



# Standing Orders

**House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador**

*Adopted May 18, 1951*

*with amendments to and including October 25, 2023*

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## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL RULE

### SO 1 - Application of Standing Orders and Cases Not Provided For

1. (1) The proceedings in the House of Assembly and in all committees of the House shall be conducted in accordance with the following Standing Orders and with the sessional and other orders of the House.  
  
(2) In all cases not provided for in these Standing Orders or by sessional or other orders of the House, the Speaker shall be guided by the following in the order in which they are stated:
  - (a) the usages, customs and precedents of this House;
  - (b) the Standing Orders and sessional orders and forms and usages, customs and precedents of the House of Commons of Canada and those of any province or territory in Canada; and
  - (c) in all cases not provided for above, the usages, customs and precedents of the House of Commons at Westminster in the United Kingdom.

*(1951 SO 1; R&S 1999)*



## **SO 1.1-Interpretation**

- 1.1 Notwithstanding a requirement in these Standing Orders for a Member to rise in his or her place, the Speaker may nevertheless recognize a Member who, in a manner acceptable to the Speaker, otherwise indicates a desire to be recognized.

*(SO 1.1 Added 2020)*



## **CHAPTER 2 – REGULATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOUSE**

### **S0 2 – Election of Speaker**

2. (1) At the opening of the first session of a General Assembly, and at any other time as determined pursuant to Standing Order 2(3), the election of a Speaker shall be the first order of business and shall not be interrupted by any other proceeding.
- (2) Following a General Election the Members shall elect a Speaker immediately after the administration of the oath or affirmation of office.
- (3) In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker, as a result of death, resignation or for any other reason, the House shall proceed to elect one of its Members to be Speaker.
- (4) If the Office of Speaker becomes vacant between sessions or during a period when the House stands adjourned to the call of the Chair, the Clerk shall immediately notify all Members that the Office of Speaker is vacant.
- (5) The Clerk, when the Office of Speaker is vacant, shall ensure that the notification to Members of the date for the opening of a new session or the reconvening of an existing session contains the information that the first order of business shall be the election of a Speaker by secret ballot.



(6) No Minister of the Crown or leader of a recognized parliamentary group, shall be eligible for election to the Office of Speaker.

(7) The election of a Speaker shall take precedence over all other business and the House shall continue to sit, if necessary, beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, until a Speaker is elected and is installed in the chair and if the House has continued to sit beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, the new Speaker shall thereupon adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

*(SO 2 added 1999, amended 2005)*

### **SO 3 – Clerk Presides**

3. (1) For the purpose of electing a Speaker, the Clerk, or in the absence of the Clerk, the Clerk Assistant, shall administer the election process and shall preside during the election of a Speaker.

(2) During the election of a Speaker, the Clerk shall not be permitted to entertain any question of privilege or point of order.

(3) During the election of a Speaker, there shall be no debate and no adjournment motion nor motion of any other kind shall be accepted for consideration.

(4) The election of a Speaker shall not be considered a question of confidence in the Government.

*(SO 3 added 1999)*

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## **SO 4 – Secret Ballot**

4. (1) The election of a Speaker shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with this Standing Order.
- (2) After a general election, or at any other time when there is a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, any Member who wishes to stand for election to the Office of Speaker shall, not later than 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon on the working day preceding the day on which the election of a Speaker is expected to take place, in writing in the prescribed form, so inform the Clerk who shall prepare, in alphabetical order, a list of the given names and surnames of those Members who wish to stand as candidates for election to the Office of Speaker.
- (3) After the closing days and times referred to in Standing Order 4(2), the Clerk shall affix a copy of the list of candidates provided for in Standing Order 4(2) in a conspicuous place in or near the Assembly Chamber, and shall provide copies of that list to the caucus office of each recognized parliamentary group and to each independent Member.
- (4) If only one Member stands for election to the Office of Speaker, or at any stage of withdrawal pursuant to Standing Order 4(16), leaves only one candidate remaining, the Clerk shall announce in the Chamber that candidate's name and without any vote declare that Member to be elected Speaker.
- (5) If there are two or more candidates for election to the Office of Speaker, ballot papers shall be provided to Members present in the Chamber, by the Clerk, prior to the taking of the ballot.



(6) The names of the candidates shall be printed on the ballot paper in the order of their surnames; or if there are two or more candidates with the same surname alphabetically arranged in order of their other names.

(7) Each Member present in the Assembly who wishes to indicate his or her choice for the Office of Speaker shall proceed to one of the voting booths at the Table and mark the letter X in the box beside the name of the candidate for whom he or she intends to vote.

(8) Notwithstanding Standing Order 4(7) when two or more candidates, whose names appear on the list distributed pursuant to Standing Order 4(6), have identical surnames, each Member who wishes to indicate his or her choice for one of these candidates shall print or write legibly on the ballot paper the given name and the surname of the candidate of his or her choice.

(9) Members shall deposit their completed ballot paper in a box provided for that purpose on the Table.

(10) Once all Members wishing to do so have deposited their ballot papers, the Clerks at the Table shall retire from the Assembly Chamber with the ballot box and shall count the vote and the Clerk, being satisfied as to the accuracy of the count, shall destroy the ballots together with all records of the number of ballots cast for any candidate.

(11) If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the Clerk shall announce the name of that Member as the Speaker.



(12) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the name of the candidate, or in the event of a tie the candidates, having the lowest number of votes cast, shall be excluded from subsequent ballots.

(13) If every candidate receives the same number of votes, no names shall be excluded from the next ballot.

(14) For each subsequent ballot, the Clerk shall prepare a list of candidates and distribute it to Members present in the Chamber.

(15) Subsequent ballots shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in Standing Orders 4(5) to 4(16) and the balloting shall continue, in a like manner, until such times as a candidate is elected Speaker upon having received a majority of the votes cast.

(16) At any time after the result of the first ballot has been declared, but before the commencement of a second or subsequent ballot, a candidate may withdraw from the election by rising in his or her place in the House and stating that he or she is withdrawing, and the election shall then proceed as if the Member had not become a candidate.

(17) The Clerk shall prescribe the following:

- (a) Members' notice of intent to seek election to the Office of Speaker;
- (b) the form of the ballot paper; and,





- (c) such other forms and information as may be required.

*(SO 4 added 1999, amended 2017)*

## **SO 5 – Deputy Speaker**

5. (1) A Chairperson of Committees who shall also be Deputy Speaker of the House shall be appointed at the commencement of every General Assembly, immediately after election of the Speaker; and the Member so appointed shall, if in his or her place in the House, take the Chair of all Committees of the Whole, including the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means.

(2) The Member appointed as Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of Committees shall continue to act in that capacity until the end of the General Assembly for which he or she is appointed, and in the case of a vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise, the House shall proceed forthwith to appoint a successor.

(3) In the absence of the Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of Committees of the House, the Speaker may, in forming a Committee of the Whole House, before leaving the Chair, appoint any Member Chairperson of the Committee.

*(1951 SO 43)*



## **SO 6 – Speaker’s Casting Vote**

6. The Speaker shall not take any part in any debate before the House. In case of an equality of voices, the Speaker gives a casting vote, and any reasons stated by him or her are entered in the Journal.

*(1951 SO 10)*



## SO 7 – Order and Decorum

7. (1) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order. No debate shall be permitted on any such decision and no such decision shall be subject to an appeal to the House. In explaining a point of order or practice, the Speaker shall state the standing order or authority applicable to the case.
- (2) When the Speaker is putting a question, no Member shall walk out of or across the House, or make any noise or disturbance.
- (3) When a Member is speaking, no Member shall pass between him or her and the Chair, nor interrupt him or her, except to raise a point of order.
- (4) No Member may pass between the Chair and the Table, nor between the Chair and the Mace when the Mace has been taken off the Table by the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- (5) Every member shall make an obeisance to the Chair in passing to or from his or her seat.
- (6) When the House adjourns the Members shall keep their seats until the Speaker has left the Chair.

*(1951 SO 11 amended 1999, 2005, 2020)*



## **CHAPTER 3 – SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE**

### **SO 8 – Annual Calendar**

8. (1) Unless otherwise ordered, the House of Assembly shall meet each year
  - (a) for the Winter-Spring sitting, commencing not later than the first Monday in March and concluding not later than the first Thursday in June; and
  - (b) for the Fall sitting, commencing not later than the first Monday in November and concluding not later than the first Thursday in December.
- (2) The House shall not meet on the days which are paid Government Holidays.
- (3) During the sittings held under Standing Order 8(1), there shall be
  - (a) one constituency week for every three sitting weeks unless varied by the calendar provided by the Clerk under Standing Order 8(5); and
  - (b) a break commencing after the end of the sitting day on Maundy Thursday until the third Monday following that date.



(4) In a calendar year in which there is a general election, the Government may indicate to the Speaker that the commencement of a sitting will be postponed or varied or that there will not be a sitting and the Speaker shall inform Members.

(5) On or before January 31 of each calendar year, the Clerk, following consultations with the Government House Leader shall distribute to all Members a calendar indicating the intended sitting days for the next calendar year.

(6) On or before January 31 immediately after the commencement of this Standing Order, the Clerk shall also prepare and distribute in accordance with Standing Order 8(5) a calendar for the sitting days of the current calendar year.

(7) If the Government advises the Speaker that the public interest requires the House to meet at any time because of emergency or extraordinary circumstances, a reason for the recall must be provided and the Speaker shall

(a) advise Members that the House is to meet at the specified time; and

(b) advise Members of the reason for the recall.

(8) The Winter-Spring or Fall sittings of the House referred to in Standing Order 8(1) may be shortened or extended by the passing of a motion with notice made by the Government House Leader which motion shall be decided without debate or amendment.

