



# **Special Committee on Tobacco Control**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

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**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TOBACCO CONTROL  
1999**

Myron Kowalsky, Chair  
Prince Albert Carlton

Doreen Eagles, Vice-Chair  
Estevan

Graham Addley  
Saskatoon Sutherland

Brenda Bakken  
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Bob Bjornerud  
Saltcoats

Debbie Higgins  
Moose Jaw Wakamow

Mark Wartman  
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley

**Mr. Putz:** — I would like to bring this meeting of the Special Committee Tobacco Control to order. As committee Clerk to this special committee, it is my duty at its first meeting to preside over the election of the Chair and I will call for nominations for that position now.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Nominate Myron Kowalsky as Chair.

**Mr. Putz:** — Mr. Bjornerud has nominated Mr. Kowalsky to the position of Chair. Any further nominations?

**Mr. Addley:** — I move nominations cease.

**Mr. Putz:** — No further nominations. Mr. Addley has moved that nominations close. All those in favour of the motion please signify. All those opposed? I declare the motion as carried.

Now, I would invite one of the members to move a motion that Mr. Kowalsky be elected to preside as Chair of this Special Committee on Tobacco Control.

**Mr. Wartman:** — I'll move that.

**Mr. Putz:** — Mr. Wartman has moved that Mr. Myron Kowalsky be elected to preside as Chair of this Special Committee on Tobacco Control.

All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? I declare the motion as carried and invite Mr. Kowalsky to take the Chair.

**The Chair:** — Well thank you very much. I have to say that that's the easiest election I've ever won.

And Greg advises that the next item on the agenda would be to elect a Vice-Chair. I have been in discussion with Mr. Bjornerud about inviting the opposition to propose a member for the Vice-Chair. So with that, nominations will now be open for the position of Vice-Chair.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — I put Doreen Eagles name forward as Vice-Chair.

**The Chair:** — Doreen Eagles has been nominated to the position of Vice-Chair. Any further nominations?

**Ms. Higgins:** — I move nominations cease.

**The Chair:** — Nominations — motion for nominations to be ceased. Is there a seconder? Don't need one. All in favour. Then I declare Doreen Eagles has been elected Vice-Chair.

We have to move this yet. So then we need an official motion to be signed.

We have a motion moved by Bob Bjornerud that Doreen Eagles be elected to preside as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Tobacco Control. Are we in favour of the motion? Any opposed? None. Then the motion is carried unanimously. Now we can declare you official elected as Vice-Chair.

In order to set an agenda for the committee and decide how,

how we are going to proceed from here on, I have a motion that's been prepared by Mr. Putz and it reads this way. I'll read the motion first of all:

The subcommittee on agenda and procedure (the steering committee) comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair be appointed to make recommendations to the committee on the following matters:

- a) how the committee should proceed to study its order of reference;
- b) selection of a committee researcher and any other assistant as might be necessary;
- c) times and locations of hearings;
- d) witnesses;
- e) committee budget;
- f) quorum for the purposes of receiving testimony.

And further:

That the subcommittee shall meet as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair.

I think that what I would like to do is open it up for discussion or comments. Perhaps what I should do first is ask Greg, you might want to have a comment or two on how you see this committee operating and why you're recommending this particular resolution.

**Mr. Putz:** — Sure. Mr. Chair, the way the word — the motion — is worded is fairly standard for investigative types of committees of this Assembly. In the past when we've had these type of committees, just to provide some flexibility so that the committee doesn't have to meet as a whole group and so that there is a representative from each caucus, a subcommittee is struck and then they work out sort of in broad strokes what the committee wants to do and then comes back to the main committee with a report recommending one method of operation and maybe a budget proposal; and then it's up to the committee in the final analysis to decide and agree to that, that plan as devised by the subcommittee.

Now in doing this behind the scenes it's my understanding that the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consulting with their members on the committee part of their caucus, that they'll have the approval of those members and when a report is made it's something that everybody likely has agreed to.

