

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly



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

Notice of Committee Meetings

March 7, 2024



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

Ninth 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 four times in 2021 (June 11, August 17, September 21, and December 21), five times in 2022 (February 10, 17 and 24, and October 14 and 17), four times in 2023 (April 4 and 18, August 9, and December 13), and thrice to date in 2024 (January 17, February 13, and March 5), to review the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Lane 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 Lane Tredger.¹

This ninth report contains the committee's recommendations regarding notice for calling committee meetings.

¹ Motion No. 302 identifies Lane Tredger as Emily Tredger. MLA Tredger changed their name March 29, 2023.

Notice of Committee Meetings

With the exception of the first meeting (the organizational meeting) which is called pursuant to Standing Order 46(1) by the member first named in the motion establishing the membership of the committee (the convenor), the committee's chair usually determines when the committee shall meet. The chair communicates the details to the committee clerk and the clerk makes all necessary arrangements to book the meeting room and send a notice to the committee members.

Standing Order 46(4)

46 (4) A notice of all Committee meetings shall be *Notice of meetings* posted in the Legislative Assembly Office.

The May 5, 2021 edition of the *Annotated Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly* notes:

This standing order predates the use of electronic notification of meetings, such as email. The schedule of committee meetings is maintained by the Legislative Assembly Office and is not publicly accessible or physically posted.

The current practice is for the clerk to the committee to update the meeting schedule in the Legislative Assembly Office and send an electronic notice to all committee members when a meeting is scheduled. All caucus chiefs of staff and Legislative Assembly Office staff are also notified of upcoming meetings.

Length of Notice

While chairs may select the meeting time of their choosing, it has been the practice to provide all committee members with at least two weeks' notice before scheduling meetings when the House is not in session, and 48 hours' notice before scheduling meetings during a Sitting. Advance notice helps ensure that all members can make arrangements to be present for the meeting or find a substitute to replace them and is consistent with the following November 10, 1981 direction from the Members' Services Board:

Proper notice should be given of committee meetings to protect members from missing meetings which are called on the spur of the moment and for which a member would thereby be liable to lose pay. The Board urges forty-eight hours' notice of committee meetings be given when the House is in session and two weeks' notice be given when the House is not in session or is in a period of lengthy adjournment.

The timing of future meetings may also be set by the committee during a committee meeting or by Order of the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation

The Standing Committee Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges discussed the topic of notice of committee meetings on December 13, 2023 and January 17, 2024. Upon consideration of the matter, the committee recommends:

THAT the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be amended by deleting the existing Standing Order 46(4) and substituting in its place:

"46(4) Notice of committee meetings must be issued by the Legislative Assembly Office with a minimum of 48 hours' notice for meetings during a Fall Sitting or Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly, and a minimum of two weeks' notice otherwise."

and by adding the following new Standing Order:

"46(5) A committee may meet with less notice than required in Standing Order 46(4) with the adoption of a motion or with the unanimous agreement of the committee's members."

Respectfully,



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

MARCH 7/2024

Date