*(1951 SO 2 R&S 1999, R&S 2017)*



## SO 9 – Daily Sittings

9. (1) The time for the meeting of the House is
- (a) 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays inclusive;
  - (b) 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- (2) At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the Speaker shall adjourn the House.
- (3) At 5 p.m. on Wednesday the Speaker shall adjourn the House.
- (4) When the House adjourns on Thursday, it stands adjourned, unless otherwise ordered, until the following Monday.

*(1951 SO 7 R&S 1999, R&S 2017)*

### SO 9.1- Manner of meeting

- 9.1. The House may meet in a hybrid of virtual and in-person proceedings and the Speaker, following consultation with appropriate officials and the House leaders, may determine if those proceedings are required.

*(SO 9.1 Added 2020)*



## SO 10 – Business to Stand Over

10. All business not disposed of at the termination of a sitting day shall stand over until the next sitting day when it will be taken up at the stage where its progress was interrupted.

*(1951 SO 8 amended 1999, R&S 2017)*

## SO 11 – Extended Sittings

11. (1) The Government House Leader may move that the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons but notice of this motion must be given at a previous day's sitting and once put by the Chair is not debatable.

- (2) Notwithstanding Standing Order 11(1), at midnight on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, unless the Closure Rule (SO 47) is in operation, the Speaker shall adjourn the House.

*(SO 11 added 1999, R&S 2017)*



## **CHAPTER 4 – QUORUM**

### **SO 12 – Quorum**

12. (1) The presence of at least 10 Members, including the Speaker, constitutes a quorum for a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers.
- (2) Any Member may direct the Speaker's attention to the fact that there is not a quorum present.
- (3) If at any time a question of a quorum arises, the Speaker, upon determining that there is no quorum, shall sound the division bells for 5 minutes and if following this a count of the Members shows that there is no quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting day.
- (4) While the Members in the House are being counted the doors remain open and Members can come into the House during the whole time occupied by the counting.
- (5) While in Committee of the Whole, if a question of a quorum arises, the Chair shall count the members present and if 10 Members, including the Chair, are not counted, the Chair shall rise the Committee and report the lack of a quorum to the Speaker who shall then follow SOs 12(3) and (4).





(6) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the House for the lack of a quorum, the time of the adjournment, and the names of the Members who were present shall be inserted in that day's Journal.

*(1951 SO 3, R&S 2016)*

### **SO 13 – [Repealed]**

13. Repealed.

*(1951 SO 4, Repealed 2016)*

### **SO 14 – [Repealed]**

14. Repealed.

*(1951 SO 5, Repealed 2016)*

### **SO 15 – Lieutenant Governor Arrives**

15. When the Sergeant-at-Arms announces that the Honourable Lieutenant Governor is at the door or announces a messenger from the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker shall take the Chair whether or not there is a quorum present.

*(1951 SO 6, R&S 2016)*



## CHAPTER 5 – DIVISION

### SO 16 – Division

16. (1) When Members have been called in preparatory to a division, no further debate is to be permitted.
- (2) The Division Bells shall ring for a period of not more than 10 minutes or for such lesser time as may be signified to the Speaker by the Government and Opposition Whips, before the Speaker or the Chairperson, as the case may be, puts the question.
- (3) No Member shall be entitled to vote in any division unless he or she was in his or her place when the question was put.
- (4) Upon a division, the “Yeas” and “Nays” shall not be entered upon the Minutes unless demanded by 3 Members.
- (5) The same procedure for a division in the House shall be followed in Committee of the Whole.
- (6) On a division every Member present in his or her place in the House when the question is put shall be required to vote.

*(1951 SO 9, 82, & 83)*



## **SO 16.1 – Deferral of Vote on Division**

Provisional standing order in effect. [See page 90.](#)



## **CHAPTER 6 – CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**

### **SO 17 – Offer of Money**

17. The offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of this House, for the promoting of any matter whatsoever, depending or to be transacted in Parliament, is a high crime and misdemeanour.

*(1951 SO 77)*

### **SO 18 – Bribery in Elections**

18. If it shall appear that any person had been elected and returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by bribery, or any other corrupt practices, this House shall proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been willfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

*(1951 SO 78)*

### **SO 19 – [Repealed]**

19. Repealed.

*(1951 SO 80, Repealed 2007)*



## **SO 20 – Pecuniary Interest**

20. No Member is entitled to vote upon any question in which he or she has a direct pecuniary interest.

*(1951 SO 81)*

## **SO 21 – Naming of a Member**

21. (1) The Speaker shall be vested with the authority to maintain order by naming individual Members for disregarding the authority of the Chair and, without resort to motion, ordering their withdrawal for the remainder of that sitting, notwithstanding Standing Order 19.

(2) In the event of a Member disregarding an order of the Chair pursuant to this Standing Order, the Speaker shall order the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove that Member.

*(SO 21 added 1999)*



## CHAPTER 7 – STRANGERS

### SO 22 – Withdrawal of Strangers

22. (1) If a Member takes notice that one or more strangers are present on the floor of the Assembly Chamber, the Speaker, or the Chairperson (as the case may be), shall, if he or she considers it proper and without permitting any debate or amendment, order that strangers withdraw.
- (2) For the purpose of these Standing Orders generally and in particular Standing Order 22(1), and Standing Orders 23, 105 and 120, a stranger does not include an infant being cared for by a Member who is that infant's parent.

*(1951 SO 12, R&S 2016, amended 2020)*

### SO 23 – Conduct of Strangers and Visitors

23. Any stranger or visitor admitted into any part of the House or galleries, who misconducts himself or herself, or who does not withdraw when directed to do so while the House or any Committee of the Whole House is sitting, shall be taken into custody by the Sergeant-at-Arms and no person so taken into custody shall be discharged without a special order of the House.

*(1951 SO 13, R&S 2016)*



## **CHAPTER 8 – BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

### **SO 24 – Order of Business**

24. (1) The ordinary daily routine of business in the House shall be as follows except where priority has been given previously by the House to other orders:

- (a) Statements by Members;
- (b) Statements by Ministers;
- (c) Oral Questions;
- (d) Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees;
- (e) Tabling of Documents;
- (f) Notices of Motion;
- (g) Answers to Questions for which notice has been given;
- (h) Petitions.

(2) The order of business for the consideration of the House day by day, after the above daily routine, shall be as follows, except on Wednesday:

- (a) Third Readings;
- (b) Committee of the Whole on reports of select committees;



- (c) Committee of the Whole on Bills read a second time;
  - (d) Second Readings;
  - (e) Motions of which notices have been given by the Government;
  - (f) Motions of which notices have been given by Private Members.
- (3) On Wednesday except when otherwise ordered by the House, after motion, of which due notice shall have been given, the following shall be the order of business:
- (a) from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Motions of which notices have been given by the Government and Government Orders;
  - (b) from 2 to 5 p.m., following the ordinary daily routine of business
    - (i) Motions of which notices have been given by Private Members;
    - (ii) Motions of which notices have been given by the Government;
    - (iii) Member's Orders.
    - (iv) Government Orders.

*(1951 SO 14 amended 1999, 2005, 2017 & 2018)*





## SO 25 – Statements by Members

25. (1) On each sitting day, up to five Members, other than a Minister of the Crown, may be recognized to make a Members' Statement.
- (2) Each statement shall be no more than 200 words in length.
- (3) A Member may make a statement about any subject of interest or concern to him or her.
- (4) The subject matter of a Member's Statement may be an anniversary, historic event, some particular accomplishment, the death of a notable person, matters of local, provincial, national or international significance of a non-contentious nature.
- (5) Statements by Members shall not be used to comment on aspects of provincial governmental policy or to reflect on a decision or direction of the House.
- (6) Statements shall not pose a question but rather express the opinion of the Member.
- (7) Statements are not debatable, do not lead to the introduction of a motion and are not responded to by any other Member.

*(SO 25 added 1999, amended 2017, 2018, 2020)*



## SO 25.1 – Statements by Ministers

- 25.1 (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.

*(SO 25.1 added 2022)*

## SO 26 – Oral Questions

26. (1) The ordinary daily routine proceeding “Oral Questions” provided in Standing Order 24 shall not last more than 30 minutes, including supplementary questions and points of order. In this period questions on matters of urgency may be addressed orally to Ministers of the Crown provided, however, that the Speaker shall disallow any question which he or she does not consider urgent or of public importance; provided also that if in the opinion of the Minister to whom a question is addressed it requires a lengthy answer, he or she may require it to be placed on the Order Paper; and provided also that the Minister to whom a question is directed may take such oral question as notice to be answered orally at a later sitting, but where any such reserved question requires as its answer a



lengthy statement, such statement shall be given under the ordinary daily routine proceeding “Statements by Ministers”.

(2) In the discretion of the Speaker, a reasonable number of supplementary questions arising out of a Minister’s reply to an oral question may be asked by any Member.

(3) In putting any oral question, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question, the Minister is not to debate the matter to which it refers.

(4) Oral questions must not be prefaced by the reading of letters, telegrams, newspaper extracts or preambles of any kind.

(5) A Minister may in his or her discretion decline to answer any question.

(6) The Speaker’s rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal.

*(1951 SO 31 amended 1999)*



## **SO 27 – Government Orders**

27. (1) All items standing on the orders of the day (except Government Orders) shall be taken up according to the procedure assigned to each on the Order Paper.
- (2) Whenever Government business has precedence, Government Orders may be called in such sequence as the Government may think fit.

*(1951 SO 16)*

## **SO 28 – Dropped Orders**

28. (1) Questions put by Members and notices of motions not taken up when called may (upon request of the Government) be allowed to stand and retain their precedence; otherwise they will disappear from the Order Paper. They may however be renewed.
- (2) Orders not proceeded with when called, upon the like request, may be allowed to stand retaining their precedence; otherwise they shall be dropped and be placed on the Order Paper for the next sitting after those of the same class at a similar stage.
- (3) All orders not disposed of at the adjournment of the House shall be postponed until the next sitting day without a motion to that effect.

