



Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
1999**

Lloyd Johnson, Chair
Shellbrook-Spiritwood

Bill Boyd, Vice-Chair
Kindersley

Arlene Julé
Humboldt

Jack Langford
Saskatchewan Rivers

Suzanne Murray
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley

Sharon Murrell
Battleford-Cut Knife

Ron Osika
Melville

Larry Ward
Estevan

Grant Whitmore
Saskatoon Northwest

The Chair: — I will call the meeting to order. And one of the first items of business that we need to do before we can get on to the four Bills that we have here is to elect a Vice-Chair for the committee.

A Member: — Are there any other candidates?

The Chair: — I ask for . . . okay if someone is prepared to nominate. Grant Whitmore had his hand up.

Mr. Whitmore: — I would like to nominate Mr. Bill Boyd.

A Member: — I wanted to nominate him.

A Member: — You can second it.

The Chair: — No seconders are needed, if I understand correctly. Okay, is everyone agreed? Okay. Sorry, I moved one step too fast. We need a motion to close nominations.

Ms. Murray: — I so move.

The Chair: — Suzanne Murray moved. Now all those in favour of nominations closing. It's carried.

Okay, I would ask that someone move that Bill Boyd be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills.

Okay. Is everybody agreed with the motion? Opposed? Seeing none, carried.

I believe everybody has a copy of the Clerk's report to indicate that there are Bills 301, 302, 303, and 304, and that they have been examined and comply with the rules.

We're going to . . . at this particular meeting what we have to do is pass a motion accepting that the petitions be accepted as presented. And I guess that's where we are at the present time.

So is someone willing to move a motion that Bill 301, that the petition 301 be accepted?

Ms. Murrell: — I so move.

The Chair: — All those in favour of that please indicate.

Ms. Julé: — Can I have a question please? I'm wondering how one is expected to accept a petition when one doesn't know what's contained within the petition.

The Chair: — Okay. What this basically does is equals first reading in the Assembly. When this is presented to the Assembly, it equals first reading. And then everything comes back to this committee for questions when there are people here from the petitioners that can answer the questions.

Mr. Putz: — Do you want me to go through the process?

The Chair: — Please. Greg will go through the process. It will bring me up to date as well.

Mr. Putz: — This process begins by an organization or individual seeking a private Act be passed by asking a member to sponsor a Bill. And some of the members who were to sponsor two of the four Bills were here. And the process begins by following a number of rules. The organization has to advertise in the *Gazette*, has to advertise in an English language newspaper.

There are number of steps that have to be followed. And on the basis of that, they petition the Assembly to bring in a Bill. That's where we're at right now.

I have the petitions here if you'd like to examine them. But what this committee is doing today is accepting the petition in order that the Bill may be, under the rules, deemed to have been read a first time.

Then when an opportunity presents itself, usually the next private members' day, the Bills will be put on the order paper for second reading and the member has an opportunity then, the member sponsoring the Bill, to say a few comments desired before moving the Bill.

And what happens then under the rules is that the Bill is . . . the motion is that the Bill be read a second time or referred back to this committee.

It's at that point there's a detailed examination of the Bill clause by clause. The petitioners are allowed to be here to explain the purpose of the Bill. And it's also advertised so that anybody who is opposed to the Bill or wants to speak in favour of the Bill also has that opportunity. So that would be the next step.

The committee then would report the Bill back to the House for Committee of the Whole consideration, and then third reading in the House.

Now the Law Clerk is with us here today, Mr. Garnet Holtzmann, the Acting Law Clerk. He can give you an idea in a superficial way the content of each of the Bills — although he is not the proponent of the Bill. The Law Clerk has a duty to examine the Bill to make sure they're in proper form, and he has an idea of the content of the Bill. So you may . . . If you have a question of each of these petitions to see what the petitioners are petitioning for in the form of legislation, the Law Clerk could answer that for you today in a superficial way.

But you will . . . This committee will have a chance to asked detailed questions once the proponents of the Bill appear before the committee to present the Bill.

Ms. Julé: — Thank you.

The Chair: — Okay. Perhaps before I revert back and go . . . and at the speed I was going. Is there any further comments or questions? Okay.

Then those in favour of — what is it that we've got — the petition that the Bill be accepted. And it was moved by Murrell and so I'm asking now all those in favour please indicate? Down. Those opposed? It's carried.

Okay. Petition 302. Do I have someone to move?

Ms. Murray: — I so move, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Okay. Is there any comments or questions related to this? Okay. Seeing none. Are all those in favour, please indicate? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

For petition 303 that it be accepted as presented. Do I have a mover?

Mr. Ward: — I move that.

The Chair: — Okay. Mr. Ward. Any comments? Questions? Seeing none. All those in favour please indicate? Down. Those opposed? It's carried.

For petition 304 do I have a mover that the petition be accepted? Jack Langford moves that it be accepted. Is there any comments or questions related to this? Seeing none. All those in favour please indicate? Down. Those opposed? Seeing none. It's carried.

We will have a draft of the report that will be presented in the House. We'll check it over and have someone either move the report as . . . the draft as presented, or if there's some amendment to be made to it, we do so.

Okay. Do I have someone that will move a motion that we adopt the report and present it to the Assembly? Grant Whitmore, moved.

Any comment on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favour, please indicate. Down. Those opposed? Carried.

Now we have . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Okay. Then we are . . . we've come to the end of things. We only need now a motion to adjourn and everybody can go about their life. Arlene Julé.

Seeing that everyone is leaving, the motion is carried.

The committee adjourned at 11:12 a.m.