



*House of Assembly  
Newfoundland & Labrador*

## Standing Orders Committee

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# **50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Report 1**

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Report to the House of Assembly

March 2022

*This report is privileged until tabled in the House of Assembly.*



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## Committee Members

### Standing Orders Committee Members:

John Hogan, Member for Windsor Lake (Chair)  
Helen Conway Ottenheimer, Member for Harbour Main (Vice-chair)  
Jordan Brown, Member for Labrador West  
Steve Crocker, Member for Carbonear - Trinity - Bay de Verde  
Sarah Stoodley, Member for Mount Scio

Appointed June 1, 2021.

### List of substitutions:

#### **March 8, 2022**

Bernard Davis, Member for Virginia Waters - Pleasantville, substituted for Steve Crocker,  
Member for Carbonear - Trinity - Bay de Verde



## Transmittal

Speaker, I am pleased to present the first report of the Standing Orders Committee in the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I thank the Members of the Committee for their diligence and hard work and I recommend this report to the House of Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hogan", written over a horizontal line.

John Hogan, MHA  
Windsor Lake  
Chair



## Introduction

The Standing Committee on Standing Orders is one of seven standing Committees of the House constituted under section 65 of the Standing Orders. The Committee reviews and recommends changes to the Standing Orders to the House of Assembly. The Standing Orders Committee of the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly was established by resolution on June 1, 2021.



## Order of Reference

By parliamentary tradition, the Standing Orders Committee has a continuous order of reference to review the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly and to bring forward any recommendations for changes to those Standing Orders to the House for its consideration.



## Summary of Work

The Standing Orders Committee has met on six occasions since it was constituted on June 1, 2021: October 25, 2021; November 29, 2021; December 13, 2021; February 15, 2022; March 3, 2022; and March 8, 2022.

Matters considered by the Committee thus far during the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly include the following:

- a. Relevance in debate on money bills;
- b. Amendments to Private Members' Resolutions;
- c. Ministers' participation in Members Statements;
- d. Codifying time for responses to Ministerial Statements; and
- e. Deferred, pairing and proxy voting.



## Findings and Decisions

The Committee reached decisions on a number of matters considered and are recommending two permanent changes to the Standing Orders respecting amendments to Private Members' Resolutions and codifying time for Ministerial Statements. The recommended amendments to Private Members' Resolutions would: (1) reduce the speaking times per Member in debate from 15 minutes to 10 minutes, and (2) allow for advance rulings from the Speaker on amendments. The recommended amendments to Ministerial Statements would establish a time limit of two minutes for each Ministerial Statement, one minute for the Official Opposition's response to the statement, and 30 seconds for the Third Party's response to the statement.

The Committee examined the matter of alternate voting options such as deferred voting, pairing and proxy voting, and is recommending a provisional change to the Standing Orders to provide for deferred voting on division.

The Committee also examined Standing Orders relating to relevance in debate. The Committee recommends that Standing Orders respecting relevance in debate be enforced by the Speaker as they currently exist and that they be applied to all debates in the Legislature, including those on money bills.





## Recommendations

Your Committee recommends the following:

- a. That the Speaker enforce the current Standing Order 48 - Relevancy during all debate, including those on money bills.
- b. **That** the Standing Orders be amended **by adding immediately after Standing Order 25 the following:**

### **SO 25.1**

#### **Statements by Ministers**

- (1) On each sitting day, a minister of the Crown may be recognized to make a statement relating to policies of the government.
  - (2) A minister delivering a ministerial statement shall speak for not more than two minutes, and in response
    - (a) a member of the Official Opposition may speak for not more than one minute; and
    - (b) a member of the Third Party may speak for not more than 30 seconds.
- c. **That** the Standing Orders be amended **by amending Standing Order 65 as follows:**
    - (1) In Standing Order 63 (5), by deleting the time allocation “15 minutes” and substituting the time allocation “10 minutes”; and
    - (2) By adding immediately after Standing Order 63(8) the following:
      - (9) A Member seeking an amendment to a Private Member’s Motion may seek an advance ruling from the Speaker on the matter outside of the time allocated for debate.
  - ci. **And, that** the Standing Orders be provisionally amended for a period of one year, by adding immediately after Standing Order 16 the following:



**SO 16.1**

**Deferral of vote on division**

- (1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 16, where a division has been demanded under that standing order and a deferral of the vote is requested by all House leaders in agreement or, where there is no agreement, where deferral of the vote is necessary in the opinion of the Speaker, the vote on division may be deferred.
- (2) A vote on division may be deferred to a date agreed by all House leaders, or where there is no agreement, to a date determined by the Speaker.
- (3) Where a vote on division has been deferred, the House shall continue with the business before it until the time set for the deferred vote on division.
- (4) Where, at the time appointed for a deferred vote on division, the business of the House is in progress, that debate of that business shall be adjourned until the deferred vote on division is completed, after which the business that was in progress shall resume as if there were no pause in the debate.