*(1951 SO 17)*



## **SO 29 – Bills Reported from Committee**

29. Bills reported after Second Reading from any standing or select committee shall be placed on the orders of the day following the reception of the report, for reference to a Committee of the Whole House, in their proper order next after Bills reported from Committees of the Whole House.

*(1951 SO 18)*

## **SO 30 – Effect of Wednesday Adjournment**

30. If at the hour of 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, or at the time of the adjournment of the House, a motion on the Order Paper be under consideration, that question shall stand first on the Order Paper of the following day, next after orders to which a special precedence has been assigned by standing order or order of the House.

*(1951 SO 19)*

## **SO 31 – When Committee of Supply Open**

31. When the Committee of Supply, and Ways and Means are open, they shall have precedence of all other Government Orders on Tuesday and Thursday, and on the order being called the question shall be proposed by the Speaker that “I do now leave the Chair.”

*(1951 SO 20 amended 1999)*



## **SO 32 – Orders of the Day Motion**

32. A motion for reading the orders of the day shall have preference to any motion before the House.

*(1951 SO 21)*

## **SO 33 – Motion to Adjourn**

33. A motion to adjourn (except when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance), shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding has been had.

*(1951 SO 22)*



## **SO 34 – Privilege**

34. Whenever any matter of privilege arises, it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

*(1951 SO 15)*

## **SO 35 – Prorogation**

35. A prorogation of the House shall not have the effect of nullifying an order or address of the House for Returns or papers; but all papers and Returns ordered at one session of the House, if not complied with during the session shall be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the order.

*(1951 SO 79)*



## **CHAPTER 9 – MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

### **SO 36 – Adjournment re Urgent Matter**

36. (1) Leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the House (when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance) must be asked after the ordinary daily routine of business (see S.O. 24) has been concluded and before the orders of the day are entered upon.
- (2) Where possible and appropriate, notice of leave to make a motion under this Standing Order may be provided to the Speaker before the House opens on the day on which the Standing Order is invoked.
- (3) The Member desiring to make such a motion rises in his or her place, asks leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, and states the matter.
- (4) The Member then hands a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed to the Speaker, who, if he or she thinks it in order and of urgent public importance, reads it out and asks whether the Member has the leave of the House. If objection is taken, the Speaker requests those Members who support the motion to rise in their places and if not less than 12 Members rise accordingly the Speaker calls upon the Member who has asked for leave.





(5) If less than 12 but not less than 3 Members rise in their places, the question whether the Member has leave to move the adjournment of the House shall be put forthwith, without debate, and determined if necessary by a division.

(6) Except with the requisite leave or support the motion cannot be made.

(7) The right to move the adjournment of the House for the above purposes is subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) Not more than one such motion can be made at the same sitting;
- (b) Not more than one matter can be discussed on the same motion;
- (c) The motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session;
- (d) The motion must not anticipate a matter which has previously been appointed for consideration by the House, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given and withdrawn;
- (e) The motion must not raise a question of privilege;
- (f) The discussion under the motion must not raise any question which, according to the



Standing Orders of the House, can only be debated on a distinct motion under notice.

(8) If leave is given for the Speaker to put the motion that the Orders of the Day not be called, the debate under this Standing Order must be concluded no later than 6 o'clock in the evening after which the Speaker adjourns the House without question put.

*(1951 SO 23 amended 1999)*



## CHAPTER 10 – MOTIONS

### SO 37 – Motions in Writing

37. All substantive motions shall be in writing, and seconded, before being debated or put from the Chair. A Member who has made a motion may withdraw the same, by leave of the House, such leave being granted without any negative voice.

*(1951 SO 32 amended 1999)*

### SO 38 – Questions Under Debate

38. When a question is under debate no question is received unless to amend it; to postpone it to a day certain; for the previous question; for reading the orders of the day; for proceeding to another order; to adjourn the debate; or for the adjournment of the House.

*(1951 SO 33)*

### SO 39 – Referred to Committee

39. A motion to refer a Bill, resolution or any question to the Committee of the Whole or any standing or select committee shall preclude all amendment of the main question.

*(1951 SO 35)*



## **SO 40 – Amendments to Motion**

40. A motion may be amended: (a) by leaving out certain words; (b) by leaving out certain words in order to insert other words; (c) by inserting or adding other words. When the amendment is of form (a) above the Speaker shall put a question that words proposed to be left out do stand apart of the question; which if resolved in the affirmative shall dispose of the amendment. If the amendment is of form (b) above the same question shall be put as in case (a) which if resolved in the affirmative shall dispose of the amendment, but if in the negative then the Speaker shall put the further question that the words proposed to be inserted by the amendment be there inserted. If the amendment be of form (c) above the Speaker shall put a question that the proposed words be there inserted or added, which shall be resolved either in the affirmative or negative.

*(1951 SO 36)*

## **SO 41 – Exception with Amendment**

41. No amendment shall be proposed to be made to any words which the House has resolved shall stand part of a question or shall be inserted in or added to, a question except the addition of other words thereto.

*(1951 SO 37)*



## SO 42 – Motion Contrary to Rules

42. Whenever the Speaker is of opinion that a motion offered to the House is contrary to the rules and privileges of Parliament, he or she shall apprise the House thereof immediately, before putting the question thereon, and quote the Standing Order or authority applicable to the case.

*(1951 SO 39)*

## SO 43 – Previous Question

43. (1) The previous question, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendments of the main question, and shall be in the following words, “That this question be now put.” If the previous question be resolved in the affirmative the original question is to be put forthwith without any amendment or debate.
- (2) A motion for the previous question is not admitted in a Committee of the Whole or any Select Committee of the House.
- (3) The motion for the previous question may be superseded by a motion to adjourn or for reading the orders of the day.
- (4) If the previous question be resolved in the negative, the original question shall not be debated or put on the same day.

*(1951 SO 40, 41 & 42)*



## **CHAPTER 11 – RULES OF DEBATE**

### **SO 43.1 – Debatable Motions**

- 43.1 (1) Motions that are debatable include every motion
- (a) standing on the Order Paper;
  - (b) for concurrence in a report from a Standing or Select Committee;
  - (c) for the previous question;
  - (d) for the second reading of a Bill;
  - (e) for the third reading of a Bill;
  - (f) for the adjournment of the ordinary business of the Assembly when made for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance;
  - (g) for the adoption in Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply of the resolution, clause, section, preamble or title under consideration;
  - (h) for the appointment of a committee;
  - (i) to refer, except the referral of Heads of Expenditure to a Committee under Standing Order 74(1);
  - (j) for the suspension or amendment of any Standing Order;



- (k) with regard to an alleged breach of privilege;
  - (l) for production of documents;
  - (m) for a written question or motion for a return that has not been accepted or to which amendments have been proposed;
  - (n) made on routine proceedings that may be required for
    - (i) the observance of the proprieties of the Assembly and maintenance of its authority;
    - (ii) the appointment or conduct of its officers;
    - (iii) the management of its business;
    - (iv) the correctness of its records.
- (2) Except as noted in these Standing Orders, all other motions, including adjournment motions, shall be decided without debate or amendment.



(3) In this Standing Order, “adjournment motion” includes daily adjournment motions and any motion to adjourn the proceedings of the Assembly for a specified or unspecified period.

*(SO 43.1 Added 2020)*

### **SO 44 – Members Speaking**

44. Every Member desiring to speak must do so from their place and address himself or herself to the Speaker.

*(R&S 2020)*

### **SO 45 – Members Rising Simultaneously**

45. When two or more Members rise to speak, the Speaker calls upon the Member who first rose in his or her place, but a motion may be made that any Member who has risen “be now heard” or “do now speak”, which motion shall be forthwith put, without debate.

*(1951 SO 48)*





## **SO 46 – Time Limits**

46. (1) Subject to Standing Orders 46(2), (3), (4) and (6), no Member shall speak for more than 20 minutes at a time in any debate.
- (2) The Leader of the Government in the House, the Leader of the Opposition, a Minister moving a Government Order and a Member replying thereto immediately after such Minister, a Member moving a motion of non-confidence and the Minister replying thereto, shall not speak for more than 60 minutes at a time in any debate.
- (3) The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government in the House have unlimited time when the Leader of the Opposition moves a motion of non-confidence and the Leader of the Government in the House replies to such a motion other than an amendment to the Address in Reply or the Budget motion.
- (4) The Member speaking immediately in reply to the Minister of Finance in giving the Budget Speech shall be limited to twice the amount of time used by the Minister or three hours, whichever is greater.
- (5) The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government in the House may not delegate their right of unlimited time to another Member under Standing order 46(3).
- (6) During debate of a motion in Committee of the Whole House, the Member who makes an opening statement and the Member who replies immediately after that Member may



speak for not more than 15 minutes, while all other Members may speak for not more than 10 minutes with no limit on the number of times a Member may speak.

*(1951 SO 49 R&S 1999, amended 2005 & 2020)*

## **SO 47 – Closure Motion**

47. Immediately before the order of the day for resuming an adjourned debate is called, or if the House be in Committee of the Whole, or of Supply, or of Ways and Means, any Minister of the Crown, who, standing in his or her place, shall have given notice at a previous sitting of his or her intention to do so, may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned, or that further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles, shall be the first business of the Committee, and shall not further be postponed; and in either case such questions shall be decided without debate or amendment; and if the same shall be resolved in the affirmative, no Member shall thereafter speak more than once, or longer than 20 minutes in any such adjourned debate; or if in the Committee on any such resolution, clause, section, preamble or title; and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before 1 o'clock in the morning, no Member shall rise to speak after that hour; but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration, shall be decided forthwith.

