

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly



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

Committee of the Whole Speeches

November 15, 2022



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

Sixth 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 and 17, 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 sixth report contains the committee's recommendations on the length of speeches in Committee of the Whole.

Time Limits in Committee of the Whole

Standing Order 42 of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly governs the proceedings of Committee of the Whole. In particular, Standing Order 42(1) permits Members of the Legislative Assembly to speak an unlimited number of times in Committee of the Whole:

42(1) The Standing Orders of the Assembly shall be observed in Committee of the Whole so far as may be applicable, except the Standing Orders limiting the number of times of speaking and the length of speeches.

And Standing Order 42(3) restricts the length of each individual speech in Committee of the Whole to 20 minutes:

42(3) No member shall speak for more than twenty minutes at a time in Committee of the Whole.

Debate in Committee of the Whole includes general debate on bills, clause-by-clause consideration of bills, general debate on individual departmental Votes in appropriation bills and line-by-line consideration of budget items within Votes in appropriation bills. Debate in Committee of the Whole can also include the questioning of witnesses and debate on Committee of the Whole motions.

Committee Consideration of Committee of the Whole Speech Length

On June 11, 2021, the committee identified the length of speeches in Committee of the Whole as a priority for future consideration. The committee considered time limits for speeches in Committee of the Whole at its meetings on February 17 and October 17, 2022.

Recommendation

The Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges recommends:

THAT the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be amended by deleting the existing Standing Order 42(3) and substituting in its place:

“42(3) The first member recognized to speak from each party, and each independent member, may speak once for not more than 20 minutes in Committee of the Whole in:

(a) debate on a motion;

(b) general debate on a bill; and

(c) general debate in a Vote in an appropriation bill.”,

and by adding the following new Standing Order:

"42(3.1) Apart from an initial speech as described in Standing Order 42(3), no member shall speak for more than 8 minutes at a time in Committee of the Whole.

Application of New Standing Orders

The committee's recommendation for up to 20-minute initial speeches from one member of each recognized political party and each independent Member of the Legislative Assembly only applies to debate on a motion, general debate on a bill and general debate on a Vote in an appropriation bill. The new Standing Order 42(3) and (3.1), as proposed by the committee, would limit to a maximum of 8 minutes speeches in Committee of the Whole on the following:

- (1) an amendment to a motion;
- (2) a clause in a bill;
- (3) an amendment to a clause in a bill;
- (4) a line in a Vote in an appropriation bill;
- (5) an amendment to a line in a Vote in an appropriation bill; and
- (6) the appearance of witnesses in committee of the Whole.

Standing Order 42(3) and (3.1) would apply to speeches by Members of the Legislative Assembly and not to statements by witnesses appearing before Committee of the Whole nor to rulings by presiding officers.

Respectfully,



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

Nov 15/2022

Date