

MINUTES

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Douglas Fir Committee Room

Parliament Buildings Victoria



Members Present: Hon. Linda Reid, Speaker and Chair; Michelle Stilwell, MLA Government Caucus Chair; Shane Simpson, MLA and Official Opposition Caucus Chair; Craig James, Clerk of the House

Others in attendance: Douglas Horne, MLA and Deputy Speaker; Eric Foster, MLA; Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees; Gary Lenz, Sergeant-at-Arms; Hilary Woodward, Executive Financial Officer; Bruce Perry, Office of the Auditor General; Vivien Li, Office of the Auditor General; Bridget Noonan, Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Victoria, Australia.

1. The Chair called the Committee to order at 2:03 p.m.
2. **Resolved**, that the Committee adopt the agenda, as circulated. (Michelle Stilwell, MLA)
4. **Resolved**, that the Committee adopt the minutes of October 21, 2014 as circulated. (Shane Simpson, MLA)
5. The Sergeant-at-Arms reported that hand railings on the stairways to the public gallery entrances will be installed by the spring of 2015.
6. The Clerk and the Executive Financial Officer provided the Committee with an update on MLA disclosure reporting. The Committee considered matters relating to Executive Council and Parliamentary Secretary position travel expenses.

The Committee considered a proposal regarding the annual online posting of a summary of Members' Capital City Living Allowance declarations with respect to accommodation expenses.

The Committee also considered matters related to the online posting of individual Member travel expenses, including practices for redaction of personal and sensitive information, to address security considerations and to mirror disclosure practices undertaken by government pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

7. The Committee considered an analysis of constituency office annual allowance and considered opportunities for future regular reviews.

Further considerations of constituency office allowances may occur at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly Management Committee on December 10, 2014.

It was agreed that Financial Services staff proceed to prepare the Vote 1 budget as status quo, as the Committee will consider whether to proceed with the increase to constituency office allowances as a future stand-alone item.

8. The Committee reviewed the three-year internal audit plan.

Resolved, that the Committee recommend to the Legislative Assembly Management Committee that LAMC approve a two-year internal audit plan (2014/15-2015/16) and the Internal Audit Charter. (Shane Simpson, MLA)

9. The Executive Financial Officer provided an update on the Legislative Assembly 2015/16 Budget development process.

10. The Deputy Speaker presented a report of the Legislative Assembly Space Planning Committee identifying short, medium and long-term space planning options.

The Space Planning Committee Report will be reviewed and discussed with caucuses, prior to further consideration by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Resolved, that the proposed agreement between the Legislative Assembly and the Official Opposition proceed with the provision of space for Official Opposition staff in the Legislative Library Room 119 for the remainder of the 40th Parliament. (Shane Simpson, MLA)

It was agreed that the agenda of the Space Planning Committee include current matters relating to legislative security issues and public access to the Parliament Buildings.

The Committee discussed a proposal to appoint an all-party Special Committee, supported by external advisors, including those with expertise in architectural and heritage buildings, to consider matters relating to future building renovations and space planning of the British Columbia Parliament Buildings and the parliamentary precinct.

11. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided the Committee with an update on printing services provided by the Queen's Printer to the Legislative Assembly, plans relating to the 53rd CPA Canadian Regional Conference in July 2015, and the Legislative Assembly Support Program Accountability Review (LASPAR) and the Assembly website redesign project.

12. The next meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee is proposed for Wednesday, December 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., location to be confirmed.

13. The Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair at 3:25 pm.

Hon. Linda Reid, MLA
Speaker and Chair

Kate Ryan-Lloyd
Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees