

HANSARD

NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE

ON

HUMAN RESOURCES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Committee Room

Appointments to Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Printed and Published by Nova Scotia Hansard Reporting Services

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

In Attendance:

Judy Kavanagh
Legislative Committee Clerk

Gordon Hebb
Chief Legislative Counsel



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN
Brendan Maguire

Co-Chair
Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

THE CHAIR: I call the meeting the Standing Committee on Human Resources to order. It's Tuesday, October 29th. My name is Brendan Maguire and I am the Chair.

First of all we'll go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves, starting with the fantastic member for Cape Breton Centre.

[The committee members introduced themselves.]

THE CHAIR: As I stated earlier, my name is Brendan Maguire, the MLA for Halifax Atlantic. Just a reminder for everyone to turn their phones off or on vibrate. Coffee is to your left outside, and so are the washrooms. In case of emergency, exit Granville Street entrance and proceed to Grand Parade.

Today we will consider appointments for agencies, boards, and commissions.

Ms. Martin.

TAMMY MARTIN: Thank you. I don't know if this is the correct time, but last time I asked for clarification on a WCB appointment.

JUDY KAVANAGH (Legislative Committee Clerk): I have written a letter on behalf of the committee to the minister responsible. I haven't received a response yet.

TAMMY MARTIN: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR: With the agencies, boards, and commissions, do we have any recommendations?

Mr. Horne.

BILL HORNE: Mr. Chairman, for the Department of Agriculture's Weed Control Advisory Committee, I nominate a number of members: James "Jim" Baillie, member (NSFA); Peter Burgess, member (Perennia); and L. Dawn Miller, member (Department of Agriculture).

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ms. DiCostanzo.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Chairman, I so move that Amanda Boyd Walker, public representative; Edward Corbett, public representative; Amanda Knight, public representative; and P. Earl Muise, public representative, be appointed to the Department of Health and Wellness, Board of the Nova Scotia College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. Act comes into force on November 5, 2019.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ms. DiCostanzo.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Chairman, for the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia, I move Gregory Fevens as a member and David Melvin as a member.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ms. Lohnes-Croft.

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Chairman, I so move that Michele Brennan, Greg Glynn, and Dale Keefe all be appointed as members to the Council of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ms. Lohnes-Croft.

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Chairman, I so move that James McCorry and Linda Campbell be appointed as members for the Department of Justice, Accessibility Advisory Board.

THE CHAIR: Any questions?

Mr. Johns.

BRAD JOHNS: Yes, a question. Just looking for clarification regarding the revoking of the appointments for Amy Parsons and Irene Campbell-Taylor. Do we know anything about that? They were both appointed to be there until 2021, and I guess this is a replacement of their appointments. I'm just curious if we know why.

THE CHAIR: No idea.

JUDY KAVANAGH: That wouldn't come before us.

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

The motion is carried.

Mr. MacKay.

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Chair, I so move that Monica Paris and Wanda MacDonald both be appointed as commissioners for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Mr. MacKay.

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Chair, I so move that Fred Colaiacovo be appointed as part-time director for the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion? Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Mr. MacKay.

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Chair, I so move for the Police (RCMP) Advisory Boards Francesca Carone as a member, Annapolis County.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion?

Mr. Johns.

BRAD JOHNS: Just for clarification, would the clerk be able to find out for our next meeting exactly how many vacancies across the province there are for that board?

JUDY KAVANAGH: For the Annapolis County board?

BRAD JOHNS: No, for the actual RCMP advisory board.

JUDY KAVANAGH: I'll look into it.

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

The motion is carried.

On to the next business at hand. We have no witness available for the November 26th meeting. Ms. Lohnes-Croft.

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: I would like to make a motion.

THE CHAIR: Certainly.

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: I would like to move that a representative from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development be a witness at the next meeting.

THE CHAIR: The November 26th meeting?

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Yes.

THE CHAIR: Ms. Chender.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I'm just curious how that interacts with the agenda-setting that we did earlier.

JUDY KAVANAGH: We have five topics left on our agenda. They all require either the Office of Immigration or the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to come. The deputy ministers from both of those departments have said that they can't come on November 26th. I've got them all lined up for other days.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development can come, she said, if we can have the meeting on either the Wednesday or the Thursday of that week. I was hoping the committee might want to consider that.

Otherwise, there are other options. We could meet for ABCs only.

THE CHAIR: Is there any comment on that? Ms. Chender.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I think we could look and see, if it was amenable to the committee. I don't know if we want to do that here or if the clerk wants to send an email. I would say that if we can all find an alternate date, let's do it, and if we can't, let's meet for ABCs only.

THE CHAIR: The only concern that I would have is that there are several members here on the Public Accounts Committee. Does that Wednesday conflict with the Public Accounts Committee?

Does anyone have a motion? Discussion? What do we want to do here? Ms. Martin.

TAMMY MARTIN: I would make a motion that we meet on the morning of the 27th, which is a Wednesday.

BRAD JOHNS: I second the motion.

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

The motion is carried.

That will be Wednesday, November 27th, at 10:00 a.m. That will be the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and the topic will be pre-Primary.

Anything else?

We do have some correspondence here, an email from Nathan Laird of the Connector Program, a response to a request for information made at the meeting on September 24th. That was forwarded to all members, and there's a hard copy in front of you.

Other than that, unless there's any other pressing needs, our next meeting will be November 27th at 10:00 a.m., and it will be on pre-Primary.

The meeting is adjourned. Have a great day.

[The committee adjourned at 10:09 a.m.]