STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Brendan Maguire (Chair)
Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Vice-Chair)
Bill Horne
Hugh MacKay
Rafah DiCostanzo
Brad Johns
Larry Harrison
Tammy Martin
Claudia Chender

[Bill Horne was replaced by Hon. Kelly Regan]
Hugh MacKay was replaced by Hon. Randy Delorey]
[Rafah DiCostanzo was replaced by Hon. Tony Ince]
[Brad Johns was replaced by John Lohr]

In Attendance:

Judy Kavanagh
Legislative Committee Clerk

Gordon Hebb
Chief Legislative Counsel
THE CHAIR: This is the Standing Committee on Human Resources. We’ll start with introductions to my right.

[The committee members introduced themselves.]

THE CHAIR: Just a few things. Washrooms are to your left. Everybody knows where the emergency exits are in case of fire or anything like that. Today, we will start committee business with appointments to the agencies, boards and commissions. Mr. Delorey.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Under the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, for the Advisory Board of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, I move that the appointments of Sandra Toze and James Morrison as members be approved.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Lohr.

JOHN LOHR: I note that there are four vacancies for this board. There were eight applicants and there are only two people being put forward. Why weren’t the other two positions filled?
THE CHAIR: We can send that off to the department. I suspect it’s just a matter of finding people to do it, but we can certainly inquire about that.

Are there any other questions? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Mr. Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: Under the Department of Finance and Treasury Board, for the Public Accounting Licensing Committee, I move that the appointments of Rena Langley and Angus Bonnyman as members be approved.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Lohr.

JOHN LOHR: I haven’t been to one of these before, so I have to make this worthwhile. The question is, this committee has not yet been proclaimed so it actually doesn’t exist yet. Is it appropriate for us to be appointing people to a committee that does not exist? I would pass that to the Legislative Counsel.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Hebb.

GORDON HEBB: Under the Interpretation Act, you can appoint people to bodies that have been created that are not yet in force. They can make regulations, you can appoint people, do all those things that are necessary so that when you do proclaim it, everything is ready to run from day one.


The motion is carried.

Mr. Delorey.

RANDY DELOREY: Under the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation, I move that the appointment of Nancy MacLellan as Chair and member be approved.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions? Mr. Lohr.

JOHN LOHR: Our researchers could not find that the previous Chair actually resigned. Is there any evidence that the previous Chair resigned?

THE CHAIR: We can look into that and get back to the committee.
JOHN LOHR: Apparently, the previous Chair didn’t resign.

THE CHAIR: It was the former deputy. There’s a new deputy.

JOHN LOHR: Right, but there’s no requirement for this position to be filled by the deputy minister.

THE CHAIR: The former Chair of the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing was the former deputy. The former deputy has moved on to a different position and the new deputy was brought in to replace. We can get something to the committee to state one way or the other on that, but my understanding is that the deputy minister is in that position.

JOHN LOHR: Well, noted with protest because it’s our understanding that this position can be filled by someone who is not a deputy minister, and there is no evidence the previous deputy minister stepped down.

THE CHAIR: We can definitely get that to the committee.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ms. Lohnes-Croft.

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Under the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, for the Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, I move that the following appointments be approved: Louisa Horne and Donald MacGillivray as members, consumer advocates; and Lisa Smith as member, embalmer.


The motion is carried.

Ms. Regan.

HON. KELLY REGAN: For the Nova Scotia Real Estate Commission, I move that the reappointment of Carol Beal as a member be approved.


The motion is carried.
Ms. Regan.

KELLY REGAN: Under the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, for the Halifax/Dartmouth Bridge Commission, I move that the appointment of Donna Smith Darrell as a member be approved.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Lohr.

JOHN LOHR: I understand there were two vacancies for this position. There were 17 applicants - 6 female, 11 male - and there’s only one appointment, so the Vice-Chair position still remains vacant. I’m just questioning the logic here of 17 applicants - why is only one position being filled?

THE CHAIR: As with the previous question, we can reach out to the department and get the information for you. We’ll hopefully have that at our next meeting.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

That wraps up the ABC appointments. The clerk will circulate a draft of our annual report, which will take us from September 2018 to August 2019. We’ll circulate that in September.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and the topic will be Connector Program. The witnesses will be Nathan Laird, Program Manager, Connector Program, Halifax Partnership; and Duff Montgomerie, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

The other thing that people might be noticing now is we’ve brought in some closed captioning for the committee. That’s new to the committee.

With that, we’re adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 10:07 a.m.]