hearings for an extra half hour until 10:30, the Chair could make that decision as opposed

to having it being taken to the full committee to meet for the extra half hour. It just allows a little flexibility in planning, nothing more than that.

**The Chair:** — So it's basically logistics, fairly narrowly defined. Agreed?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — And then no. 12, that the Clerk has the authority to begin implementing the decisions made by the steering committee and agreed to by the committee today, immediately. Agreed?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — All right if there's no other discussion or business we are . . . Seeing none, then we are adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 11:35.