

# **HANSARD**

**NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023**

**Committee Room**

**Appointments to Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

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**HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Chris Palmer (Chair)

Melissa Sheehy-Richard (Vice Chair)

Dave Ritcey

John A. MacDonald

Nolan Young

Hon. Tony Ince

Ali Duale

Kendra Coombes

Suzy Hansen

[Dave Ritcey was replaced by John White.]

In Attendance:

Gordon Hebb

Chief Legislative Counsel

Judy Kavanagh

Legislative Committee Clerk



**HALIFAX, TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES**

**1:00 P.M.**

**CHAIR**  
Chris Palmer

**VICE CHAIR**  
Melissa Sheehy-Richard

**THE CHAIR:** Order. I call this meeting to order. This is the Standing Committee on Human Resources. I'm Chris Palmer, MLA for Kings West and Chair of this committee. Today we'll review appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions. I'd like to ask everybody in the room to please put your phones on silent, and in case of emergency, just a reminder we'll be using the Granville Street exit off to our left.

I'd like to ask all committee members to introduce themselves for the record at this point by stating their name and their constituency. We'll begin with MLA Sheehy-Richard.

[The committee members introduced themselves.]

**THE CHAIR:** I recognize the presence of Chief Legislative Counsel Gordon Hebb to my right, and Legislative Committee Clerk Judy Kavanagh to my left. At this time, we'll ask our colleague to please state your name and constituency for the record.

[Ali Duale introduced himself.]

**THE CHAIR:** At this point we'll begin with our motions for agencies, boards, and commissions. MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Finance and Treasury Board, I move that Amanda Dean and Tara Miller be appointed as directors to the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation Board of Directors.

THE CHAIR: Motion on the table. Any discussion? MLA Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: First of all, I'd just like to say for the record, I understand that Tara Miller is a well-known lawyer in Halifax, and she is also the Premier's former campaign chair and president of the Nova Scotia PC Party. I don't say this to challenge her credentials or anything. I just wanted this to be noted and to be on the record that she has a long-standing affiliation with the Nova Scotia PC Party. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: No other discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Health and Wellness, I move to recommend that Janet Dunphy be appointed director to the IWK Health Centre Board.

THE CHAIR: Is there any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Health and Wellness, I move to recommend Dr. Farha Sardar and Martin Zwicker be appointed as public representatives to the board of the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists.

THE CHAIR: Motion on the table. Is there any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

That concludes our appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions. MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: I also wanted to, for transparency and for the record as well - like MLA Ince had spoken. We have no doubt these accomplished women will provide capable service on any of these boards and commissions. But as well, it's worth pointing out that we still don't have information on any particular measures that the government uses to ensure diversity on the ABCs with respect to those folks who are doing this work. This goes back to the initial conversation that MLA Duale had mentioned about diversifying our boards. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to be able to apply for these things. I just want to put that on record because I think it's valuable.

THE CHAIR: I just want to address a piece of correspondence, and then you wanted to raise a motion, MLA Duale. I just want to bring to our attention the correspondence received by the committee - the June 7<sup>th</sup> letter from the Department of Health and Wellness in response to a request for information from our May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. I'm assuming everyone on the committee received that. Are there any questions or discussions around that? Seeing none, we will move on.

I understand, MLA Duale, you had another piece of business you'd like to bring up.

ALI DUALE: We received a letter May 17<sup>th</sup> in response to a motion that I raised at a previous committee meeting. First of all, I just want to acknowledge the Chair of the committee for his response and the length of this response. We're grateful to see this - that when we make this kind of request, to have a response that is this length. Having said that, I think it's worthwhile for the committee to look at this response as a whole. To me, this issue is a non-partisan issue. This issue was raised to better the service of this committee and the well-being of Nova Scotians.

As we know, this government has the intention to double our population. That will not happen if there's no vision. This committee and these kinds of appointees are part of the vision of this province, especially those who are newcomers - to enhance the benefits of democracy and how to govern. This committee and these appointees are the people who actually lead this province for a better future. Decisions that they make, and policies and procedures that they create, are the future of this province.

I would like to get the members of this committee's attention. This subject matter has nothing to do with partisan issues. This is the future of this province, and this is why we have been elected as individuals. This is the reason we have this committee - to come up with better ideas and solutions rather than being stuck. This is how we've done it the last 30 years. We need to look at how in the future we can make decisions that we make. Because of that reason, I'm going to forward a motion today to give the time for every respective caucus, so we all are able to have a fulsome and productive conversation about the letter sent by the Executive Council, and the process about diversifying appointments.

I move that at our September Human Resources Committee meeting, the Chair adds diversifying appointments as an item to committee business. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

THE CHAIR: MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: September is the perfect time to do that, I would agree. I'd asked a couple times about when we were getting a response. It took longer than it should have. They gave reasons. Since it's a September agenda-setting meeting, I think it's a perfect time to do that, and I'm totally in support of the first motion once we got it. Then we got this one. Thank you very much for the advance so we were able to read it. We'll be able to support this.

ALI DUALE: I really believe, and I hope, that the committee will take the sincerity of the issue itself. That's the reason why I made the decision - and we as a caucus made the decision - to give a heads-up for the committee what our intention is, and what we're hoping to achieve. These are some of the things that I really believe we can show the people who elected us - that we are here for them, that we can actually make decisions, and that we're all on the same page.

THE CHAIR: Knowing the importance of this topic - not only to all of us but to you in particular - we wanted to make sure you were here for this meeting today to have that conversation. Can we have general agreement? Do we need to vote?

THE CLERK: Consensus is okay.

THE CHAIR: Do we have consensus around the table?

It is agreed.

That will be added to our September business.

Any other business? If not, just a reminder that our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - or 1:10 p.m. (Laughs) Our topic will be appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions. This meeting is adjourned.

[The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.]