



# **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

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**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**1999**

Rod Gantefer, Chair  
Melfort-Tisdale

Ned Shillington, Vice-Chair  
Regina Northeast

June Draude  
Kelvington-Wadena

Jack Hillson  
North Battleford

Walter Jess  
Redberry Lake

Mark Koenker  
Saskatoon Sutherland

Violet Stanger  
Lloydminster

Andrew Thomson  
Regina South

Grant Whitmore  
Saskatoon Northwest

**The Chair:** — With quorum being established I will call the meeting to order. The agenda has been circulated and includes an item in regards to sending delegates to the Quebec conference at the end of August. Are there any other items to include in the agenda? No. If not, a motion to accept the agenda?

**Ms. Stanger:** — I'll move that we accept it.

**The Chair:** — Okay, all those in favour? Agreed? Opposed? Hearing none, that's carried.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — We got past the hard stuff this time.

**The Chair:** — It's so easy sometimes. All right. I am informed by the Clerk that the recent past precedent has been to send the Chair or designate, the Vice-Chair or designate, a member of the third party, and the committee Clerk. Is that correct, Greg?

**Mr. Putz:** — That's correct.

**The Chair:** — I would entertain any motion in this regard.

**Mr. Putz:** — I have a motion here that I could read. And it's the standard motion other than replacing the committee Clerk, as Rod had requested since I cannot attend, with sending an extra member this time, noting that the committee Clerk is giving up that spot. The motion reads:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and two members of the committee at the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees to be held in Quebec City, Quebec, Sunday, August 29th through Tuesday, August 31st, 1999, and further that if the Chair or Vice-Chair cannot attend, that they may be authorized to designate another committee member to attend in their place.

**The Chair:** — You have heard the motion. Would someone be motivated to move that?

**Mr. Whitmore:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Grant, thank you. Any discussion on the motion?

**Mr. Shillington:** — I assume that . . . there is now a fourth member going. I assume that given the proportional breakdown on the committee, that one would expect the fourth member to come from the government caucus. Is that correct?

**The Chair:** — I think that's agreed and I think, Ned, we should establish who indeed the delegates are. For my part, I will be able to attend so will not need an alternate. Ned, how about yourself?

**Mr. Shillington:** — I expect to, although the jury isn't going to be in on that. That's the period of time when the kids come home from university and I don't think we're going to go anywhere so I think I'm okay, but I won't know for a period of time. So put me down as a yes and if it turns out that it's a no,

the government caucus will deal with that.

**The Chair:** — All right. The motion called for a member of the third party. Jack?

**Mr. Hillson:** — Yes, I think I can do it.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Then the question is to designate that fourth member in the place of Greg. Any suggestions?

**Mr. Shillington:** — Can we let you . . . that's kind of tough. We're not giving this the thought we should. We've not given this the thought we should have, Rod. Can we let . . . it's assumed to be a government caucus member. Can we let the Clerk's office know within a reasonable period of time?

**The Chair:** — Greg, I think there's some time requirements in terms of registration?

**Mr. Shillington:** — What are the time requirements, Greg?

**Mr. Putz:** — Well we need to know how many are going for sure by the end of July so we make the hotel arrangements.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Oh heavens, we can let you know long before then.

**Mr. Putz:** — And as long as we let the organizing party know that we will be having four delegates, I don't think we need to know the names other than booking air fares and that sort of thing. It would be . . .

**Mr. Shillington:** — Oh heavens, we can make a decision long before the end of July. It's just a little tough to do over the phone. We've not talked about it.

**Mr. Putz:** — We should qualify one thing, Ned says. The motion reads, and it has been the tradition and a requirement that it be a member of the committee, not just any government caucus member.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, yes. Right. Yes, it's a member of the committee who is part of the government caucus, that's right. I was just . . . I was not phrasing my thoughts.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Ned, Grant Whitmore here. And Rod. I make a suggestion that we would have a name by July 1.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Yes, that makes sense.

