



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Special Committee on Electoral Reform

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

MINUTES

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Committee Meeting Room, Yukon Legislative Assembly, Whitehorse

The Special Committee on Electoral Reform met in camera this day at 1:31 p.m., the Chair, Kate White, presiding.

Members present: Kate White, Chair,
Brad Cathers, Vice-Chair, and
Hon. John Streicker (by videoconference).

Also present: Dan Cable, Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly,
Allison Lloyd, Clerk to the Committee
Helen Fitzsimmons, Director of Administration, Finance and
Systems

Approval of Agenda

It was agreed, on motion of Mr. Cathers,
THAT the agenda for Meeting No. 7 of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform
be adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting No. 5 (September 17, 2021)

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, seconded by Mr. Cathers,
THAT the minutes for Meeting No. 5 (September 17, 2021) of the Special
Committee on Electoral Reform be adopted as presented and made public.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting No. 6 (September 29, 2021)

It was agreed, on motion of Mr. Cathers,
THAT the minutes for Meeting No. 6 (September 29, 2021) of the Special
Committee on Electoral Reform be adopted as presented and made public.

Work Plan

The committee discussed its work plan.

It was agreed, on motion of Mr. Cathers, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Streicker,
THAT the committee extend the deadline for the committee researcher, Dr. Keith
Archer, to submit his final report to the committee from October 21, 2021, to
October 31, 2021.

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, seconded by Mr. Cathers, THAT the committee seek to have the terms of reference for the Special Committee on Electoral Reform, as established by Motion No. 61 of the First Session of the 35th Legislative Assembly, amended by the House by changing the special committee's reporting deadline from March 31, 2022, to the 2022 Fall Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

It was proposed that the Chair request the unanimous consent of the Legislative Assembly to move the motion to extend the committee's reporting deadline outside of the time dedicated for Private Members' Business.

Committee members noted that the committee's request to Members' Services Board for funding could be spread over two fiscal years if the committee's reporting deadline is extended by the Legislative Assembly.

The committee reviewed the survey options presented by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics at the meeting on September 29, 2021. Committee members discussed the independence of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics from the Department of Finance.

It was agreed, on motion of the Chair, seconded by Mr. Cathers, THAT the Special Committee on Electoral Reform use the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to prepare and conduct a survey including a letter and email with the survey link and a unique PIN code, and providing an option for respondents to include their name.

Committee members discussed plans for a communications contractor to be hired to make the information prepared by the committee researcher accessible to the public.

It was proposed that the committee could hold public hearings with expert witnesses prior to the hearings during which the committee would invite feedback from the general public. Potential witnesses were discussed. The committee considered whether advocacy groups should be included in the initial public hearings. Logistics for both in person hearings and videoconference hearings were discussed.

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, seconded by Mr. Cathers, THAT, in the event that the committee's reporting deadline is extended by the House, the committee hold the first public hearings with expert witnesses in January 2022.


Discussion on the draft letter to Yukon municipalities, local advisory councils and First Nations regarding public hearings was deferred to a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform will be to the call of the Chair.

Committee members noted a preference for meetings to be scheduled on Fridays when the Legislative Assembly is sitting.

At 2:25 p.m. the committee adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allison Lloyd", is written over a horizontal line.

Allison Lloyd
Clerk to the Committee