



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS
2004**

Mr. Kevin Yates, Chair
Regina Dewdney

Mr. Allan Kerpan, Deputy Chair
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Graham Addley
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Greg Brkich
Arm River-Watrous

Ms. Doreen Eagles
Estevan

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Ms. Sandra Morin
Regina Walsh Acres

The committee met at 10:00.

Ms. Ronyk: — If we're ready to begin, I will call the first meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills for the twenty-fifth legislature to order. And the first item of business is the election of Chair, and I ask for nominations for the position of Chair.

Ms. Eagles: — I nominate Kevin Yates. Kevin gave me a list of fine things to say about him, but I'm just going to decline at this point. And I do nominate you though, Kevin.

Ms. Ronyk: — Thank you very much. Are there other nominations? If not, we'll take that nomination as a motion to elect Mr. Yates as Chair, moved by Ms. Eagles. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Ronyk: — Mr. Yates then will take the Chair, please.

The Chair: — I'd just like to thank my nominator. All right, the next item of business is the election of the Deputy Chair, so I'll open the floor for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr. McCall: — I nominate Allan Kerpan.

The Chair: — Okay, we have Mr. Kerpan nominated. Any further nominations? Third and final time, are there any further nominations? All right, Mr. Kerpan has been nominated. Do you accept?

Mr. Kerpan: — Yes, I do. Thank you very much.

The Chair: — Okay, item no. 3, all right our next item is the decision on the broadcast and Web cast of the Private Bills Committee proceedings. To give a little bit of a background on this issue, in the past this committee's proceedings have not been broadcast, and the time constraints on the amount of available time that we have for broadcasts would make it probably more difficult as we have more and more committees taking place. So do we have a recommendation to either broadcast or not broadcast the proceedings of this committee?

Mr. McCall: — I would suggest no.

The Chair: — Okay. Mr. McCall has moved we not broadcast proceedings. Is there a seconder for that motion? Second it, and then we'll ask questions. Yes, okay. Mr. Kerpan seconded it. Then we'll open it for questions. Yes, Mr. Kerpan.

Mr. Kerpan: — I guess I'm just . . . I'm new here obviously and have not been in a committee up until today, but what is the normal procedure with broadcasting of committees? I know that this committee probably isn't one of the ones that would be perceived as priority in the legislature. But having said that, are there things that perhaps we could or should be doing that might make it so? And if not, then I certainly agree that we shouldn't look at broadcast.

The Chair: — I turn it over to the Clerk for a response.

Ms. Ronyk: — Mr. Chair, and Mr. Kerpan, what I can do is tell

you what the usual business of the committee is, and then the committee can decide whether they wish to broadcast it. This is the first year of course that any of our committees will be broadcast, so the broadcasting was primarily designed for the policy field committees that are doing the work that was historically done in the House.

This committee will meet very briefly a first time to deal with the petitions for private Bills, so that meeting is usually very short. And the second meeting is after the Bill has been referred back here from second reading, and it is when the witnesses who are the petitioners for the Bill are appearing and answering any questions about the clause-by-clause detail on the Bill.

I think what might be . . . the committee might want to consider is that some years there are very special or difficult Bills, for example, say a Sask Wheat Pool Bill. And that one, there very well could be general public wanting to come and be heard, and the committee may very well want to have a hearing on that.

But the general Bills are . . . private Bills are for charitable organizations, religious organizations. There's usually very little controversy, and sometimes there are very few questions regarding them. They're pretty straightforward housekeeping. Maybe they're changing their name or whatever, and so those meetings are usually generally very short, and there aren't a lot of questions.

The Chair: — Thank you. Mr. McCall.

Mr. McCall: — I guess in terms of moving this motion, I don't see it as precluding any decision that this committee may make in the future in terms of requesting access to the broadcasting capabilities of the legislature. But in terms of . . . And you know, maybe I would do well to ask my elders on this, that have more experience in the House and more experience with this committee, but my experience of this committee has been that most of it is relatively straightforward.

People have access through the public record which is *Hansard* to the proceedings of the committee. So there's . . . I guess, you know, to further explain why I moved the motion, that's my assessment. And like I say, I don't think this precludes us from any kind of future decision around broadcasting opportunities, but for the most part it's all pretty straightforward stuff.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you for that clarification.

The Chair: — Okay thank you. Are there any further questions on this issue? All right we have a motion made by Mr. McCall before the committee that we not broadcast the Private Members' Bill Committee.

Okay we'll read that, that the proceedings not be broadcast unless otherwise ordered by the committee. All those in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

All right, the next item for consideration is decision on the establishment of a steering committee. The practice normally in this situation would be that the Chair and the Vice-Chair would become the steering committee, and they would consult about times to meet and the business of the committee prior to a

meeting being called. Mr. Addley.

Mr. Addley: — I move that the committee establish a steering committee made up of the Chair and Deputy Chair, Mr. Yates and Mr. Kerpan.

The Chair: — Okay, thank you, Mr. Addley.

Mr. Addley: — Do you want me to read the whole thing?

The Chair: — Yes please.

Mr. Addley: — Okay I move:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings and that the membership be comprised of the Chair and the 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; that the presence of all members of the subcommittee is necessary to constitute a meeting; and that substitutions from the membership of the Private Bills Committee be permitted on this steering committee.