But anyways, the . . . given the closeness to Christmas and the need, as I understand it, to report back to the House sometime during spring, this just gives the committee a little more flexibility so that instead of trying to figure out who can meet, with seven agendas and calendars, then it's just two people and then they can get back in the regular course of their caucus affairs in getting feedback from their other members of the committee.

So anyways, that's the procedure that's been used in the past and that's just a suggestion. The committee's open to reject that or to accept that as it sees fit.

**The Chair:** — The orders of reference here, refer to the motion passed . . .

**Mr. Putz:** — The order of reference passed by the House. That's the instruction to this committee to conduct this inquiry.

**The Chair:** — Anybody with comments or questions? No problems?

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Satisfactory to us.

**The Chair:** — All right. Maybe I could get somebody to move the motion, then. Mark?

**Mr. Wartman:** — I move:

That a subcommittee on agenda and procedure, steering committee, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair be appointed to make recommendations to the committee on the following matters: a) how the committee should proceed to study its order of reference; b) selection of a committee researcher and any other assistants as might be necessary; c) times and locations of hearings; d) witnesses; e) a committee budget; f) quorum for the purpose of receiving testimony.

And further, that the subcommittee shall meet as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair.

I move that.

**The Chair:** — The motion made by Mr. Wartman. Will the committee take it as read? Those in favour? Any opposed? None. Thank you. Motion is carried.

I just want to say that on this, what I anticipate we should be thinking about first and we'll be, maybe, consulting with our members on it — Doreen and I — would be about the times when the hearings should be held; when you feel it would be comfortable to hold them and to start them; and about a process to hire a researcher.

My understanding is that the normal procedure would be for us to request Greg to set up an ad which would then be advertised for a suitable amount of time, then to ask him to peruse the applications, maybe bring it down to a workable list of maybe three to five people or something like that. At that stage, consult with us and we would together perhaps make a recommendation to this group as to who should be hired.

And once we can get . . . if we can get those two things underway, then . . . I think another important thing is to come up with some opinions as to where you think the committee should go. Should we leave the legislature? Should we go into your particular communities, and how many communities? Should we be visiting some schools? Should we be visiting special interest groups? And we'll probably get some help from our researcher once we get this going.

I will be checking with the minister to see what kind of a file they have on this too. Because I know there have been groups that have been . . . that we know are going to be presenting to this group because they've been presenting to the caucus and government all along. So maybe there is some information we can get from them.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — . . . looking at the report of the Select Committee on Driving Safety. And I think it was 12 communities, Greg, you had said that it had been to. So maybe there's some guidelines here that we could kind of roughly go by and adjust to this accordingly if we want changes.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Lists of schools they visited, and stuff like that.

**The Chair:** — Good. So we'll be in contact on that.

Now there has been a request to meet the committee before the committee was even struck I think. And maybe, Greg, you can inform us on that.

**Mr. Putz:** — I don't know how the federal Minister of Health heard about our committee but apparently he heard about the committee in the Throne Speech. And I believe it's Mr. Rock, he's going to be in Regina on January 10 and 11 and he's requested that if the committee is organized in time, if he could meet with the committee. And I'm not sure that this committee will be up and running with its researcher and have completed its game plan for its hearing schedule at the time, but it's something the committee might want to consider whether they want to hear from Mr. Rock and what the federal government is doing on this issue at that time and just . . . and we'll have *Hansard* and that will be recorded and taken into consideration if necessary.

There is this request and we just want to make sure that committee was aware of that and be able to make a decision about that request.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — I suppose even if we're not really up and running, it would not hurt to probably sit in with them and talk to them.

**The Chair:** — There's agreement then we should proceed with this, and we'll ask Greg to make the appropriate contacts and give us a time and date. On something like this, I would think that if there's somebody has a pressing family matter or holiday or something and we can't all make it, as long as there is a, you know, a sufficient number, say five people that we can . . . four, five then we can still go ahead with it.

**Mr. Putz:** — Normal quorum is half plus one for having a meeting, and as the steering committee will look at something less than that for the public hearing process, which again is standard procedure.

**The Chair:** — Now are there any other items? If not I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bjornerud moved to adjourn. All in favour?

**Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Anybody opposed? Thank you very

much. Thank you for your attendance.

The committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m.