*(1951 SO 50)*



## SO 48 – Relevancy

48. (1) A Member addressing the House shall, if called to order by the Speaker or by any other Member, resume his or her seat while the point of order is being stated, after which he or she may explain. Any debate on the point of order, which the Speaker may permit, must be strictly relevant.

(2) The Speaker or the Chairperson, after having called the attention of the House, or of the Committee, to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or needless repetition, may direct him or her to discontinue his or her speech, and if the Member continues to speak, the Speaker may name him or her, or, if in Committee, the Chairperson shall report him or her to the House.

*(1951 SO 51)*

## SO 49 – Offensive Language

49. No Member shall speak disrespectfully of Her Majesty, nor of any of the Royal Family, nor of the Governor or Administrator of the Government of Canada; nor of the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province; nor use offensive words against any Member of this House. No Member may reflect upon any vote of the House except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

*(1951 SO 52)*



## **SO 50 – Speaking Twice**

50. (1) No Member may speak twice to a question except in explanation of a material part of his or her speech which may have been misquoted or misunderstood, but then he or she is not to introduce any new matter, and no debate shall be allowed upon such explanation.
- (2) A reply shall be allowed to the mover of a substantive motion but not to the mover of an amendment, the previous question or an instruction to a Committee.
- (3) In all cases the Speaker shall inform the House that the reply of the mover of the original motion closes the debate.

*(1951 SO 53)*



## **CHAPTER 12 – QUESTIONS AND NOTICES**

### **SO 51 – Written Questions**

51. (1) Questions may be placed on the Order Paper seeking information from the Ministers relating to public affairs; and from other Members relating to any Bill, motion or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such Members may be concerned; but in putting any such question or in replying to the same, no argument or opinion is to be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same. And in answering any such question the matter to which the same refers shall not be debated.
- (2) If in the opinion of the Speaker a question on the Order Paper put to a Minister be of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply he or she may, upon the request of the Government, direct same to stand as a notice of motion, and to be transferred to its proper place as such upon the Order Paper, the Clerk of the House being authorized to amend the same as to matter of form.
- (3) If a question is of such a nature that in the opinion of the Minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the form of a Return, and the Minister states that he or she has no objection to laying such Return upon the Table of the House, his or her statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House to that effect.
- (4) Notice of every question shall be given by reducing the question to writing and handing 4 copies thereof to the Clerk,



and if not ruled out in accordance with these Standing Orders, the question shall appear on the Order Paper on the next day.

(5) The Clerk of the House shall cause written answers to questions which had been placed upon the Order Paper to be printed in the Verbatim Report of the day on which such answers are tabled unless such answers are of a lengthy or voluminous nature in which case the Clerk shall make them a Return.

*(1951 SO 25)*

## **SO 52 – Questions cannot be Addressed to Speaker**

52. Questions dealing with matters within the jurisdiction of the Speaker are out of order. If however Members write to the Speaker and inquire about matters placed under his or her control, the Speaker is bound to give the information required.

*(1951 SO 26)*

## **SO 53 – Questions Withdrawn**

53. A question may be withdrawn from the Order Paper either by a written notice by the Member putting the question, to the Clerk of the House; or by the Member rising in his or her place in the House and informing the Speaker that he or she desires the question to be dropped.

*(1951 SO 27)*



## **SO 54 – Speaker’s Supervision**

54. The Speaker may rule out any question which violates the privileges of Parliament in the same way as he or she deals with irregularities in motions and amendments. The Speaker may make an alteration in the question or refer it back to the Member for correction. A Member may call the attention of the House to the matter.

*(1951 SO 28)*

## **SO 55 – Notice**

55. Notice shall be given at a previous sitting of a motion for leave to present a Bill, resolution or address, or for placing a question on the Order Paper; but this rule shall not apply to Bills after their introduction, or to Private Bills, or to the times of meeting and adjournment of the House. Such notice shall be laid upon the Table before 5 o’clock or 5:30 o’clock in the afternoon, as the case may be.

*(1951 SO 29 amended 1999)*

## **SO 56 – Unanimous Consent**

56. A motion may in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the House without notice having been given under Standing Order 55.

*(1951 SO 30)*



## CHAPTER 13 – BUSINESS OF SUPPLY AND BUDGET

### SO 57 – Order for Supply

57. (1) At the commencement of each session, the House shall designate by motion, a continuing Order of the Day for the consideration of the business of supply.
- (2) For the purposes of this Standing Order, the business of supply shall consist of motions to concur in interim supply, main estimates and supplementary estimates; motions to restore or reinstate an item in the estimates; motions to introduce or pass at all stages a Bill or Bills based on the estimates.
- (3) The adoption of a motion to concur in an estimate or estimates or interim supply shall be an Order of the House to bring in a Bill or Bills based thereon.

*(SO 57 added 1999)*

### SO 58 – Ways and Means Motion

58. (1) A notice of a Ways and Means motion may be laid upon the Table of the House at any time during a sitting by a Minister of the Crown.
- (2) When a Ways and Means motion is designated for the purpose of enabling a Minister of the Crown to make a Budget





presentation, a motion “That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government” shall be proposed.

(3) The adoption of a Ways and Means motion shall be an order to bring in a Bill or Bills based on the provisions of that motion.

*(SO 58 added 1999)*

### **SO 59 – Amendments**

59. Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to a motion “That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government”.

*(1951 SO 34 amended 1999)*



## CHAPTER 14 – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

### SO 60 – Committee of the Whole

60. (1) The Standing Orders of the House shall be observed in the Committees of the Whole House so far as may be applicable, except the Standing Orders as to the seconding of motions and limiting the number of times of speaking.
- (2) Speeches in Committee of the Whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.
- (3) The Chairperson shall maintain order in the Committees of the Whole House, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the House, but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House, on receiving a report thereof.

*(1951 SO 44)*

### SO 60.1 – Motion not Debatable

- 60.1 A motion that the Speaker leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House shall be decided without debate or amendment.

*(SO 60.1 added 2005)*



## **SO 61 – Motion to Leave Chair**

61. A motion that the Chairperson leave the Chair is always in order, shall take precedence of any other motion, and shall not be debatable. Such motion, if rejected, cannot be renewed unless some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

*(1951 SO 45)*

## **SO 62 – Money Resolutions**

62. If any motion be made in the House for public aid or charge upon the people, the consideration and debate thereof may not be presently entered upon, but shall be adjourned till such further day as the House thinks fit to appoint; and then it shall be referred to a Committee of the Whole House, before any resolution or vote of the House do pass thereupon.

*(1951 SO 46)*



## **CHAPTER 15 – PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION**

### **SO 63 – Private Member’s Day**

63. (1) The determination of which Private Member’s motion shall be called by the Speaker on Private Member’s Day rests with each side of the House, with the Speaker calling a motion from each side of the House on a weekly alternating basis.
- (2) At the beginning of a General Assembly the Speaker shall follow the custom of recognizing a Private Member’s motion from the Opposition side of the House on the first Private Member’s Day.
- (3) On the Monday before the Wednesday of the week in which a Private Member’s motion is to be debated, the Government House Leader or the Opposition House Leader, as the case may be, shall announce to the House the Private Member’s motion to be debated on that Wednesday.
- (4) A Private Member’s motion shall be debated for not more than one sitting day and at 5 o’clock in the afternoon at the close of the day the motion then under consideration shall be put by the Speaker, if the debate has not concluded by that time.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 46, no Member may speak for more than 10 minutes on the debate on a Private Member’s motion.



(6) The Member introducing a Private Member's motion has the right to close the debate and if at 4:50 o'clock on the day of debate on the motion the debate has not been concluded, the Speaker shall recognize that Member who shall then close the debate.

(7) On Wednesday the question period shall commence not later than 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon and the ordinary daily routine of business shall end not later than 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and at that time the Private Member's motion shall be called by the Speaker.

(8) In recognizing motions introduced by Members who sit in the Opposition, the Speaker shall ensure that motions made by Opposition Members who do not sit with the Official Opposition are called for debate in proportion to the number of those Members to the number of all the Members who sit in the Opposition, with the intent that each Member sitting in the Opposition shall have an opportunity to introduce a Private Member's motion once during a Session.

(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.

*(SO 53.1 added 1979 R&S 1995; SO 63(2) amended 2019 & 2022)*



## **SO 64 – Private Member’s Notice of Motion**

64. (1) When a Private Member’s notice of motion shall have been twice called from the Chair, and not proceed with, it shall be dropped, provided that it may be placed at the foot of the list on the Order Paper upon motion made after due notice.
- (2) If the notice of motion thus restored is again called from the Chair and not proceeded with, it shall be withdrawn from the Order Paper.
- (3) No Private Member shall have more than one notice of motion at a time on the Order Paper.
- (4) This Standing Order shall not apply to notices of motions for the production of papers.

*(1951 SO 38)*



## **CHAPTER 16 – COMMITTEES**

### **SO 65 – Standing Committees**

65. (1) At the commencement of the first session of each Assembly, a committee of 5 to be named by the mover shall be appointed on motion of the Leader of the House or other Member of the Government whose duty it shall be to prepare and report, within the first 20 sitting days after its appointment, lists of Members to compose the following Standing Committees of the House:
- (a) Government Services Committee to consist of not more than 17 Members and not less than 7 Members;
  - (b) Social Services Committee to consist of not more than 17 Members and not less than 7 Members;
  - (c) Resource Committee to consist of not more than 17 Members and not less than 7 Members;
  - (d) Public Accounts Committee to consist of 7 Members;
  - (e) Privileges and Elections Committee to consist of 5 Members; and
  - (f) Standing Orders Committee to consist of 5 Members.



