

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly



**Fourth Report
of the
Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and
Privileges**

Gendered Forms of Address

October 2022



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

Fourth Report

On May 17, 2021, the Yukon Legislative Assembly adopted the following motion, as amended:

THAT the Hon. Richard Mostyn, the Hon. John Streicker, Patti McLeod, Brad Cathers, and Annie Blake be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges established pursuant to Standing Order 45(1);

THAT the committee meet a minimum of four times each calendar year;

THAT the committee convene no later than 30 days after the adoption of this motion by the Assembly;

THAT the committee have the power to call for persons, papers, and records and to sit during intersessional periods;

THAT the committee review, as necessary, such standing orders as it may decide upon;

THAT the committee, following the conduct of any such review, report any recommendations for amendment to the Assembly; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the committee.
(Motion No. 9)

Pursuant to this Order of the House and Standing Order 45(1), the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges met in 2021 on June 11, August 17, September 21, and December 21, and in 2022 on February 10, 17 and 24, and October 14, to review the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Emily Tredger served as a substitute for committee member Annie Blake at the meetings from June 2021 through February 2022. On April 14, 2022, the Legislative Assembly amended the membership of the committee with the adoption of Motion No. 302, thereby replacing committee member Annie Blake with Emily Tredger.

This fourth report contains the committee's recommendations on gendered forms of address.

Committee Consideration of Gendered Forms of Address

The topic of gendered forms of addresses was discussed in the committee's meetings on September 21 and December 21, 2021 and February 17 and October 14, 2022. The committee considered the Legislative Assembly's current practices and reviewed the use of gendered salutations and honorifics in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Recommendations

Upon consideration of the matter, the committee recommends that the following forms be used by the Legislative Assembly.

Oral Forms of Address in the Legislative Assembly

Presiding Officers

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committee of the Whole and Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole are the Legislative Assembly's presiding officers. Occasionally additional members will serve as Acting Speaker or Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole.

The committee recommends that presiding officers advise the Legislative Assembly of their preference on how they should be addressed, whether non-gendered or traditional forms of address such as Mr. Speaker and Madam Chair.

Members of the Legislative Assembly

The current practice of the Speaker and other Members identifying Members of the Legislative Assembly as "the Member for (electoral district)", or by ministerial portfolio, does not include any gendered honorifics. The Speaker only identifies Members in the House by name when naming them (a disciplinary procedure).

Prior to the 2021 Fall Sitting, in Committee of the Whole, the practice was for presiding officers to recognize Members as "Mr. / Ms. (last name)".

The committee recommends that in Committee of the Whole the Chair identify Members by "MLA" and their last names or by the Member's electoral district.

Clerk identifying Members of the Legislative Assembly

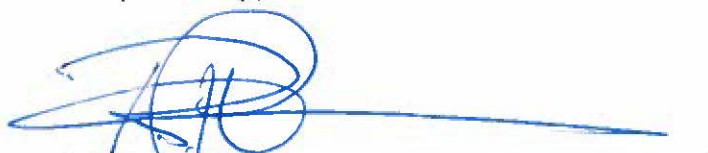
The practice was for the Clerk to cite the names of Members with Mr. or Ms. and a last name when polling the House during divisions and when identifying the Members in whose name a motion is standing. The Clerk also includes "Honourable" before the names of Cabinet Ministers.

The committee recommends that the Clerk identify Members of the Legislative Assembly with first and last names, and "Honourable" as applicable.

Written Forms of Address in the Records of the Legislative Assembly

The committee further recommends that the Hansard Office and Legislative Assembly Office remove, where appropriate, "Mr." and "Ms." from the standard styles in official documents and records of the Legislative Assembly by the 36th Legislative Assembly.

Respectfully,



Hon. Richard Mostyn, Chair
Standing Committee on Rules,
Elections and Privileges

22/10/17

Date