

# **HANSARD**

**NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

**Committee Room**

**Agenda-Setting  
& Agency, Board, and Commission Appointments**

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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

### In Attendance:

Gordon Hebb  
Chief Legislative Counsel

Judy Kavanagh  
Legislative Committee Clerk



**HALIFAX, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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 the committee.

Today, in addition to reviewing appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions, we'll be holding an agenda-setting meeting to select our topics for the next number of months.

At this point, I'd like to ask everybody here in the Committee Room to please put your phones to silent, and in the case of an emergency, we'll all use the Granville Street exit.

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

[The committee members introduced themselves.]

THE CHAIR: Thank you, everyone, and for the purposes of Hansard, I also recognize the presence of Legislative Counsel Gordon Hebb to my left, and Legislative Committee Clerk, the one and only Judy Kavanagh to my right.

We'll now proceed with the Agencies, Boards, and Commissions appointments, and I'll ask MLA MacDonald to bring those forward, please.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, I move to recommend Wanda MacDonald be appointed as a Member of the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board.

THE CHAIR: Motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded?

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Environment and Climate Change, I move to recommend Scott Skinner be appointed as Member and Chair to the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity, and Susanna Fuller, Sarah Riley, Graham Gagnon, Angie Gillis, Doug Chiasson, Rupert Jannasch, and Sarah Stewart-Clarke be appointed Members to the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded?

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: I move to recommend Howard Blinn be appointed as Member of the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board.

THE CHAIR: For . . .

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Oh, sorry. For Howard Blinn. What did I say? I move to recommend Howard Blinn be appointed as a Member of the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

All those in favour? Contrary minded?

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Thank you. For the Department of Health and Wellness, I move to recommend Wanda MacDonald and Beverley Patterson be appointed as Public Representatives to the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Dietitians and Nutritionists, and Dermott Crooks and Jill Rafuse be appointed Members to the Board of Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

MLA Ince.

TONY INCE: Thank you. Just a question: Is Wanda MacDonald the same Wanda MacDonald as introduced earlier?

JOHN A. MACDONALD: I would have to go through and look at the resumés. I'm not sure whether it's the same or not, MLA Ince.

THE CHAIR: We'll just take a minute for the clerk to have a look.

If our clerk could let us know, that would be great.

JUDY KAVANAGH: According to their applications, yes, it looks like the same person. They have the same home address.

TONY INCE: Just for the record, I'm not opposed. I was just curious.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

All those in favour? Contrary minded?

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Justice, I recommend Timothy McDermott be appointed to the Police (RCMP) Advisory Boards (30) as a Member for the Municipality of East Hants.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: For the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration and the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, I move to recommend Paul Collier be appointed as Member - Industry to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council. That's a mouthful.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: I believe last but not least, for the Department of Public Works, I move to recommend that Janet MacMillan be appointed as Vice-Chair and Member to the Halifax Harbour Bridges.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

Thank you very much, MLA MacDonald, for that.

We will now move into the agenda-setting part of our meeting today. Members have all been emailed a complete list of the proposed topics from all of the caucuses, and you should have hard copies at your desk as well. We will end up with six topics. There will be three to the PC caucus, two to the Liberal caucus, and one to the NDP.

At this point I will call on the members of the PC caucus to present their topics.  
MLA Sheehy-Richard.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: I move that the first topic for the PC caucus be Modernization, Accessibility and Harmonization of Safety Regulation and Services for Today's Workforce, with the following witnesses: the Deputy Minister of the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration and Senior Executive Director of Safety.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

MLA Sheehy-Richard.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: I move that the second topic for the PC caucus be Implementing the Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy, with the following witnesses: the Deputy Minister of the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion on the table. Any discussion?

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We're going to take a small pause for one second.

So what we will do - I will ask members of the PC caucus to make sure we please forward the motion that you're reading to the clerk, please. (Interruption)

If we could just have that distributed, that would be great.