(2) Each of the said Committees shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the commencement of every Session, and, if necessary, during the course of the Session.

(3) The Membership of the said Standing Committees shall be as set out in the report of the said Committee of 5 referred to at the beginning of Standing Order 65(1), when concurred in by the House, and shall continue from Session to Session within an Assembly, but shall be subject to such changes as may be effected from time to time.

(4) The said Standing Committees may sit at all times during the Assembly for which they are appointed whether or not the House is in Session, adjourned or prorogued.

(5) The said Standing Committees shall be severally empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the House, and, to report from time to time, and except when the House otherwise orders to send for persons, papers and records, to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by them, and to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House.

(6) In addition to any matter referred to the Public Accounts Committee under Standing Order 65(5), the Public Accounts of the Province and all reports of the Auditor General, shall, upon tabling, stand referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

*(1951 SO 84 amended 2023)*





## SO 66 – Select Committees

66. (1) No select committee may, without leave of the House consist of more than 7 Members; such leave shall not be moved for without notice, and if it is proposed to add or substitute certain Members after the first appointment of the Committee, the notice is to include the names of the Members proposed to be added or substituted.
- (2) No Member who declares or decides against the principle of a Bill, resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated to such a committee.
- (3) A select committee to draw up an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne may be appointed at once, without notice.

*(1951 SO 85)*

## SO 67 – Quorum and Order in Committees

67. (1) A majority of the Members of a standing or select committee shall constitute a quorum. The presence of a quorum shall be required whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken by a standing or select committee, provided that any such committee, by resolution thereof, may authorize the Chairperson to hold meetings to receive and authorize the printing of evidence when a quorum is not present.



(2) Any Member of the House who is not a Member of a standing or select committee, may, unless the House or the committee concerned otherwise orders, take part in the public proceedings of the committee, but he or she may not vote or move any motion, nor shall he or she be part of any quorum.

(3) In a standing or select committee, the Standing Orders of the House shall be observed so far as may be applicable with the exception that motions need not be seconded.

(4) The Chairperson of a standing or select committee shall maintain order in the committees, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the committee; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House, on receiving a report thereof.

*(1951 SO 86 amended 1999)*

## **SO 67.1- Manner of Meeting of Committees**

67.1 (1) A Committee may meet in a virtual manner or a hybrid of virtual and in-person meetings, whether those meetings are public or *in camera*.

(2) The chair of the committee, in consultation with the clerk of the committee, may determine the manner of meeting.

*(SO 67.1 Added 2020)*



## SO 68 – Changes in a Committee

68. Changes in the membership of any committee may be effected by a notice, signed by the Government House Leader to that effect, being filed with the Clerk.

*(1951 SO 87)*

## SO 69 – Witnesses

69. (1) No witness shall be summoned to attend before any committee of the House, unless a certificate shall first have been filed with the Chairperson of such committee, by some Member thereof, stating that the evidence to be obtained from such witness is, in the opinion of such Member, material and important.
- (2) The Clerk of the House is authorized to pay to witnesses so summoned, a reasonable sum (per diem) during their travel and attendance, to be determined by the Speaker, and a reasonable allowance for travelling expenses.
- (3) The claim of a witness for payment shall state the number of days during which he or she has been in attendance, the time of necessary travel and the amount of his or her travelling expenses, which claim and statement shall, before being paid, be certified by the Chairperson and clerk of the committee before which such witness has been summoned.

*(1951 SO 88)*



## **SO 70 – Lists of Committees**

70. The Clerk shall display in some conspicuous part of the House a list of the several standing and select committees.

*(1951 SO 89)*



## CHAPTER 17 – ESTIMATES PROCEDURE

### SO 71 – Time in Committee of Supply

71. (1) The procedure in Committee of Supply shall be limited to not more than 75 hours to be reduced in accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders 71 to 77.
- (2) For the purposes of Standing Order 77(1) “Committee of Supply” includes the Committee of Supply on the main estimates, and on interim supply forming a part of the main estimates.

*(SO 116 added 1979)*

### SO 72 – Estimates Referred to Committee

72. (1) The striking committee established pursuant to Standing Order 65(1) may move the appointment at each Session, following the presentation of the motion to move “That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government”, of a committee or committees of the House composed of such Members as are set out in the motion to consider and report upon any estimates referred to it.
- (2) Subject to Standing Order 68, the Members of each committee shall be elected by the House.



(3) The Government Services Committee, Social Services Committee and the Resource Committee may act as committees under Standing Orders 71 to 77.

*(SO 117 added 1979 amended 1999)*

## **SO 73 – Procedure in Committee**

73. (1) Each committee shall consist of not less than 7 nor more than 15 Members.

(2) Each committee shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

(3) Standing Orders 67 and 68 apply to each committee.

(4) Each committee may set its own hours of sitting but may not sit when the House is sitting, except by leave of the House.

(5) Notwithstanding Standing Order 46, the Minister or his or her delegate introducing his or her estimates and the Member speaking immediately in reply shall not speak for more than 15 minutes and every other Member shall not speak for more than 10 minutes at a time during Committee of Supply, or during the debate in a committee or committees established under Standing Order 72.

(6) A committee may not question public servants except through the Minister or his or her delegate, and may not call witnesses.



(7) For the purpose of this Standing Order, “delegate” means a Minister of the Crown who may introduce estimates on behalf of another Minister.

*(SO 118 added 1979; amended 2018)*

## **SO 74 – Time Limits**

74. (1) The House may refer such Heads of Expenditure (Estimates), as it may decide, upon motion of the House Leader, to a committee or committees established under Standing Order 72. Such motion shall be decided without debate or amendment.

(2) Three hours shall be deducted for each Head of Expenditure so referred from the time allocated under Standing Order 71.

(3) Notwithstanding SO 74(2) where a head of expenditure has been referred to a Committee established under SO 72, and the time used in debate of the head of expenditure exceeds three hours, the additional time shall also be deducted from the time allocated under SO 71.

*(SO 119 added 1979 amended 1999, 2005, & 2019)*



## **SO 75 – At the End of 15 Days**

75. (1) Each committee shall, at the conclusion of 15 sitting days of the House of Assembly following the reference of estimates to it, put all questions, without debate, needed to carry every subhead of each Head of expenditure referred to it before making a report to the House.
- (2) All estimates not selected for consideration by the respective Standing Committee on Estimates shall be deemed to be passed by the Committee and reported back to the House at the conclusion of the 15 day period.

*(SO 120 added 1979 amended 1999)*

## **SO 76 – Concurrence**

76. (1) Upon the making of a report under Standing Order 75, a motion shall be deemed to be before the House that the report be concurred in.
- (2) The motion to concur in the report of each committee may be debated for not more than 3 hours and at the conclusion of that period of time the motion shall be put by the Speaker.
- (3) The time allocated under Standing Order 76 (2) for the concurrence debates shall be deducted from the 75 hours allocated for Committee of Supply.

*(SO 121 added 1979)*





## SO 77 – Estimates in House

77. (1) Any estimates not referred to a committee or committees under Standing order 74 shall be considered in Committee of the Whole on Supply.
- (2) At the conclusion of the 75 hours as reduced by Standing Orders 71 to 77 the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole on Supply shall put all questions, without debate, necessary to carry every subhead of each Head of Expenditure not referred to a committee or committees or considered by the Committee of Supply.

*(SO 122 added 1979)*



## CHAPTER 18 – PUBLIC BILLS

### SO 78 – Introduction of Bills

78. Every Bill is introduced upon motion for leave, specifying the title of the Bill; or upon motion to appoint a committee to prepare and bring it in.

*(1951 SO 54)*

### SO 79 – Legislation Referred to Committees

79. (1) The Government House Leader may direct the Law Clerk to refer to one of the Standing Committees established under Standing Order 65(1) (a), (b) and (c), a draft public Bill which the Government propose to introduce into the House at some later time.
- (2) The Standing Committee to which the draft Public Bill is referred under Standing Order 79(1) shall review that draft Public Bill, taking evidence from witnesses in either private or public hearings as its Members may deem desirable, but may sit outside St. John's only with prior leave of the House.



(3) The Standing Committee to which a draft Public Bill is referred shall report to the House with respect to the Bill by the later of the tenth sitting day after the receipt by its Chair of the Bill or the day set by the Government House Leader for commencement of the Second Reading debate on the proposed legislation.

*(SO 54.1 added 1993)*

## **SO 80 – Bills Referred to Committee After Second Reading**

80. (1) Subject to Standing Order 80 (4), a Bill which has been read a second time may be referred to the appropriate Committee, as determined by Standing Order 80(3), upon that Committee's request. The Committee shall review the Bill, taking evidence from witnesses in either private or public hearings as its Members may deem desirable, and shall report to the House with respect to the Bill within 10 sitting days after the day the Bill receives Second Reading.

(2) The House shall give no further consideration to a Bill referred under Standing Order 80(1) until the Committee has made its report with respect thereto, unless the House otherwise orders, by means of a motion of which due notice has been given, which motion may be spoken to by one Member of the Opposition, and shall be replied to by a Minister, for not more than 10 minutes each, which motion may be put to the House at any time after the Bill has been read for the second time.



(3) A Bill referred under Standing Order 80(1) shall be sent to the Standing Order 65 Standing Committee which deals with the Bill's subject matter, unless the House orders it sent to a Select Committee, by means of a motion of which due notice has been given, which motion shall not be debatable.

(4) Notwithstanding Standing Order 79 and Standing Order 80(1) to (3), financial measures shall be dealt with in accordance with the hitherto established procedure, or such new procedure as may be established by the House from time to time.

