



5th Session, 37th Parliament

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

Victoria
Monday, May 17, 2004
Issue No. 17

BLAIR LEKSTROM, MLA, CHAIR

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

Victoria
Monday, May 17, 2004

Chair: * Blair Lekstrom (Peace River South L)

Deputy Chair: * Mike Hunter (Nanaimo L)

Members: Bill Belsey (North Coast L)
* Harry Bloy (Burquitlam L)
* Jeff Bray (Victoria-Beacon Hill L)
Dave Hayer (Surrey-Tynehead L)
* Ken Johnston (Vancouver-Fraserview L)
* Sheila Orr (Victoria-Hillside L)
Barry Penner (Chilliwack-Kent L)
* Gillian Trumper (Alberni-Qualicum L)
John Wilson (Cariboo North L)
Joy MacPhail (Vancouver-Hastings NDP)

** indicates member present*

Clerk: Kate Ryan-Lloyd

Committee Staff: Josie Schofield (Committee Research Analyst)

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MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT



Monday, May 17, 2004
9 a.m.
Douglas Fir Committee Room
Parliament Buildings, Victoria

Present: Blair Lekstrom, MLA (Chair); Mike Hunter, MLA (Deputy Chair); Harry Bloy, MLA; Jeff Bray, MLA; Ken Johnston, MLA; Sheila Orr, MLA; Gillian Trumper, MLA

Unavoidably Absent: Bill Belsey, MLA; Dave Hayer, MLA; Joy MacPhail, MLA; Barry Penner, MLA; Dr. John Wilson, MLA

1. The Chair called the Committee to order at 9:11 a.m.
2. **Resolved**, that the Committee meet in-camera for consideration of its final draft report. (Mike Hunter, MLA)
3. The Committee met in-camera from 9:12 a.m. to 9:44 a.m.
4. **Resolved**, that the Committee approve the report as presented and amended. (Mike Hunter, MLA)
5. **Resolved**, that the Committee direct the Chair to present the report to the Legislative Assembly at the earliest available opportunity. (Mike Hunter, MLA)
6. The Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:47 a.m.

Blair Lekstrom, MLA
Chair

Kate Ryan-Lloyd
Clerk Assistant and
Committee Clerk

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2004

The committee met at 9:11 a.m.

[B. Lekstrom in the chair.]

B. Lekstrom (Chair): Good morning, everyone. I would like to welcome you to our meeting of the Special Committee to Review the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I would like to call our meeting to order this morning.

Today is our final meeting prior to the presentation of this report — at least, I envision it being the final meeting. Everyone has had a copy of the final draft to review, and it is my intent this morning to go in camera and go through that final draft and, at the end, hopefully reach consensus with the committee that this will be the document we will present to the Legislative Assembly in the very immediate future.

With that, I would look for a motion at this point to go in camera.

The committee continued in camera from 9:12 a.m. to 9:44 a.m.

[B. Lekstrom in the chair.]

B. Lekstrom (Chair): We are now back in public session.

Approval and Adoption of Committee Report

B. Lekstrom (Chair): We have concluded our deliberations on the final draft of the report. We have reached agreement at this point, and I would look for a motion from members of the committee.

M. Hunter (Deputy Chair): I have two motions to propose to the committee. First, I move that the committee adopt the report as presented and amended.

B. Lekstrom (Chair): I see no discussion on the motion before the committee.

Motion approved.

B. Lekstrom (Chair): It is carried unanimously.

M. Hunter (Deputy Chair): Chair, I move that the committee direct the Chair to present the report to the

Legislative Assembly at the earliest available opportunity.

Motion approved.

B. Lekstrom (Chair): It is carried unanimously. Did you have something, Gillian?

[0945]

G. Trumper: Yes.

B. Lekstrom (Chair): Okay. Go ahead.

G. Trumper: I wanted on record our thanks to our staff — to Kate and Josie and Mary — for all the work they've done on this. It's been phenomenal. I must admit that when I first got on this committee, I kind of wondered where I was going on it, because it's not something which grabs my attention. Having been involved in it, it's been a really great experience. I would not be able to understand it as well as I do now without the great help we've received from our staff. I want to thank them very much.

B. Lekstrom (Chair): Thank you, Gillian. Other comments from committee members?

Just in closing, before we wrap up, I will take this opportunity to thank our staff as well — Mary, Kate and Josie — for the work you've done. I will echo what Gillian has said. On behalf of the committee, it has been a tremendous help with the effort you've put in.

And I want to thank all the committee members. It has been quite an amazing committee to work on and to have the privilege to chair and work with you as members. It was somewhat intimidating, I think, coming into it, when you look at the act and try and get a grasp of it, but I have learned a great deal, as I am sure each and every member of this committee has, in looking at this act. It was not our job to rewrite a piece of legislation but to find ways to enhance it if that was possible. I'm very proud of the report we are going to present to the Legislative Assembly, and I thank you all very much on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia, because that's what we're here for — to work on their behalf.

With that, in closing, again, thank you all. This will be the final meeting of the committee, as I understand it, once we report out to the Legislature, which will be this week under the mandate we were given during the last session.

At this point I would look for a motion to adjourn.

The committee adjourned at 9:47 a.m.