We'll go to MLA Sheehy-Richard.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: I move that the third topic for the PC caucus be Government Investment in Health Care Tuition Programs and the Response of the Post-Secondary Institutions, with the following witnesses: Deputy Minister of Department of Advanced Education; Executive Director for Universities and Colleges, Department of Advanced Education; President of the Nova Scotia Community College; Vice President, Academic and Equity, from the department.

THE CHAIR: There's a motion on the table. Is there any discussion? MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: As with the previous topics, it would have been nice for us to be able to have an idea of who was going to be called from what departments. Maybe not the names specifically, just their positions, so that we would be able to have an idea of who we could suggest as well, if that was an opportunity. Just for future reference, that would be wonderful for us to have that information.

THE CHAIR: Your point is well taken. Thank you. MLA Duale.

ALI DUALE: Also just in fairness to the clerk, I think she's here to guide us. She's not questioning, but also just for our own purpose of working together on what's in the best interest for our province and our people, we do have a standard. We have acceptable ways that we deal with each other and present our ideas. This was not part of our practice, which is that we receive the information that we're discussing early enough so we can have our own questions and concerns. I think I'll ask the members of the PC caucus to keep this in mind. You can have an agenda, but it would be better to be transparent, to let us know ahead of time so we can have time to digest and to respond.

THE CHAIR: Both of your concerns are well noted. We appreciate the feedback.

There is the motion on the table for now. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We will now move to the Liberal caucus for your selections. MLA Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: For our first topic, we'd like to put in Addressing the Need for Affordable Housing and Increasing Housing Supply in Nova Scotia. Proposed witnesses - we are asking for the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Executive Director, Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia.

THE CHAIR: A motion is on the table. Any discussion? All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

ALI DUALE: The second topic for our party would be Firefighters' Mental Health Support. We'd like to ask witnesses from the Halifax Professional Fire Fighters Association, Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia, and the Chief Officer of the Office of Addictions and Mental Health.

THE CHAIR: A motion is on the table. Any discussion? All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We'll move to the NDP caucus for your selection of your topic.

SUZY HANSEN: The NDP caucus' proposed topic is the Canada - Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2021 to 2026 Update. We would like our witnesses to be the Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; the Coordinator of Child Care Now Nova Scotia; Dr. Tammy Findlay,



Professor of the Department of Political and Canadian Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University; a representative of the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia; and a representative from the Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table.

[1:15 p.m.]

THE CHAIR: A motion is on the table. Is there any discussion? MLA Ince.

TONY INCE: I just wanted to say that we would like to support the NDP, and we'd also like to call for representation from the Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table as a witness.

THE CHAIR: We have original motion on the table. You're asking for an amendment to that motion? There's no motion. (Interruption) Yes, it is. Okay.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

Very good, everyone. We'll now move on to our other business - our committee business. We'll first talk about our January 2024 meeting date. It's been brought to our attention that obviously our first Tuesday in January is January 2<sup>nd</sup>. I don't know if anyone wants to come in on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There are a few ideas being proposed: perhaps January 11<sup>th</sup> or January 18<sup>th</sup>. Is anyone opposed to any of those dates? MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since, let's face it, the first week all the kids are going back to school, I would be fine with January 11<sup>th</sup> unless my colleagues across have an objection to that date. I would expect it's 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.?

THE CHAIR: That is a Thursday afternoon - January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There's general agreement around the table for that, we'll set our date for the January meeting? Our clerk, I think, has note of that. Great. Thank you.

Some of our other business is some correspondence that was received from our last meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> - an email and attachments from Collette Robert, an employee representative from the Nova Scotia Minimum Wage Review Committee who sent out correspondence to the committee. It was forwarded to all members on August 11<sup>th</sup> and again this morning. Is there any discussion on that correspondence? Okay. Thank you.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, an email was sent from Kristina King, director of the Governance and Accountability Unit in the Executive Council Office, in response to a letter arising from discussion of previous correspondence at the meeting of June 6<sup>th</sup>. This was forwarded

to members on August 16<sup>th</sup> and again this morning. Any discussion around that? It could play into the next topic in our discussion anyway.

