



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Special Committee on Electoral Reform

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

MINUTES

Meeting No. 1

Friday, July 2, 2021

Committee Meeting Room, Yukon Legislative Assembly, Whitehorse

The Special Committee on Electoral Reform met in camera this day at 10:05 a.m., for the purpose of organization, pursuant to Motion No. 61, adopted by the Yukon Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2021, and Standing Order 46(1).

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

Also present: Dan Cable, Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly,
Allison Lloyd, Clerk to the Committee

Election of the Chair

Pursuant to Standing Order 46(2), the Clerk to the Committee conducted the election of the Chair.

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, seconded by Mr. Cathers, THAT Kate White be Chair of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Ms. White took the Chair.

Election of the Vice-Chair

The Chair conducted the election of the Vice-Chair.

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, seconded by Ms. White, THAT Brad Cathers be Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Approval of Agenda

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, THAT the agenda for Meeting No. 1 of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform be amended to include the items "Work Plan" and "Resource Requirements".

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, THAT the agenda for Meeting No. 1 of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform be adopted as amended.

Work Plan

The committee discussed its role and potential work plan. It was observed that the committee's orders of reference to examine electoral reform could encompass

studying potential voting systems as well as the rules governing various elements of elections, such as voting age, campaign fundraising, and fixed election dates. Members proposed that the committee's work should include an educational element and also seek input from Yukoners.

The merits of in person public hearings and videoconference hearings with communities across Yukon were discussed.

Committee members noted the importance of approaching the committee's study of electoral reform with an open mind and no preconceptions of what the committee's final recommendations may be.

Resource Requirements

The committee discussed options for hiring research and communications contractors. It was noted that research expertise may need to be contracted from outside of Yukon and that local knowledge would be an asset for communications contractors. Committee members noted the importance of the perception of impartiality and suggested that the committee research and communications positions be filled with people who are neutral with respect to potential electoral systems.

Committee members proposed that, given the committee's March 31, 2022 reporting deadline, the timeline for contracts could be as follows:

- 3 months for research
- 1 month for communications work to process and distribute research information
- 2 to 3 months for the committee to collect input from Yukoners
- 1 month for the preparation of the committee's report

It was suggested that the contracted work could be divided into three contracts: one for research and analysis of potential options for electoral reform, another for communicating the information on options to the public, and a final contract for facilitating the committee's collection of input from the public and the drafting of the committee's report to the Legislative Assembly.

Committee members put forward that the research contract contain research and analysis of the options for voting systems (including the current system) and how they could potentially be employed in the Yukon context. A comparison of the current system in Yukon and examples of systems used elsewhere could be included. Committee members noted that the focus should be on voting systems, but that other elements such as voting age limits could be of interest.

The Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly will prepare a draft request for proposal for the committee research contract and circulate it to committee members by Friday, July 9, 2021. The committee agreed to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021, to review the draft request for proposal.

The committee discussed public surveys as a way to potentially collect input from Yukoners. It was noted that previous committees of the Legislative Assembly have done surveys by mail and also collected public submissions online. Committee

members expressed an interest in limiting any survey responses to Yukon residents. Committee members proposed that the collection of views from the public should occur after an educational campaign.

The Clerk was instructed to include a mail out to all Yukon households when preparing a draft budget for the committee.

The committee discussed holding public hearings in Yukon communities. The committee agreed to discuss at the next meeting a potential list of communities for the committee to travel to for public hearings. Committee members noted that the list would be subject to change but would be helpful for the preparation of a draft budget for the committee.

While some funds are currently available, the Clerk stated that the committee will likely need to seek approval from the Members' Services Board for additional funding.

Committee Minutes

It was agreed, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Streicker, THAT the draft minutes of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform of the 35th Legislative Assembly be made available to the public and posted to the committee's webpage by the Clerk to the Committee, unless a committee member proposes that a substantive change is required within 24 hours of the draft minutes being distributed to committee members.

Next Meeting

The Special Committee on Electoral Reform will next meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021.

At 11:11 a.m. the committee adjourned.



Allison Lloyd
Clerk to the Committee