



Second Report

Select Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills

May 8, 2023

To the Honourable
Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

The Select Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills considered *Bill (No. Pr 402), St. Mark's College Amendment Act, 2023*, on April 26 and May 4, 2023.

On April 26, the Committee heard presentations from the sponsor of the Bill and representatives of St. Mark's College.

The Committee received a submission from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills which, while indicating general support for the intent of the Bill, outlined two technical concerns and requested additional time to review other policy and legal considerations that would help strengthen the Bill. Officials from the Ministry appeared before the Committee to speak to the technical concerns and indicated that it no longer required additional time to review other policy and legal considerations.

Following discussion amongst Committee Members, remarks from the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, and questions put to Ministry officials and representatives of St. Mark's College, it was agreed by Committee Members to amend clause 13, which relates to the power to grant degrees.

The Committee instructed the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel to work with St. Mark's College and the Ministry to address the concerns on clause 13 of the Bill and report back to the Committee on a draft amendment for the Committee's consideration.

On May 4, 2023, the Committee met to consider a draft motion in amendment to clause 13, as presented by the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel. Specifically, the motion amends proposed paragraph 15 (c) to make clear that the *Degree Authorization Act* applies to associate degrees, including honorary degrees, that St. Mark's College may grant under the proposed amendments to the *St. Mark's College Act*. It also deletes the phrase "despite section 67 of the *University Act*" from that paragraph as it was determined not to be necessary on review.

The Committee agreed to amend clause 13 by replacing the text of proposed paragraph 15 (c) with the following:

- (c) grant or confer associate degrees, including honorary degrees, in accordance with the *Degree Authorization Act*.

The Committee agreed to report that the preamble to *Bill (No. Pr 402) St. Mark's College Amendment Act, 2023*, has been proved to its satisfaction and that it reports favourably on the Bill, as amended.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Henry Yao, MLA
Chair