We will move into the next item on our committee business, and that's a discussion on diversifying appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions that this committee agreed to put on the agenda for today's meeting. I'll put it on the table. Any discussion on that?

MLA Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: Thank you. I would ask our committee to consider - while I've looked at the documents, and the documentation indicates that there has been some movement and there is a process in which many of the appointments are advertised widely, I still have a concern with the whole process. I say that because many community members from the African Nova Scotian community don't trust the process.

I would like to ask that we have a discussion around how the applications are reviewed and picked, and that whole process around people being appointed to these agencies, boards, and commissions. I know that when we look at the reports, there's an uptick in many community members identifying, but again, I'd like to really - when I was the minister, this was one of the questions that I had and I was looking into, was that whole process and how we pick - who picks the names and how that process is dealt with.

It's just for my concern, to be able to have that discussion fully, to look at how that process is dealt with.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, MLA Ince. MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Just trying to get an idea from MLA Ince what he is actually looking for. We just finished topic selection. It wasn't listed as an object that the Liberal or the NDP wanted on to it.

From what I read on the report - I didn't do all the reading. I got through most of it. Right now, from what I can see, 41 per cent self-identified, which is unbelievable. I wouldn't have expected it to be that high, and I think the department - it's probably been for years doing better. I'd probably be mortified if I heard what it probably was eight to ten years ago, to be honest. I'm trying to get a handle on what is the member opposite actually looking for, because, like I said, if it's bringing the group in, we just finished the items that we all agreed to. We got them through.

The original motion was to get this report in time for topic selection. I'm just trying to get a handle so if the member could let me know.

THE CHAIR: MLA Hansen, I might let MLA Ince just respond to that, and then I'll come back to you. MLA Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: Yes, 41 per cent have self-identified. It's down a little bit because it was 50 per cent at one point. I would like to really just - because someone self-identifies, it doesn't necessarily mean that that name is going to be picked. Yes, there are designated positions, but again, I just know through conversations with many in the community that they are hesitant to even apply for any of those positions because they don't trust the process. What I mean by that is they don't trust that their names are going to be properly vetted and put forward.

THE CHAIR: I'll move to MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: I just want to add on to what MLA Ince is saying in the sense that we do have the numbers. We have the data that show that folks are actually applying and that there is a diverse group of folks who are putting their names forward. What we don't see is it represented within the agencies, boards, and commissions with the names that are put forward to us. What we're saying is if there are these many people who are actually applying, and there's a percentage of those folks who are self-identifying, how come we're not reaching out or at least connecting with folks to try to move that around so that we can diversify those boards?

When it comes to our table, it's just the name, and it's just basic information. We agree or we don't agree. I think it needs to come within the vetting process or within that process of how we decide who's going to be a part of these boards and commissions. It comes down to how we check in with those folks to make sure that we diversify all those boards that represent those communities in which they're going to be serving.

I think we have the data, which is great. I think we need to make sure that that data are being utilized in ways to help continue to diversify the boards that we have, because we all know that our boards are not diverse enough, and we want to make sure that we have information now that shows that there are people who are applying who are diverse in nature, who come from certain backgrounds and communities. We need to be able to tap into that and utilize them within all of our boards and commissions.

THE CHAIR: MLA Duale, then MLA MacDonald.

ALI DUALE: First of all, I'd just like to remind my colleagues one of the reasons this issue is not in agenda-setting is it was not picked up. We've been driving this issue for almost a year and a half. That's not fair for even ourselves to talk about one subject matter for that length of time. I really believe it's time to move on. We discussed, we asked questions, we got a report. Now we need to ask, What's next? That's why we need to have this conversation. This is the reason that wasn't in the topics.

Secondly, as I said before, this has nothing to do with the political parties. This is what's in the best interest of Nova Scotians. If the system is great, that's not good enough. The question is how we can make it greater. That's where we are. Yes, we see the numbers, but also, as we saw in the report itself, the numbers fluctuate. If you look back, there are years where you see 800 people apply. You see three years, four years later, only 400 people apply. The number doesn't tell you the true story, because it's a number. It fluctuates, it goes up and down, whatever the reason is.

