

CLERK: Please be seated.

At the close of nominations for the Office of the Speaker at 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 1, 2019, two candidates put their names forward. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are Mr. Scott Reid and Mr. Perry Trimper.

Members of the House of Assembly, pursuant to the Lieutenant-Governor's direction and the Standing Orders of this Assembly, it is my duty to call upon you to elect a Member to preside over your deliberations as Speaker.

Would the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Pages please make sure the voting booth and ballot box are in position?

Before we begin the election procedure, I will briefly outline the process that will be followed as set out in the Standing Orders of the House. For each round of balloting, Members are asked to proceed starting from the back or third row of desks on their respective sides of the House, file past the Speaker's Chair to the head of the Clerk's Table. At the Table, each Member will be given a ballot and asked to initial a list to verify that they have received it. Once you have received your ballot, please proceed to the voting booth which is located on the Sergeant-at-Arms's desk.

In the voting booth, please mark your ballot with an X next to the name of the candidate you support, then proceed to the ballot box, which is located at the end of the Clerk's Table, deposit your ballot and return to your place. When all Members wishing to vote have done so, the House will recess while the Table Officers withdraw to count the vote. A simple majority of the votes cast is required to elect the Speaker. If the candidates receive the same number of votes, there will be another ballot.

Immediately before the start of the second or any subsequent ballot, a Member who wishes to withdraw will be given an opportunity to do so. When the count of each ballot is completed, a five-minute bell will ring to call Members to the Chamber. In preparation for the vote, I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to inspect and lock the ballot box.

We will now proceed with the voting procedure. Starting from the back or third row of seating on each side of the House, those Members who wish to cast a ballot should now proceed to either side of the head of the Clerk's Table.

As all Members present in the House of Assembly have voted, the House will now recess to the call of the bells while the Clerks at the Table count the ballots. The bells will ring for five minutes to recall Members to the Chamber when the results of the first ballot will be announced.

Thank you very much.

Recess

CLERK: Members of the House of Assembly, further to suborder 4(11) of the Standing Orders, I declare Mr. Scott Reid, Member for the District of St. George's - Humber, elected as Speaker for the remainder of the 49th General Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

(The Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition lead (drag) the new Speaker to the Speaker's Chair. The Premier and Leader of the Official Opposition help the new Speaker into his robe.)

MR. SPEAKER (Reid): It's a great honour to be in this position.

It's tradition, as a new Speaker is brought into the House, that we resist being brought in. It's an old tradition from British history when a Speaker would be directed by the House to send a message to the King. He'd go see the King and if the King didn't agree with the message that was being brought to him, he often sent a little note back to the House and as an exclamation mark to the note, often chopped off the Speaker's head and sent the head back to the House as well. So people resisted getting in the Speaker's Chair for that reason, and that's a tradition we have to this day.

The word Parliament comes from the French word parlay, the place where we come to talk; we talk out our differences. We do a lot of talking and a lot of speaking here, and it's important we do it in an orderly fashion. That we have rules and procedures that allow each of us – protects the right of each of us to speak and to represent the people who've elected us and sent us here.

So the rules of the House have evolved over time. We, in this House, have our Standing Orders which we look to as the main document that guides the way we order our discussions, the way we talk to each other and the way we speak to each other throughout the day. We also look at the precedents of this House, the past practice in this House, the past practices in other parliaments in Canada and other parliamentary democracies around the world to guide us in the way we conduct our affairs here in the House.

It's an important thing that we follow the rules and that we have rules that protect the rights each Member because when we do that, we protect the rights of Members to speak, we show our respect for the democratic process and we also show our respect for the people who have elected us and sent us here. The rules of the House continue to evolve, and we have to be responsive to things that are happening in a broader society, as a House, to remain relevant and to remain faithful to the principles of protecting the rights of each Member to represent their districts.

I look forward to working with you, to continue to evolve the rules of our House, to look to the traditions that we've had in the past as a guidance in the way we conduct our affairs here, and look forward to working with you all, doing the job we were sent here to do. Being Speaker is a great honour for me, and in conclusion, I just want to thank you all for giving me this responsibility.

Thank you very much.

(...)

PREMIER BALL: May it please Your Honour, the House of Assembly, agreeable to your Honour's command, have proceeded to the choice of Speaker and have elected Mr. Scott Reid, the Member for the District of St. George's - Humber, to that office, and by their direction I present him for the approbation of your Honour.

HER HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR (Judy May Foote, PC, ONL): On behalf of Her Majesty, I assure you of my sense of your efficiency and I do most fully approve and confirm you as Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Honour, having approved the choice of this House in constituting me as their Speaker, it now becomes my duty in the name of the representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects to ask that I, as Speaker, may have full access to Your Honour's presence at all reasonable times.