*(SO 54.2 added 1993)*

## **SO 81 – Imperfect Bills**

81. No Bill may be introduced either in blank or in an imperfect shape.

*(1951 SO 55)*

## **SO 82 – Motion for First Reading**

82. When any Bill is presented by a Member, in pursuance of an order of the House, the question, "That this Bill be now read a first time," shall be decided without debate or amendment.

*(1951 SO 56)*



## **SO 83 – Bills Printed**

83. All Bills shall be printed before the Second Reading.

*(1951 SO 57)*

## **SO 84 – Urgent Cases**

84. Every Bill shall receive three several readings on different days, previously to being passed. On urgent or extraordinary occasions, a Bill may by leave of the House be read twice or thrice, or advanced two or more stages in one day.

*(1951 SO 58)*

## **SO 85 – Dates of Readings**

85. When a Bill is read in the House, the Clerk shall certify upon it the readings and the time thereof. After it has passed, the Clerk shall certify the same, with the date at the foot of the Bill.

*(1951 SO 59)*

## **SO 86 – Read Twice Before Committal**

86. Every Public Bill shall be read twice in the House before committal or amendment.

*(1951 SO 60)*



## **SO 87 – Third Reading**

87. When a Bill has been read a third time and passed, the Third Reading and passing may be declared rescinded by majority vote and the Bill then recommitted, but if a Bill has received Royal Assent, it can only be amended by bringing in another Bill for that purpose.

*(SO 60A added 1953)*

## **SO 88 – Bills in Committee**

88. In proceedings in Committee of the Whole House upon Bills, the preamble is first postponed, and then every clause considered, preamble and title to be last considered.

*(1951 SO 61)*

## **SO 89 – Bills Reported from Committee**

89. All amendments made in committee are reported by the Chairperson of the House, which shall receive the same forthwith. But when a Bill is reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the House.

*(1951 SO 62)*



## CHAPTER 19 – PETITIONS

### SO 90 – Introduction of Petitions

90. A petition to the House shall be presented by a Member in his or her place who shall be answerable that it does not contain impertinent or improper matter; and every Member offering a petition to the House shall sign it with his or her own hand.

*(1951 SO 90)*

### SO 91 – Printed or Written in English

91. (1) A petition may be either printed or written and must be in substantially same form as the Form of Petition contained in the Appendix.
- (2) The prayer of a petition must appear on each page of the petition.
- (3) A petition must be written in English or accompanied by a translation certified by the Clerk.

*(1951 SO 91, R&S 2017)*



## SO 92 – Procedure and Time

92. (1) Every Member offering a petition to the House shall confine himself or herself to the statement of the parties from whom it comes, the number of signatures attached to it and the material allegations it contains. In no case shall the Member occupy more than 3 minutes in so doing, unless by permission of the House upon question put.
- (2) A Minister, in his or her discretion, may reply to a petition and the Minister shall occupy no more than 90 seconds in so doing.
- (3) A Minister's response under Standing Order 92 (2) may be given on the day the petition is presented or the next sitting day only.
- (4) Where, in a session, multiple petitions of the same subject matter are presented, a Minister may respond to each petition in the manner contemplated under Standing Order 92 (3), but only one response to a petition with the same subject matter may be made on each sitting day.

*(1951 SO 92 amended 1999, amended 2019 & 2020)*

## SO 93 – [Repealed]

93. Repealed.

*(1951 SO 93, Repealed 2017)*





## **SO 94 – Standing Order 24**

94. Petitions may not be offered at any time other than at the time provided by Standing Order 24 for such business.

*(1951 SO 94)*

## **SO 95 – Expenditure of Public Funds**

95. A petition, the granting of which involves an expenditure of public money, shall if received, be referred to the government department concerned.

*(1951 SO 95)*

## **SO 96 – [Repealed]**

96. Repealed.

*(1951 SO 96, Repealed 2017)*

## **SO 97 – No Debate**

97. There shall be no debate on a petition, unless the House has it under consideration.

*(1951 SO 97)*



## CHAPTER 20 – PRIVATE BILLS

### SO 98 – Introduced by Petition

98. All Private Bills shall be introduced on petition, which is read and forthwith referred to the committee on standing orders. When the petition is favourably reported on by the committee, a motion is made for leave to introduce the Bill.

*(1951 SO 63)*

### SO 99 – Certificate from Clerk

99. No petition to introduce a Private Bill shall be considered unless accompanied by a certificate from the Clerk that the fees applicable to such Bill have been received by the Clerk.

*(1951 SO 64)*

### SO 100 – Suspension of Rules

100. In case of urgent and pressing necessity, a motion for the suspension or modification of any rule applying to Private Bills, or petitions for Private Bills may be entertained by the House, but no such motion will be entertained unless the same has been reported by the committee on standing orders and the committee shall state the grounds for recommending such suspension.

*(1951 SO 65)*



## **SO 101 – Select Committee**

101. Every Private Bill when read a second time shall be referred to a select committee and all petitions for and against shall also be referred to such committee.

*(1951 SO 66)*

## **SO 102 – Notice**

102. No committee on any Private Bill is to consider the same until after one week's notice of the sitting of such committee has been posted on the notice board.

*(1951 SO 67)*



## **SO 103 – Proof of Consent of Interested Parties**

103. All persons whose interests, rights or property may be affected by any Private Bill shall, when required to do so, appear before the committee touching their consent, or may, if required so to do, send their consent in writing, proof and verification of which may be demanded by the committee. In every case the committee upon every Bill for incorporating a company may require proof, in writing or otherwise, verification of which writing may be demanded by the committee, that the persons whose names appear in the Bill as comprising the company are of full age, and in a position to effect the objects contemplated; and have consented to become incorporated, and the committee shall among other things report accordingly.

*(1951 SO 68)*

## **SO 104 – Private Interests Protected**

104. The select committee on a Private Bill may hear the promoters and opponents or their counsel, consider their private interests and determine in a quasi-judicial capacity, whether the promoters of the Bill have justified their request for a privilege and whether private interests are properly protected.

*(1951 SO 69)*



## **SO 105 – Hearing Evidence**

105. While a select committee is hearing evidence, Members of the House who are not on the committee have a right to be present but not to interfere in the proceedings. When the committee is about to deliberate, all the counsel, witnesses, agents and strangers are obliged to withdraw. It is customary for Members of the House to withdraw also.

*(1951 SO 70)*

## **SO 106 – Majority Vote**

106. All questions before a select committee on a Private Bill are decided by a majority of voices including the voice of the Chairperson; and whenever the voices are equal, the Chairperson has a second or casting vote.

*(1951 SO 71)*



## **SO 107 – Bills Signed by Chair and Clerk**

107. The Chairperson of the committee shall sign with his or her name at length a printed copy of the Bill on which amendments are fairly written and shall also initial the preamble and the various sections of the Bill as they are agreed to, and also any amendments which may be made or clauses added in committee; and another copy of the Bill shall be similarly signed and initialed by the clerk of the committee who shall file the same with the Clerk of the House or attach it to the report.

*(1951 SO 72)*

## **SO 108 – Report of Select Committee**

108. The committee to which any Private Bill has been referred shall report the same to the House in every case; and when the committee on any Private Bill report to the House that they have made any material change in the preamble of the Bill or that the preamble has not been proven to their satisfaction they must also state the grounds upon which they have made such decisions, and no Bill, the preamble of which has been reported as not proven, shall be placed upon the orders of the day unless by special order of the House.

*(1951 SO 73)*

## **SO 109 – Order Paper**

109. Private Bills reported otherwise to the House by such committee shall be placed upon the orders of the day following



reception of the report, for consideration in Committee of the Whole, in their proper order, next after Bills referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

*(1951 SO 74)*

## **SO 110 – Notice of Amendments**

110. No important amendment may be proposed to any Private Bill, in a Committee of the Whole House, or at the Third Reading of the Bill unless one day's notice has been given.

*(1951 SO 75)*

## **SO 111 – Fees**

111. Any person seeking to obtain a Private Bill giving an exclusive privilege or profit, or private or corporate advantage shall be required to deposit with the Clerk of the House a copy of the Bill together with a sum of money to cover the printing of the Bill and such amounts as may be prescribed by the Commission of Internal Economy of the House of Assembly.

*(1951 SO 76 R&S 1999)*



## **CHAPTER 21 – OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE**

### **SO 112 – The Clerk of the House**

112. The Clerk of the House is responsible for the safekeeping of all the papers and records of the House, and has the direction and control over all the officers and clerks employed in the offices, subject to such orders as he or she may, from time to time, receive from the Speaker of the House.

*(1951 SO 98)*

### **SO 113 – Lists of Reports, etc.**

113. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to make and cause to be printed and delivered to each Member at the commencement of every session of Parliament, a list of the reports or other periodical statements which it is the duty of any officer or department of the Government, or any bank or other corporate body to make to the House.

*(1951 SO 100)*

### **SO 114 – Work Completed**

114. It shall be the duty of the officers of the House to complete and finish the work remaining at the end of the session.

*(1951 SO 101)*





## **SO 115 – Journals**

115. A copy of the Journals of the House, certified by the Clerk, shall be delivered after each major adjournment of the House to His or Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor and to the Legislative Librarian.

*(1951 SO 24 R&S 1999)*

## **SO 116 – Law Clerk**

116. It shall be the duty of the Law Clerk of the House to assist Members of the House and deputy heads in drafting legislation; to supervise the printing and arrangement and extending of the statutes year by year as they are issued at the close of each Parliamentary Session; to revise, print, and put marginal notes upon all Bills; to revise before the Third Reading all amendments by select committees, or in committees of the whole; and to report to the several chairpersons of the various select committees, when requested to do so, any provisions in Private Bills which are at variance with general Acts on the subjects to which such Bills relate or with the usual provisions of private Acts on similar subjects and provisions deserving of special attention.