What we're looking for and what we're interested in is how we can make this better. I'll give you an example, John. I read this report all the way. I'll give you one simple example of how these committees are advertised. It's all great, but this space is not the space where diverse communities will see them. These newspapers, ads, and Facebook - you don't see them.

I will give you an example, and I'm giving you my personal experience being a member of an outreach committee with Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency. We're trying to diversify for the department, and there's no shortage of applying people. You have 10 positions, you see 2,000 people apply. But what we looked for was how we could see the reflection of the community and how we can see those people apply to these positions.

I give you a specific example: We found out we have enough females who are applying to these jobs, but they were failing in the system. They were not being the last selection group of people. One of the things that we found out was one of the unsuccessful steps was physical fitness. We made a conscious decision to post our advertisement in every single school and educational institution in their sports locker rooms, specifically for the female locker rooms, and the people who came out - through the roof.

I attended the last graduation, and a funny thing: I think, maybe, if they wanted it equal - the female graduates were more than the male graduates. So what I'm saying to you is what matters is your intention, not your procedures and policies. This report is policies and procedures, and that's how we'd like to encourage the committee. I'm personally willing to make input, and I really believe we as a committee are not only here to criticize people, but also how we can make their job better. If we have the skills, how we can guide them to do their job and to have a better outcome.

To answer your question, I think it doesn't work for this issue to keep dragging, but the goal is how we can make what we have better than what it is today.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Just the comment on dragging, you realize we didn't drag that, right? We waited for the department to get back. All of the committee wanted it there. We were waiting for somebody to be hired. It's just the point of dragging was, to me - well, hold on. This was one of the first motions we actually did where it was unanimous. We had to work out some wording - because I'm a policy guy - just to make sure we got

what you needed and so we had a clear direction, which is where we are today, because we got it.

[1:30 p.m.]

Another thing is when I did my numbers, 41 per cent of appointed - not applicants - self-identified. So 41 per cent of who was appointed actually did. If it was 50 per cent appointed, great, but I think we were talking two different numbers, although you were the minister, so if I got my numbers wrong, I'll defer to you.

I think to your point, when you're talking about this, normally you don't move the bar, but in this, the bar should always be moved. You want to have inclusion. Again, it still comes down to the point that you haven't actually answered my question. What are you asking for? It's one I'll be asking the clerk: Is that a mandate of this to modify that, or is it - it's kind of like some of the things - I get what you're asking for, I just don't know if a Committee of the Legislature's role is to actually influence the policy and procedures that way or not. I just don't know at this level, right?

MLA Ince has been here longer than I have, so I defer to him on that one. Again, what is it you're actually asking for? Are you wanting to have another meeting where we're talking this over? That's really what I'm looking for.

THE CHAIR: MLA Ince, and then MLA Duale.

TONY INCE: Before I answer that question, I also would like to point out that in the report, I've noticed a number of great, great suggestions and topics within that report about getting out and engaging community and doing more. I would be overjoyed if they actually move forward and do that and go to the communities themselves, where they can get more Acadians, more Gaelic, more African Nova Scotian, more Indigenous people applying for these. That I would tout loudly if they really take that step forward.

What I'm probably asking for, then, is more of a written report that would give us an idea of the selection and of process.

THE CHAIR: Just so I understand, you're asking for potentially a request for a letter? MLA Ince.

HON. TONY INCE: A letter, a report - something that shows us their process and how they move forward with the process. Again, just to be accountable to all communities and all the communities I just identified, it would be great for us to be able to show them that the process has got them in mind.

THE CHAIR: MLA Duale.

ALI DUALE: I just want to answer the last question of my colleague, MLA MacDonald. I think we do have a responsibility to guide the public service. That's why we've been elected. If we feel something is not going in the right direction, I really believe we do have an obligation, if we have the skills or if we have the knowledge or the guidance, to guide them. I will never shy away if I see any department or any organization that is not going in the right direction, to say that this is not good enough and this is what we're expecting.

