



YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SECOND REPORT
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
RULES, ELECTIONS AND PRIVILEGES

3rd Session of the
25th Legislature

On July 14, 1982, the Yukon Legislative Assembly resolved:

THAT the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges for review;

THAT the Standing Committee report any recommendations for amendment to the Standing Orders; and

THAT the Standing Committee make a separate report on the rules and practices which should govern Question Period in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

This report concerns the first of those directions, that being the review of the Standing Orders of the Assembly. The committee held four meetings to consider the Standing Orders. A large majority of the amendments agreed to by the committee are of a minor nature and most merely reflect or clarify existing practices of the House. The committee has also rearranged the Standing Orders so that they are in a more logical sequential order.

The committee would draw the attention of the House to the following specific recommended amendments:

- (1) Standing Order 2: The committee recommends that this Standing Order be amended by adding a new rule which states

A motion to sit beyond the normal hour of adjournment must be moved by the Government House Leader or his designate at least one-half hour before the normal hour of adjournment. Such motion shall designate the bill or bills to be dealt with and may be moved either with the Speaker in the Chair or while the House is in Committee of the Whole.

It is anticipated that, in general, this new rule would be used for the purpose of extending daily sittings for brief periods during which the House may complete consideration of items of business before it at the time of adjournment. The committee recommends that there normally be consultation through the "normal channels" prior to a motion for extension being moved.

- (2) Standing Order 11: The committee recommends that a new heading entitled "Motions Respecting Committee Reports" be added to the Orders of the Day. The purpose of providing a separate heading for motions of concurrence in Committee reports is to avoid the partisan connotations of such motions appearing under either Private Members' Motions or Government Motions.
- (3) Standing Order 25: The committee recommends that the bells be allowed to ring for a minimum of two minutes prior to the taking of a recorded division. Under the current rules the Speaker may put the question immediately if all members of the House are present. The committee is of the view that provision must be made for members to absent themselves if they are concerned that they are in a position where they have a pecuniary interest or possess some other conflict of interest in relation to the question being voted upon. It is for this reason that the committee recommends the adoption of the two minute minimum for division. [Note: Abstentions are not allowed and, pursuant to Standing Order 25(6), a member who is present in the House once the bells have stopped ringing must vote.]