The Chair: — Very well worded, Mr. Addley. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? That's carried.

The final item of business today is consideration of the following petitions: Petition 301 — of the Bethany Bible Institute, in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to amend its Act of incorporation.

Could we ask the Law Clerk to give us a few words on this issue . . . or the Clerk, pardon me.

Ms. Ronyk: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. You've each received a copy of the report that the rules require the Clerk to make to the committee, and it's reporting to the committee whether the rules have been complied with.

And my report shows that on Petition 301 — of the Bethany Bible Institute, that all of the rules have been complied with for the filing of the materials, paying of the fees, and the publication of their notices of petition in newspapers and in the *Gazette*. And there is no material in the petition that was not covered in the notices in the newspapers.

The Chair: — Okay. Do we have a motion to accept petition 301? A move of Mr. McCall. Is there anyone who'd like speak to Petition No. 301 — of the Bethany Bible Institute, in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to amend its incorporation. Seeing if anyone would like to speak to it.

Seeing none, all those in favour of acceptance of their petition? Okay. Opposed? That is carried.

Petition 302 — of the Fountain of Life School of Ministry, in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to provide authority to grant religious and theological degrees . . . or theology degrees, pardon me.

Again it would appear from the information filed by the Clerk's office that they have fully complied with all the rules. Do we have a motion to accept the petition? Ms. Eagles. Any discussion? Yes, Mr. Toth.

Mr. Toth: — Yes, I'd just like to say that I've been in touch with the school, and Fountain of Life School of Ministry, and in touch with the Clerk's office and passed on information. And as the Clerk has indicated, they have followed through on all the information, the required information necessary. And it would seem to me that the request is fairly simple and straightforward, and I would recommend acceptance.

The Chair: — Thank you. Do we have a motion to accept this petition? All those in favour? Opposed? Thank you.

All right. The final petition before us today is Petition 303 — of the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association, in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to amend its Act of incorporation.

Once again, the information filed with us by the Clerk indicates they have fully complied with all their rules and procedures in their petition. Do we have a motion to accept the petition? Mr. McCall. Any discussion?

Mr. McCall: — Yes. As I understand, Mr. Speaker, I'll be working as the sponsor of the Bill, given that their association headquarters are in the riding of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, and I've been in touch with functionaries from there and with the legal Clerk regarding the progress of this Bill. And it's largely straightforward.

It's about changing the name from school trustees to the School Boards of Saskatchewan Association, so it's pretty straightforward.

The Chair: — Could I ask another member to move the Bill? As you are the sponsor, Mr. McCall, it be most appropriate if somebody else moved the Bill.

Moved by Mr. Addley that we accept the Petition No. 303. Seeing no further discussion, all those in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

All right. We have a draft report to the House that's being passed around, and I'd like a motion to approve the report as written. Could I have somebody move that this report be adopted and presented to the Assembly? Ms. Eagles. Any discussion? Any questions? Seeing none, all those in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

Okay. If we could just have a few minutes, the Law Clerk would and the Clerk of the Assembly will give us a briefing, a little bit about the procedure as we move through the process.

Ms. Ronyk: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This afternoon the report will be presented to the House, and according to the rules the private Bill then is automatically deemed to have been introduced and read the first time today.

So it will appear on the order paper under second readings tomorrow, and presumably then we could do it on . . . we could

do the second reading of the Bills on Friday if the sponsors of the Bills are here. Friday is private members' day, and private Bills be at the top of the private members' day agenda. So we could do the second readings on Friday morning if that works for the members.

The Bills then after second reading are . . . the motion for second reading is that the Bill be read a second time and be referred back to this committee. Then this committee will, after Friday if the Bills go through, will have the Bills before them again.

And I'm proposing that the committee could perhaps meet as early as next Thursday, May 6, or the week after. I'll leave that to the steering committee to perhaps sort out. But we do like to give the petitioners at least a week's notice, and we try to arrange it at a time that's possible for them to come in and go home in the same day, kind of thing.

And then at that meeting, the petitioners are expected to appear and answer any questions as the Chair goes through the Bill on a clause-by-clause basis. And the Law Clerk then also will report on the Bill itself and if it's properly put together — whether there's anything unusual about it — and will answer any questions that you have. And the Bill could be amended as well at that point.

And then when it goes back to the House, it still goes through Committee of the Whole. So again the movers of the Bill need to be there in the next private members' day after this committee is finished with the Bill to do the Committee of the Whole stage. And then that third reading usually happens the very same day as well. So there's quite a few hoops for these private Bills to go through. But it will, you know, go through without too much time at the committee stage.

The Chair: — Are there any questions of I guess myself or the Clerk, who understands this process far better than I ever will? All right. Seeing no further questions, I will take from the silence that Mr. Kerpan and I will get together to talk about an appropriate day to move this process forward and that we should be prepared to bring forward first . . . second reading of these Bills this coming Friday if possible.

Are all the petitioners prepared to be ready for Friday? Mr. Heppner, Mr. Toth, Mr. McCall? Okay, thank you very much.

We'd take a motion to adjourn at this time.

Mr. Kerpan: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Kerpan moves that we adjourn. All those in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

The committee adjourned at 10:20.

