

June 26 2019

**Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges
First Report of the First Session Sixty-sixth General Assembly
Revised Committee Structure and Rule Changes**

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

The Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges is pleased to present its first report of the First Session Sixty-sixth General Assembly.

Committee Mandate

The Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges is charged with matters concerning the rules and standing orders of the Legislative Assembly, scrutiny of regulations, private bills and the privileges of individual members and the Legislative Assembly as a whole.

Committee Membership

Permanent members of your committee are:

Hannah Bell, Chair (District 11, Charlottetown-Belvedere)

Sonny Gallant (District 24, Evangeline-Miscouche)

Lynne Lund (District 21, Summerside-Wilmot)

Sidney MacEwen (District 7, Morell-Donagh)

Hon. Matthew MacKay (Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture; District 20, Kensington-Malpeque)

Gordon McNeilly (District 14, Charlottetown-West Royalty)

Committee Activities

Your committee met on **June 20, 2019**, to elect its chair and to consider the report of the Special Committee on Committees, adopted by the House on June 18, 2019, which requested your committee meet to review the present committee structure of the Legislative Assembly (Rule 95) and to consider the advisability of making amendments to the make-up of committee membership (Rule 90). The first order of business being the election of chair, Hannah Bell was duly elected.

Recommendations

As a result of its deliberations, your committee is pleased to make the following recommendations to the Members of the Legislative Assembly:

1) That Rule 95 subsections (2) through (8) are deleted and substituted with the following:

(2) Standing Committee on Education and Economic Growth with said committee charged with matters concerning education, heritage, culture, tourism, industry, labour, provincial infrastructure, transportation, telecommunications, immigration, rural development, municipal and provincial planning, and other such matters relating to education and economic growth.

(3) Standing Committee on Health and Social Development with said committee charged with matters concerning health, social programs, sport, seniors, justice and public safety, emergency measures, Indigenous affairs, Francophone and Acadian affairs, Status of Women, persons with disabilities, housing, charities, the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission, and other such matters relating to health and social development.

(4) Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability with said committee charged with matters concerning agriculture, fisheries, land, water, forests, wildlife, energy, natural resources, environment, climate change, and other such matters relating to natural resources and environmental sustainability.

(5) Standing Committee on Public Accounts with said committee charged with matters concerning the public accounts of the province, the annual report of the Auditor General, and fiscal management.

(6) Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges with said committee charged with the rules and standing orders of the Legislative Assembly, scrutiny of regulations, private bills, and the privileges of individual members and the Legislative Assembly as a whole.

2) That Rule 90 be deleted and substituted with the following:

Rule 90.(1) The Committee on Committees shall appoint to each committee an equal number of members from each recognized political party in the House itself, if such an approach is practicable.

Rule 90.(2) Each recognized political party shall have two members on each committee, unless a recognized political party has fewer than two members.

Rule 90.(3) Membership on a standing committee shall not exceed eight members.

Conclusion

Your committee is hopeful that these recommended changes will enhance the work that Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly are able to undertake. In addition to these changes, your committee would like to encourage the Chairs of the Standing Committees to meet and discuss a committee meeting schedule at the earliest convenience. Your committee believes that having a predictable, pre-determined and public committee schedule will create an opportunity for committees to meet consistently and to work on their most urgent priorities in a productive manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Bell, Chair
Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges