



Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

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Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

Recommendations for Amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and Other Matters

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**Joe Enook, MLA
Chairperson**

**George Hickes, MLA
Co-Chairperson**

**David Joanasie, MLA
Steve Mapsalak, MLA
Honourable Keith Peterson, MLA
Members**

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**3rd Session of the 4th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Fall 2015 Sitting**

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting the first report of the 4th Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

I would like to express my appreciation to my committee colleagues for the collegial manner in which we have worked together. The recommendations in the standing committee's report reflect the unanimous consensus of its membership and have been ratified by the Legislative Assembly's Full Caucus.

For the benefit of all Members of the House and the listening public, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight the standing committee's recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The standing committee is making a total of seven formal recommendations in this report.

The first recommendation is that Rule 37, which provides for recognition of visitors in our Gallery, be amended to reflect our legislature's current practices in relation to recognitions. The foundation of the committee's recommendation is the principle that the *Rules* should not unduly restrict Members' ability to recognize and pay tribute to constituents and distinguished guests who join us during our sittings. At the same time, the standing committee notes the importance of all Members exercising restraint with respect to multiple recognitions of the same individual and the length of recognitions.

The second recommendation is that Rule 45, which provides for notice requirements in respect to the introduction of bills, be amended to reduce the notice period from 48 hours to 24 hours. This amendment will simplify and streamline our proceedings in relation to the introduction of bills, while maintaining an appropriate notice period.

The third recommendation is that Rule 91, which provides for government responses to reports of standing and special committees, be amended to require government responses to be printed in *Hansard*. This would be consistent with the current requirements in the *Rules* to print Returns to Oral Questions, Returns to Written Questions and Responses to Petitions in *Hansard*. This would serve to enhance public access to the contents of government responses to reports of standing and special committees.

The fourth recommendation is that the *Guidelines for the Use of Portable Hand-held Electronic Devices, Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms* be updated to reflect current practices. As Members will be aware, the current *Guidelines* were first introduced in October of 2010, just over half a decade ago.

The fifth recommendation is that the *Guidelines for the Tabling of Documents* be updated to introduce a requirement that electronic versions of documents that are tabled in the House by the Speaker or Ministers in their official capacities also be provided in an electronic format. One of the current initiatives of the Office of the Legislative Assembly is to make electronic versions of all tabled documents available for downloading by the public from the Legislative Assembly's website. This update will help achieve that goal.

The sixth recommendation is that the Legislative Assembly's recently-adopted *Guidelines and Protocols for the News Media Respecting Filming, Photography and Other Matters* be formally added to our *Rules* as a new Appendix. As Members will recall, these Guidelines were introduced under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Management and Services Board, during the spring 2015 sitting of the House.

The seventh and final recommendation is that the next reprint of the *Rules* correct a number of typographical errors and terminological inconsistencies that have been identified by the standing committee.

Pursuant to Rule 91, I move that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House, its appendix entered into the record as read and its recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* be deemed to have been accepted, effective the first sitting day of the winter 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Appendix

Recommendations for Amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*

Recommendation #1: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

- The standing committee recommends that Rule 37 be redrafted as follows:
 - 37 (1) Under the item “Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery”, Members may make statements of introduction of Visitors in the Gallery.**
 - (2) A Visitor in the Gallery may be recognized by more than one Member on the same sitting day.**

Recommendation #2: Notice Requirements for Introduction of Bills

- The standing committee recommends that Rule 45(1) be redrafted as follows:
 - (1) Forty-eight hours’ notice shall be given of a formal motion to be introduced under the provisions of Rule 47. Twenty-four hours’ notice shall be given for the introduction of a bill under Rule 60.**

Recommendation #3: Government Responses to Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- The standing committee recommends that Rule 91 be amended to add the following new provision:
 - (9) A response provided under Rule 91(5) shall be printed in *Hansard*.**

Recommendation #4: Guidelines for the Use of Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices, Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms

- The standing committee recommends that that the *Guidelines for the Use of Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices, Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms* be amended to:
 1. Remove the prohibition against the use of hand-held electronic devices or laptop computers during meetings of the Full Caucus (FC) or the Regular Members' Caucus (RMC). It should be noted that if Members wish to retain the prohibition, it is incumbent on Members to draw the attention of Chairs to contraventions of the guideline during caucus meetings.
 2. Remove the prohibition against the use of hand-held electronic devices during oral question period for the purpose of sending text messages or engaging in other forms of communication with entities inside or outside of the Chamber. It should be noted that if Members wish to retain the prohibition, it is incumbent on Members to draw the attention of the Speaker to contraventions of the guideline by way of raising a formal point of order during proceedings of the House.
 3. Add a new provision prohibiting departmental officials from utilizing hand-held electronic devices or laptop computers while formally appearing as witnesses before the Committee of the Whole or Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly. It should be noted that the prohibition would not apply to the use of Legislative Assembly technology for the purpose of presentations to Full Caucus or Regular Members' Caucus (e.g. PowerPoint presentations).
 4. Retain the current provisions in the *Guidelines* respecting the use of electronic devices in the Visitors' Gallery on the part of the general public.
 5. Make reference to the separate *Guidelines and Protocols for the News Media Respecting Filming, Photography and Other Matters*.

Recommendation #5: Guidelines for the Tabling of Documents

- The standing committee recommends that section #1 of the *Guidelines for the Tabling of Documents* be expanded to include the following new provision:

“Electronic versions of documents tabled under this section shall be provided to the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly at the time of tabling.”

Recommendation #6: Guidelines and Protocols for the News Media Respecting Filming, Photography and Other Matters

- The standing committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly’s *Guidelines and Protocols for the News Media Respecting Filming, Photography and Other Matters*, which were approved by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly during the spring 2015 sitting of the House, be formally added to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* as an appendix.

Recommendation #7: Miscellaneous Typographical Errors and Terminological Inconsistencies in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*

- The standing committee recommends that miscellaneous typographical errors and terminological inconsistencies in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*, as identified by the standing committee, be corrected.