THE CHAIR: MLA MacDonald.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: I'd just like - one of the two on either your right or left as to my question on that. I don't disagree with MLA Duale. The point is: What is the role of it? I don't like sending a letter off to find out. You don't have the right to actually ask the question, so it defeats it. I'd like their answer onto it. I agree, changing the bar is - the report itself was 13 pages long. It was pretty detailed into it. I'm done talking.

THE CHAIR: I guess what I'm looking for is a bit of clarity and direction here. I feel that we're still not getting too much direction. We're having a great discussion. This is a wonderful discussion. MLA Sheehy-Richard.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: What I want to point out for me, what I'm doing in my constituency to get diversity is reaching out directly and trying to promote these things. When we get emails showing that the ABC agencies and commissions are open, I look at them and I think, "Who in my community would be good?" We now have a new Chair of the Student Advisory Committee, Lisa Bland, and I appointed her here, and that puts some diversity on that that wasn't there. That's how I'm working with some of these. Some of these things sat on desks for years.

I've heard too - maybe it didn't get followed through, so I'm trying to put heat on the minister maybe of that particular - I'm getting negative from a certain department, why they stopped. I try to say, "Look, I've got good people who would look into this who would represent some of these communities better in today's age."

Those are some of the things that I'm doing to promote this in my own constituency. I don't know if - that's what I'm doing as an MLA and being elected to do, because I think it is really important, especially being - it's not the same diversity, but politics tends to be male-dominated, and I'm proud of our Legislature and the fact that we represent more and more diversity each election.

We're slow, but I do feel optimistic that we have good people here at this committee and in the Legislature who can maybe do that in our communities.

THE CHAIR: I would like to just give our clerk a minute to provide a bit of context here and some information that might be relevant to our conversation.

JUDY KAVANAGH: Just about the mandate of the committee itself, that's in your little green book, the *Rules and Forms of Procedure*. It's also in the opening pages of the annual report of this committee, which I'm going to be sending out to all of you in the next month for, I hope, approval at the next meeting, so it can be presented in the House.

Look over the first four or five pages of the annual report. They give all the background on the committee, and one of the first things is the mandate of the committee, which is, as you know, "considering matters relative to early childhood development, education and labour," and then several points, bullet points, about what this committee's responsibility is regarding the ABCs appointments, and then several pages of details about that.

There's a lot there, and it might be a good starting place for further discussion.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Judy. So the closest thing to an action item I have heard here at the table is MLA Ince, who put forward a request to ask for a report on procedures. Is that the closest thing that I've heard to an action item here?

TONY INCE: That would be great, and I applaud you, MLA Sheehy-Richard, because all of us should be doing that. In my mind, it's something that - and I've not stopped doing that - but, again, the evidence shows that we do not - even most recently I've had individuals come to me and say, "Our boards are not diverse enough. How can we get more members?" Again, when I talk to most Indigenous members, most African Nova Scotians, most of them do not wish to apply or are very hesitant because of the process they believe is flawed.

My question, really, is more around a report, maybe a motion for a report to show us, give us an idea of that full process and how those applications are reviewed and how members are picked.

THE CHAIR: Okay. We've had quite a discussion. Right now, I don't think there's an actual motion on the table. Okay. Could you just read your motion again, MLA Ince?

TONY INCE: Okay. I put a motion forward that we ask the Executive Council Office to provide us with a written letter or report on the process of the Agencies, Boards, and Commissions - how the applications are reviewed and picked.

THE CHAIR: A recess has been requested, so we'll take a five-minute recess and then we'll reconvene.

[1:38 p.m. The committee recessed.]

[1:41 p.m. The committee reconvened.]

THE CHAIR: Order. There is a motion on the table. We've had quite a discussion, so I'll call the question.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The last piece of committee business before us today was a motion sent to the committee by the NDP caucus. Any discussion on that?

MLA Hansen, would you like to read your motion?

SUZY HANSEN: I will. I have a motion on the table, and it's to move that the HR committee write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in support of releasing the report on school board consultation as soon as possible and establishing a timeline for reinstating school boards.

