

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

April 27th, 2000

MINUTE NO. 1

8:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Speaker in the Chair and Members D'Autremont, Higgins, Hillson, Kowalsky, McMorris and Thomson.
2. The Chair of the Committee presided over the election of a Vice-Chair. Mr. Thomson nominated Mr. Kowalsky for the position. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair close.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

It was moved by Mr. Thomson:

That Mr. Myron Kowalsky be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Rules and Procedures.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. The Speaker recommended that the Deputy Clerk of the Assembly be appointed to serve as Clerk to the Committee. It was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That Gregory Putz, Deputy Clerk, be appointed as Clerk of the Special Committee on Rules and Procedures.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

4. The Committee authorized the production of verbatim reports of its proceedings by Hansard.
5. The Committee considered its order of reference from the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker presented the Committee with a list of possible agenda topics compiled from items raised by the caucuses and from items identified by previous Rules Committees and Speakers. The following document was tabled by Mr. Speaker:

RPC 01/24 Proposed Topics for Rules Committee Review

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6. Mr. Thomson presented the Government Caucus proposal for agenda topics for subsequent meetings and tabled the following document:

RPC 02/24 Making the Legislature Work: Democratic Reform for a new Century. A Discussion Paper sponsored by New Democrat MLAs: Myron Kowalsky, MLA; Andrew Thomson, MLA; and Deb Higgins, MLA, dated April 2000.

7. Mr. D'Autremont provided an outline of Opposition Caucus proposals for agenda topics, which were originally presented to Mr. Speaker through correspondence on February 3, 2000.
8. The Committee considered the agenda topics related to the modernization of the Legislative Chamber. The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of preliminary cost estimates for computer network wiring of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Building; wiring of the Legislative Chamber for use of lap-tops and access to computer networks; and cost implications of networking the building and chamber with wireless technology.
9. The Committee deliberated on a method of operation and the establishment of agenda priorities. It was agreed that the Committee would work towards developing a substantive report for early in the next session. It was further agreed that a sub-committee on agenda and procedure be established (steering committee). It was moved by Mr. Hillson:

That a Steering Committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings, and that the membership to be comprised of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kowalsky and Mr. D'Autremont.

A debate arising and the question being put, the motion was agreed to.

10. The Committee identified certain changes to the rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly as issues of immediate priority as follows:
 - Use of lap-top computers in the Legislative Chamber
 - Substitution of membership on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
 - Beverages in the Legislative Chamber.

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11. In consideration of the priority issue concerning lap-top computers, it was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That the use of lap-top computers be allowed in the Legislative Chamber subject to the following restrictions as interpreted by the Chair:

- (a) they must operate silently
- (b) they must not be used by the member who has the floor or is involved in the exchange of remarks

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

12. In consideration of the priority issue concerning committee substitutions, it was moved by Mr. Kowalsky:

That Rule 94(4) of the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly be amended to add the words "and on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts" after "Constitutional Affairs" in the third line.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

13. In consideration of the priority issue concerning beverages in the Legislative Chamber, it was moved by Mr. Thomson:

That non-alcoholic beverages be permissible in the Chamber at all times, in discreet containers as approved by the Speaker.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

14. The Committee considered a first report to the Legislative Assembly. It was agreed that the priority issues identified should be developed into a report. Mr. Speaker was asked to draft a report for presentation to the Assembly later this day (April 27th, 2000).

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15. The Committee considered how to inform the public about its order of reference from the Assembly. It was agreed that when the Steering Committee has developed a method of operation for subsequent meetings, Mr. Speaker would prepare a public media release for those items requiring publicity.

16. It was moved by Mr. McMorris:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

17. The Committee adjourned at 9:43 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Honourable Ron Osika
Speaker