**The Chair:** — That would certainly be acceptable for my part. Greg, can we register . . . I think that there was some concern that hotel space may be limited? Could we book four spots irregardless of the names at this stage or the last name? I guess we'd have three of the names tentatively.

**Mr. Putz:** — We can book the four rooms indicating that there will be four delegates from Saskatchewan.

**The Chair:** — Now, I also think it's a further issue. I believe it's possible that other members may want to attend this conference out of their MLA (Member of the Legislative

Assembly) travel allowance in addition to the official group.

**Ms. Stanger:** — I just want you to know that I've already registered. I've let the Clerk's office know. And I made my reservations at the hotel and they are tight. And I've booked my flight out of my travel allowance so I'm going to do this.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Have you promised not to create a diplomatic incident, Vi?

**Ms. Stanger:** — Absolutely. But who knows between Germany and Quebec what will happen.

**The Chair:** — If you and Bill don't create an international incident in Germany, I'm sure we will in Quebec.

Okay is there any further discussion? I think I hear consensus that it is acceptable that the fourth member be a member of the government side of the committee and that the government caucus will name that individual before July 1. And that Greg's office will look after taking care of booking the flights and accommodation. Does anybody not wish him to do that?

**Ms. Stanger:** — I'm losing you, you guys, so I have to go. I think the business is over anyway, isn't it?

**Mr. Shillington:** — I think so essentially, Vi.

**Ms. Stanger:** — Yes, okay. Good-bye.

**Mr. Putz:** — Rod, you need to put the question on the motion yet.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Yes, then I hear this consensus. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed? Hearing none, that's carried. Is there anything further, Greg?

**Mr. Putz:** — Just to underscore the need for those attending as committee delegates to inform the office here who's going and whether you'd like us to make your travel arrangements by booking the airline tickets and the hotel. We'll phone and we'll reserve the hotel room, or if you're rather make your own travel preparations then we need to know that as well as soon as possible.

**The Chair:** — Well, Greg, you can put me down for your office handling all of that. What about you, Jack?

**Mr. Hillson:** — Yes, I think so, but I think Annmarie will be accompanying me. So if you could contact me and then . . . so I can make the arrangements for Annmarie's ticket.

**Mr. Putz:** — Yes, okay. Vi has informed us she is going to attend using her travel allowance and I spoke to her about that yesterday, some of the details on that. Are any of the other members wishing to do that as well?

**Mr. Koenker:** — I may do that. I don't know about my commitments at the end of August right now, but I will be in touch with you, Greg.

**Mr. Putz:** — Okay, just a reminder then that you can claim the expenses for the conference on your MLA travel and you

should be in touch. I think you've done this before haven't you, Mark?

**Mr. Koenker:** — Right.

**Mr. Putz:** — Just a reminder that also there is a registration fee for delegates of \$250. If you're travelling on your own . . . on your own MLA expenses, then under the Directive 4.1 constituency services, you'll have to write a letter to the Speaker to have him pre-approve the registration fee.

**Mr. Koenker:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — Is there anything the committee needs to do, Greg, by way of a motion to assist these members to accompany us?

**Mr. Putz:** — No. We contacted Quebec yesterday and they informed us that they don't have a restriction on the number of members wishing to attend the conference. They have some big delegations, in particular from the House of Commons. They're sending 11 members apparently. So that's not an issue here. But I would imagine, like any conference organizers, they'd like to know sooner rather than later the number of people attending so that they can plan accordingly. So if any of you are, then you might want to keep that in mind if you're attending outside of the ones that the committee just designated.

**The Chair:** — All right. Well members, thank you very much. I believe this is the first conference call meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts so technology moves forward. Thank you very much for your prompt attendance at it and have a good summer.

**Mr. Whitmore:** — Well I'm waiting for the video link so we don't have to go to Regina at all.

**Mr. Putz:** — We need a motion to adjourn, Rod.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Motion to adjourn.

**The Chair:** — Who moved that?

**Mr. Shillington:** — Ned Shillington.

**The Chair:** — See you later people. Have a good summer. Have a good day.

The committee adjourned at 8:45 a.m.