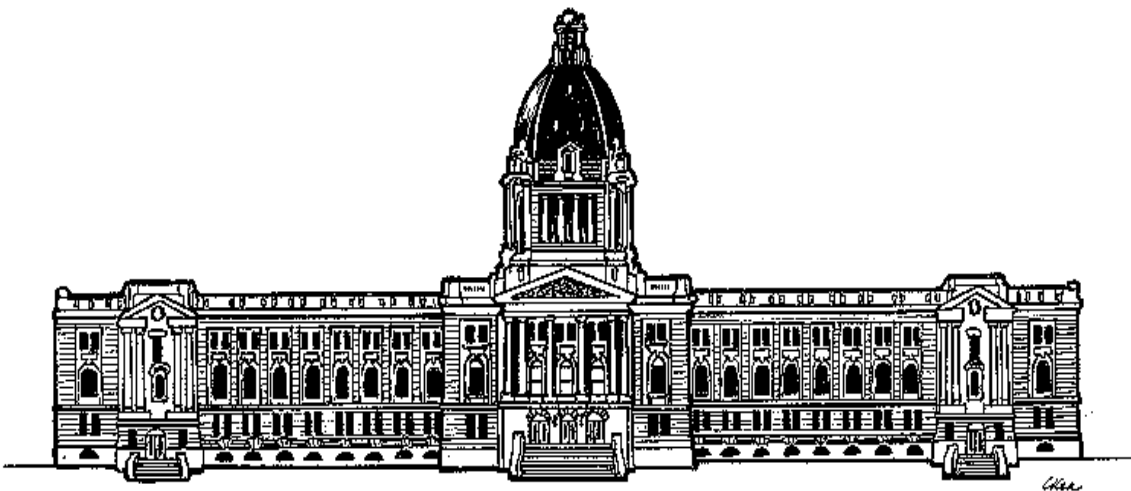




# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

**No. 1 – December 18, 2007**



**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**Twenty-sixth Legislature**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
2007**

Mr. Harry Van Mulligen, Chair  
Regina Douglas Park

Mr. Warren Michelson, Deputy Chair  
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Fred Bradshaw  
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Michael Chisholm  
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Mr. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Mr. John Nilson  
Regina Lakeview

Mr. Jim Reiter  
Rosetown-Elrose

[The committee met at 08:45.]

**Ms. Woods:** — Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We will begin the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. The first order of business this morning is the election of a Chair, and so without further ado I'll go right into asking if there's any nominations for the position of Chair. Mr. Nilson.

**Mr. Nilson:** — I move:

That Harry Van Mulligen be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

**Ms. Woods:** — Thank you. Are there any further nominations? No. All right. I'll just wait for the motion paper to be brought here. The question before the committee this morning then is:

That Harry Van Mulligen be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Does anyone wish to speak to the motion? No. If not, I'll put the question. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried, and I'll invite Mr. Van Mulligen to take the Chair.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much. I appreciate the honour of being elected to serve as the Chair. The next item of business before us then is the election of a Vice-Chair for the committee. And I wonder at this time if someone . . . or I will call for nominations for that position now. Yes, Mr. Bradshaw.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — I nominate Warren Michelson to be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Michelson has been nominated to the position of Vice-Chair. Are there any further nominations? If not, then seeing no further nominations I would now take the motion, moved by Mr. Bradshaw:

That Mr. Michelson be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. The next item of business then before us is the establishment of a steering committee, and it's normal practice for standing committees to have a steering committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair to assist in organizing the committee work. And it's normal to, yes, to entertain a motion at this point.

And if I could turn members to page 51 of your procedures manual if you have it. The proper motion to strike a subcommittee reads as follows:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings, and that the members be comprised of the Chair and Deputy Chair; and further

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

And if I could have a motion to that effect. Moved by Mr. Michelson, seconded by . . . well, we don't need a seconder in committees. Is there any discussion on that motion? That agreed? That is agreed.

The next item then is the authorization of broadcast of committee proceedings. I don't have a formal motion. What does . . . Mr. Michelson, you have a motion?

**Mr. Michelson:** —

That pursuant to rule 133(2), the committee authorize the broadcast of its public proceedings.

I'll make that motion.

**The Chair:** — That motion has been moved by Mr. Michelson:

That pursuant to rule 133(2), the committee authorizes the broadcasts of its public proceedings.

Is there any discussion? Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's agreed.

The next item of business before the committee then is consideration of agenda for intersessional meetings. One of the items that I think the steering committee will want to consider is an orientation session by the Provincial Auditor and the Provincial Comptroller and such other expertise as might be identified by them and the Clerk's office. We will also need to consider the business plan that has been put forward by the Provincial Auditor for the coming year, the business and financial plan, which will then guide other committees of this Legislative Assembly to ensure that proper funds are allocated for the Provincial Auditor's office.

And further there is also some outstanding business before the committees, I believe, from previous reports of the Provincial Auditor, and I don't know about public accounts, but I guess we'll find that out when we get to it. And there may well be further reports of the Provincial Auditor between now and when we meet again that we may also want to begin to consider.

So I'm suggesting at this point that these are items that be reviewed by the steering committee and taking a look at available dates that people have on their calendars and strike the appropriate meetings. It may go for a couple, it may go for three days. I'm not entirely clear. Is that agreed? We won't take a motion to that effect, or if we need a motion then . . .

**Mr. Michelson:** — Mr. Chair, yes, that's agreed. I think that's a good idea. I think we suggested that maybe June 7 to 11

would be appropriate. Is that open for discussion? Is there any  
...

**The Chair:** — If there's agreement that we meet January 7 through 11, in that time period, then we will endeavour to organize a meeting during that period of time. Mr. Michelson and I will work out the details with the Clerk's office and the representative of the Provincial Auditor and Provincial Comptroller. So thank you for that.

Before we close, I think it'd be appropriate to identify some very important officials who are likely to be with us — or I know they will always be with us — as we go forward. And one is the Provincial Auditor, Mr. Fred Wendel, and, Mr. Wendel, if you might introduce the official that is here with you today.

**Mr. Wendel:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. With me is Kim Lowe, and she will be at all our meetings. She's the liaison that I have with the committee to make sure we get the right officials here when you strike your agenda.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much and welcome to the committee. Also with us today is Terry Paton. Mr. Paton is the Provincial Comptroller, located within the Department of Finance. And, Mr. Paton, perhaps you could introduce the official who's here with you today.

**Mr. Paton:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me is Chris Bayda. Chris and I attend all the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, and we'll be bringing various other officials with us to assist in our deliberations as well.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much and we look forward to your presence at future meetings. If there is no further business before the committee I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Mr. Michelson:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — Moved by Mr. Michelson. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's agreed. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 08:58.]