*(1951 SO 102)*



## **SO 117 – Sergeant-at-Arms**

117. (1) The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the safekeeping of the Mace, and of the furniture and fittings of the House.

(2) The Sergeant-at-Arms serves all orders of the House upon those whom they may concern. He or she preserves order in the galleries, corridors and other parts. He or she is responsible for the movable property belonging to the House.

(3) The Sergeant-at-Arms has the direction and control over all constables, messengers, pages and other such employees subject to such orders as he or she may receive from the Clerk, the Speaker or the House.

*(1951 SO 103)*

## **SO 118 – Hours of Attendance**

118. The hours of attendance of the respective officers of the House, and the extra clerks employed during the session, shall be fixed from time to time by the Speaker.

*(1951 SO 104)*



## **CHAPTER 22 – LIBRARY**

### **SO 119 – Catalogue**

119. A proper catalogue of the books belonging to the Library shall be kept by the Librarian, in whom the custody and responsibility thereof shall be vested, and who shall be required to report to the House through the Speaker, at the opening of each session, the actual state of the Library.

*(1951 SO 105)*

### **SO 120 – Access to Library**

120. No person shall be entitled to resort to the Library during a session of Parliament, except the Lieutenant-Governor, the Members of the House, the Officers of the House and such other persons as may receive a written order of admission from the Speaker. Members may personally introduce strangers to the Library during the daytime, but not after 5 o'clock in the evening.

*(1951 SO 106)*



## **SO 121 – Borrowing Books During Session**

121. During the session of Parliament, no books belonging to the Library shall be taken out of the building, except by the authority of the Speaker, or upon a receipt given by a Member of the House.

*(1951 SO 107)*

## **SO 122 – Borrowing Books During Recess**

122. During the recess of Parliament no Member of the House not residing in St. John's shall be at liberty to borrow or have in his or her possession, at any one time, more than 3 works from the Library; or to retain the same for a longer period than one month.

*(1951 SO 108)*



## **SO 123 – Library Hours**

123. During the recess of Parliament, the Library and reading room shall be open each day in the week, Sundays and holidays excepted, from 9 o'clock in the morning till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and access to the Library shall be permitted to persons introduced by a Member of the House, or admitted at the discretion of the Clerk or Librarian, subject to such regulations as may be deemed necessary for the security and preservation of the collection, but no one shall be allowed to take any book out of the Library, except Members of the House, and such others as may be authorized by the Speaker.

*(1951 SO 109)*

## **SO 124 – Other Persons Borrowing**

124. No other persons who may be privileged by card from the Speaker to borrow books from the Library shall be allowed to have in their possession more than 2 works at any one time, or to retain the same longer than 2 weeks; and all such persons shall return the books so taken when required by the Librarian.

*(1951 SO 110)*

## **SO 125 – Books of Reference**

125. No books of reference, or books of special cost or value, may be removed from the Library under any circumstances.

*(1951 SO 111)*



## **SO 126 – Library Committee**

126. At the beginning of each session, a committee of 5 Members, to be called the Library Committee of which the Speaker shall be the Chairperson, shall be appointed. Such committee shall advise and assist the Speaker in the control of the Library, and shall have the power to sit out of session, and until a new one has been appointed.

*(1951 SO 112)*

## **SO 127 – Report of Books Absent**

127. At the first meeting of the Library Committee at every session of the House, the Librarian shall report a list of books absent at the commencement of the session, specifying the names of any persons who have retained the same in contravention of any of the foregoing rules.

*(1951 SO 113)*

## **SO 128 – Newspaper Subscriptions**

128. The Clerk is authorized to subscribe for the newspapers published in the Province and for such other papers, Canadian, British and foreign, as may, from time to time be directed by the Speaker.

*(1951 SO 114)*



## APPENDICES – PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

These are practice recommendations of the House of Assembly that were recommended by the 1999 Select Committee on the Standing Orders and subsequently adopted by the House. It is important to note that the procedures, guidelines, etc. listed here are practices and are not Standing Orders; and further, that this is not a complete collection of the practices of the House of Assembly.

### 1 – [Repealed]

1. Repealed.

*(Amended 2005, Repealed 2017)*

### 2 – Parliamentary Group

2. To be recognized as a parliamentary group in the House of Assembly, the group must be a registered party in accordance with the Elections Act, 1991, must have contested two-thirds of the number of seats in the House of Assembly at the preceding General Election and have elected at least three Members, at the preceding General Election or at a by-election. This definition would not affect the ruling of Mr. Speaker McNicholas in 1987 concerning the right of a two person group with respect to Ministerial Statements or other decisions made with respect to the entitlements of the New Democratic Party Members of the House.



### **3 – Petitions**

3. (a) Where a petition does not conform to the requirements of Standing Orders 90 to 92 and the Speaker considers that in substance the petition is by its nature of concern and interest to Members of the House, the Speaker may waive the Standing Orders in this regard and rule that the particular petition is in order.
- (b) All petitions must be certified by a Table Officer before presentation.
- (c) Form of Petition – see following pages





## PETITION

**1. These are the reasons for this petition: (OR: The background to this petition is as follows:)**

*(Briefly summarize the problem or grievance and give any necessary background information)*

**2. Therefore, we petition the Honourable House of Assembly as follows:**

*(Prayer: Set out the action the House of Assembly is being asked to take or not take)*

**DATE:**

**NAME: (please print)**

**Address:**

**Signature:**

**Every petition must include the following on each page:**

1. The prayer of the petition.
2. The following statement:

***This petition may be tabled in the House of Assembly. If tabled, the petition will be a document of the House of Assembly and the name and address of every person who signs it will be available to the public.***

*(Added 1999, R&S 2017)*



**Form**

<b>Petition</b>			
These are the reasons for this petition <u>OR</u> The background to this petition is as follows: <i>(Briefly summarize the problem or grievance and give any necessary background information)</i>			
Therefore, we petition the Honourable House of Assembly as follows: <i>(Prayer: Set out action the House of Assembly is being asked to take or not take. Typical wording would be: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to .....)</i>			
Date	Name (please print)	Address	Signature
This petition may be tabled in the House of Assembly. If tabled, the petition will be a document of the House of Assembly and the name and address of every person who signs it will be available to the public.			

Subsequent pages must include the following but may be a repeat of the entire form (as above)

Therefore, we petition the Honourable House of Assembly as follows: <i>(Prayer: Set out action the House of Assembly is being asked to take or not take. Typical wording would be: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to .....)</i>			
Date	Name (please print)	Address	Signature
This petition may be tabled in the House of Assembly. If tabled, the petition will be a document of the House of Assembly and the name and address of every person who signs it will be available to the public.			

Also see: [www.assembly.nl.ca/HouseBusiness/Petitions](http://www.assembly.nl.ca/HouseBusiness/Petitions)



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*SO 16.1, 18, 90*

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Also serves as Chairperson of Committees

*SO 5(1), 8*

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*SO 5(1), 8*

Duration of appointment

*SO 5(2), 8*

Takes Chair in Committee of the Whole, including Committee of Supply and Committee of Ways and Means

*SO 5(1), 8*

**Division.** *See also* Votes

Deferral of vote on

*SO 16.1, 18, 90*

Every Member present in his or her place when the question is put is required to vote

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Written answers to questions to be printed in Verbatim Report on  
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Definition of stranger does not include infant being cared for by

Member who is that infant's parent

*SO 22(2), 21*

### **Interpretation**

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to be recognized

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### **Journals**

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Lieutenant Governor and to the Legislative Librarian

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*SO 116, 80*

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*SO 116, 80*

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*SO 116, 80*

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Leader of Opposition and Premier may not delegate their right of unlimited time under *SO 46(3)*

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the Lieutenant Governor and to the Legislative Librarian

*SO 115, 80*

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Adjournment regarding urgent matter

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*SO 36(6), 32*

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Member may be named by Speaker or Chairperson if he or she persists in irrelevance or needless repetition

*SO 48(2), 42*

Sergeant-at-Arms role regarding

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*SO 64(2), 53*

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*SO 64(3), 53*

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### **Offensive language**

Member may not reflect upon a vote of the House except to move that such vote be rescinded

*SO 49, 42*

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Governor or Administrator of Government of Canada, nor use offensive words against another Member of the House

*SO 49, 42*



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Government House Leader or Opposition House Leader to  
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Duration of

*SO 26(1), 25–26*

Limits to arguments, opinions offered or facts, except so far as may  
be necessary to explain question

*SO 26(3), 26*

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*SO 26(5), 26*

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*SO 26(4), 26*

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Members not to walk out of or across the House when Speaker  
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SO 7(5), 10

No Member can pass between Chair and Table, nor between Chair and Mace when Mace has been taken off Table

SO 7(4), 10

Speaker's role to preserve

SO 7(1), 10

When Member is speaking, no Member shall pass between him or her and Chair, nor interrupt

SO 7(3), 10

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*SO 92 (1)*, 71

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*SO 92 (4)*, 71

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*SO 92 (2)*, 71

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*SO 92 (3)*, 71

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Clerk of the House does not entertain points of order or privilege during procedure of election of the Speaker

SO 3(2), 4

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If resolved in the negative, original question not debated or put on the same day

SO 43(4), 36

Motion for previous question may be superseded by motion to adjourn or for reading orders of the day

SO 43(3), 36



Motion for previous question not admitted in Committee of the  
Whole or any Select Committee

*SO 43(2), 36*

Motions for the previous question are debatable

*SO 43.1(1)(c), 37*

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*SO 43(1), 36*

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To be placed upon orders of the day following reception of the  
report

*SO 109, 77–78*

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committee

*SO 107, 77*

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*SO 99, 73*

Committee on any private Bill cannot consider same until after one  
week's notice of sitting has been posted

*SO 102, 74*

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*SO 103, 75*

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*SO 106, 76*

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### **Private Member's Day**