My purpose for this is because we want to be open and transparent to all parents, students, and staff, and we want to make sure that they have all the information that they need moving forward through this consultation piece.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, MLA Hansen. MLA Young.

NOLAN YOUNG: I'd like to thank the NDP caucus for giving advance notion of this motion. I believe the initiative you're talking about, though, would be Strengthening Local Voices in Public Education. It's not the school board consultations.

We'd be happy to write a letter for an update on the local voices consultation that was announced in December 2022. I don't know if I need to table that, but I've got a copy of the release there.

I'd like to make an amendment. I move that the HR committee write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and ask for an update on the local-voice consultations.

THE CHAIR: There is a motion and there is an amendment. MLA Hansen, discussion?

SUZY HANSEN: I would like the full report and not an update, so that we could view it in its entirety without it being redacted. That would be absolutely wonderful.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any other discussion? MLA Ince.



HON. TONY INCE: I would just concur with my colleague and also recommend that we get a full report. I'm just in agreement with my colleague. Thank you.

[1:45 p.m.]

THE CHAIR: So we'll be voting on the amendment to the motion first. (Interruption)

The amended motion. I'm sorry.

The amendment. I apologize. We're voting on the amendment.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

Now we vote on the amended motion.

MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: I just want clarity. I want to make sure that the amended motion will be the report, and not an update.

THE CHAIR: Can you read your amended motion, MLA Young?

NOLAN YOUNG: So we just voted on the amendment, and now would be voting on the amended motion, which would be the amendment, which is: I move that the HR committee write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and ask for an update on the local-voice consultations.

THE CHAIR: MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: With all due respect, that is not what I was asking when I put forward the motion in the beginning. I don't think we, as a committee, would be doing any type of service to just receive an update.

We do need to see the actual report itself just so we have this information so that we know, moving forward, what is actually happening and what was given.

I don't agree with the change that was taking place. I do want us to have the report instead of an update.

NOLAN YOUNG: With all due respect, the initiative was called Strengthening Local Voices in Public Education. It's not school board consultations. It's going through

the process, and the amendment would be to have an update provided. I can't support a motion that's talking about things that aren't ...

SUZY HANSEN: I understand where you're coming from with that, but you can't cross out the school board consultation and use the name of the report and just provide the report is what I'm saying.

THE CHAIR: No other discussion on this? MLA Ince.

TONY INCE: I'm a little concerned with what I see as a trend. When we talk about transparency, we are looking consistently at reports being withheld from the public. Just last week, we learned that the government housing report was withheld, so now we're looking at another report about the school boards. Again, I will side with my colleague and ask, please, that we recommend and really consider including the full report on school boards.

THE CHAIR: We will now call the question. We will be voting on the amended motion.

MLA Young.

NOLAN YOUNG: Just with respect to that, there's ongoing consultations over the Spring and over the Summer, and I think it's not about not being open or not being transparent, it's that there are ongoing consultations. Again, I disagree with your premise.

SUZY HANSEN: Absolutely I would agree that there is ongoing consultation, but we do know that this report is finished, and that it is available, and it is redacted. What we want is to make sure that whatever we receive here will actually have all the information that was given during the consultation in the report in its entirety. That's what I'm asking. Not a portion, not an update. I would like - I can take out "releasing the report on school board consultation," absolutely. We can look at the report under the name that you mentioned - I can't remember, I'm sorry - but in its entirety as a full report.

THE CHAIR: We'll be voting on the amended motion.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

That's the end of committee business. MLA Hansen.

SUZY HANSEN: I would like to put forward another motion. Is that doable?

THE CHAIR: It's doable.

SUZY HANSEN: Thank you very much. I would also move that the HR Committee write to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in supporting the release of the report on value of local voices as soon as possible and establishing a timeline for reinstating that information.

THE CHAIR: I think it's the same motion. I believe you just changed the words.

We have a motion on the table. Is there any discussion? No discussion.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is defeated.

Seeing as there's no other business, our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our topic and witnesses will be determined by our clerk from our selection today.

This meeting is now adjourned. Thank you to everyone for coming and we'll see you in October. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 1:50 p.m.]