

FIRST REPORT of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Special Committee on Rules and Procedures, presented the First Report of the said committee, which is as follows:

Your Committee met for organization and appointed Mr. Kowalsky as Vice-Chair.

Your Committee considered its terms of reference, as well as proposals from the Government and Opposition caucuses with respect to the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly. A sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure (Steering Committee) comprising of Mr. Speaker as Chair, together with Mr. Kowalsky and Mr. D'Autremont, was appointed by your Committee to establish a business agenda for subsequent meetings.

In consideration of proposals for changes to rules and practices, your Committee considered certain issues of priority and makes the following recommendations for immediate implementation:

Use of Lap-top Computers in the Legislative Chamber

Your Committee recommends:

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

Substitution of Membership for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Your Committee recommends:

That Rule 94(4) of the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly be amended to add the words the "Standing Committee on Public Accounts" to the list of Committees authorized to allow substitution of membership.

Beverages in the Legislative Chamber

Your Committee recommends that:

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

It is your Committee's intention to monitor these changes to the rules and practices if implemented. It is also your Committee's intention to continue meeting and to prepare a substantive report at the beginning of the next session of this 24th Legislature.

Hon. Ron Osika
Speaker and Chair of the Special Committee
on Rules and Procedures