Amendment to Private Member's Motion may be sought in advance from the Speaker, outside the time allocated for debate

*SO 63(9), 52*

At beginning of new session, Opposition side of House will be recognized for first motion

*SO 63(2), 51*

Government House Leader or Opposition House Leader to announce the motion to be debated on the Monday before the Wednesday concerned

*SO 63(3), 51*

Member introducing a Private Member's motion has right to close debate

*SO 63(6), 51–52*

Motions made by Opposition Members who do not sit with Official Opposition

*SO 63(8), 52*

Notice of Motion

Instance where motion shall be dropped

*SO 64(1), 53*

Instance where motion shall be withdrawn from Order Paper

*SO 64(2), 53*

Only one notice of motion per Member permissible on Order Paper at a time

*SO 64(3), 53*

Notwithstanding *SO 46*, no Member may speak for more than 15 minutes on debate

*SO 63(5), 51*



Private Member's motion not to be debated for more than one sitting day and not beyond 5 o'clock

*SO 63(4), 51*

Question Period to commence not later than 2:30 o'clock

*SO 63(7), 52*

Speaker calls motion from each side of House on weekly alternating basis

*SO 63(1), 51*

### **Privilege**

To be taken into consideration immediately

*SO 34, 30*

Clerk of the House does not entertain points of order or privilege during procedure of election of the Speaker

*SO 3(2), 4*

Motion to adjourn the House to discuss matter of urgent public importance not to raise matter of

*SO 36(7)(e), 32*

Motions with regard to an alleged breach of privilege are debatable

*SO 43.1(1)(k), 38*

**Privileges and Elections Committee.** *See* Standing Committees

### **Prorogation**

Does not nullify an order or address of the House for Returns or papers

*SO 35, 30*

### **Provisional Standing Orders**

Deferral of vote on Division

*SO 16.1, 90*

**Public Accounts Committee.** *See* Standing Committees

### **Public Bills**

A Bill referred to under *SO 80(1)* shall be sent to the *SO 65* Standing Committee which deals with Bill's subject matter

*SO 80(3), 67*

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*SO 80(1), 66*

Bills read twice in House before committal or amendment

*SO 86, 68*

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*SO 83, 68*

Dates of readings of Bills

*SO 85, 68*

Draft Bill may be referred to one of the Standing Committees  
under *SO 65(1)(a), (b), and (c)*

*SO 79(1)*

Financial measures shall be dealt with in accordance with the  
hitherto established procedure

*SO 80(4), 67*

House shall give no further consideration to a Bill referred to under  
*SO 80(1)* until Committee has made its report with respect  
thereto

*SO 80(2), 66*

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*SO 78, 65*

Motion for first reading shall be decided without debate or  
amendment

*SO 82, 67*

Preamble and title are the last items to be considered in  
committee

*SO 88, 69*

Third reading can be rescinded

*SO 87, 69*

Urgent cases

On urgent occasions, a Bill may by leave advance two or more  
stages in one day

*SO 84, 68*



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Addressed to Speaker

*SO 52, 45*

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*SO 54, 46*

Written questions

If reply should be in form of a Return

*SO 51(3), 44*

Limits to arguments or opinions offered in

*SO 51(1), 44*

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*SO 51(4), 44–45*

Speaker may direct question requiring lengthy reply to stand as notice of motion

*SO 51(2), 44*

Written answers to be printed in Verbatim Report on the day such answers are tabled

*SO 51(5), 45*

**Quorum**

Any Member can direct Speaker's attention to absence of

*SO 12(2), 15*

Doors to remain open while Members are counted, and Members can enter during whole time of counting

*SO 12(4), 15*

Name of Members present to be inserted in Journal, whenever Speaker adjourns House for lack of quorum

*SO 12(6), 16*

Procedure for noting lack of quorum

*SO 12(5), 15*



Requiring presence of at least 10 Members

*SO 12(1), 15*

Sounding of division bells for 5 minutes

*SO 12(3), 15*

Speaker to take Chair whether or not quorum is present, when  
Lieutenant Governor is at the door

*SO 15, 16*

### **Quorum and Order in Committees**

Chairperson of a standing or select committee shall maintain order

*SO 67(4), 57*

Disorder can only be censured by the House, upon receiving report  
thereof

*SO 67(4), 57*

Members of House who are not Members of a standing or select  
committee may take part in public proceedings pertaining  
thereto

*SO 67(2), 57*

Size and requirement of quorum

*SO 67(1), 56*

Standing Orders of House applicable in standing and select  
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*SO 67(3), 57*

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### **Relevance**

Member may be named by Speaker or Chairperson if he or she  
persists in irrelevance or needless repetition

*SO 48(2), 42*

Member to resume his or her seat while point of order is being  
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*SO 48(1), 42*

Speeches must be strictly relevant to the clause under  
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*SO 60(2), 49*



**Repealed Standing Orders.** See Standing Orders

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To act as committee under Standing Orders 71 to 77

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**Royal Assent**

Public Bills—Third reading can only be amended by bringing in another Bill for that purpose, if a Bill has received Royal Assent

SO 87, 69

**Rules of Debate**

Member desiring to speak rises in place and addresses himself or herself to the Speaker

SO 44, 39

Member may be recognized other than by rising in his or her place, who in manner acceptable to the Speaker indicates desire to be recognized

SO 1.1, 2

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Motions for the second reading of a bill are debatable

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Has control over constables, messengers and pages

*SO 117(3)*, 81

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movable property

*SO 117(2)*, 81

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*SO 117(2)*, 81

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SO 6, 9

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Ballot papers to be provided to Members in the Chamber by  
the Clerk

SO 4(5), 5

Candidate's withdrawal from

SO 4(16), 7

Clerk does not entertain points of order or privilege during  
procedure of

SO 3(2), 4

Clerk or Clerk Assistant administers election process

SO 3(1), 4

Clerk to affix copy of list of candidates in conspicuous place and  
provide copies of list to caucus office of each  
recognized parliamentary group

SO 4(3), 5

Clerk to notify Members if Office of Speaker becomes vacant  
between sessions or when House stands adjourned to  
the call of the Chair

SO 2(4), 3

Clerk's notification to Members of opening of new session or  
reconvening of session to include information that first  
order of business to be election of Speaker, when  
Office is vacant

SO 2(5), 3

Clerk's prescription regarding

SO 4(17), 7–8

Clerks at the Table retire from Assembly chamber to count the  
votes, and destroy ballots and record of the number of  
ballots

SO 4(10), 6



Conducted by secret ballot

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*SO 2(6)*, 4

Instances requiring election of Speaker other than following a  
General Election

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Ministers of Crown or leader of recognized parliamentary  
groups ineligible for

*SO 2(6)*, 4

Names of candidates to be printed on ballot paper in order of  
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*SO 4(2)*, 5

Procedure if every candidate receives the same number of  
votes

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*SO 4(8), 6*

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*SO 70, 59*

Debatable Motions within



*SO 43.1(1)(b)*, 37

Empowered to examine and inquire into matters referred to them  
by the House

*SO 65(5)*, 55

Government Services Committee

*SO 65(1)(a)*, 54

May sit at all times for which they are appointed, whether or not  
the House is in session, adjourned or prorogued

*SO 65(4)*, 55

Membership of committees to continue throughout an Assembly,  
but subject to change

*SO 65(3)*, 55

Privileges and Elections Committee

*SO 65(1)(e)*, 54

Public Accounts Committee

*SO 65(1)(d)*, 54; *SO 65(6)*, 55

Resource Committee

*SO 65(1)(c)*, 54

Social Services Committee

*SO 65(1)(b)*, 54

Standing Orders Committee

*SO 65(1)(f)*, 54

Striking Committee

*SO 65(1)*, 54

### **Standing Orders**

Application of

*SO 1(1)*, 1

Application of (Interpretation)

*SO 1.1*, 2

Cases not provided for

*SO 1(2)*, 1

Motions for the suspension or amendment of any Standing Order  
are debatable

*SO 43.1(1)(j)*, 37

Repealed Standing Orders



SO 13, 16

SO 14, 16

SO 19, 19

SO 93, 71

SO 96, 72

**Standing Orders Committee.** See Standing Committees

**Statements by Members**

Length of

SO 25(2), 24

Not debatable

SO 25(7), 24

Not to comment on governmental policy or to reflect upon a  
decision of the House

SO 25(5), 24

Number per sitting day

SO 25(1), 24

In order of business

SO 24(1)(a), 22

Shall not pose question but rather express opinion

SO 25(6), 24

Subject matter of

SO 25(3); SO 25(4), 24

**Statements by Ministers**

Length of

SO 25.1(2), 25

In order of business

SO 24(1)(b), 22

Relating to policies of government

SO 25.1(1), 25

**Strangers**

Conduct of

SO 23, 21

Definition of stranger does not include infant being cared for by  
Member who is that infant's parent

SO 22(2), 21



Withdrawal of  
*SO 22(1), 21*

**Supply and Budget.** *See also* Order for Supply

Amendments

Ways and Means Motion—Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to motion "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government"

*SO 59, 48*

Order for Supply

Adoption of motion to concur in an estimate or interim supply to be an Order of the House to bring in a Bill or Bills based thereon

*SO 57(3), 47*

As continuing Order of the Day

*SO 57(1), 47*

Motions for business of supply

*SO 57(2), 47*

Time limits

For Member speaking in immediate reply to Minister of Finance in giving Budget Speech

*SO 46(4), 40*

Ways and Means Motion

Adoption of motion an order to bring in Bill or Bills based on provisions of

*SO 58(3), 48*

May be laid on table at any time during a sitting by a Minister of the Crown

*SO 58(1), 47*

Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to motion "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government"

*SO 59, 48*

Wording for motion for presentation of Budget

*SO 58(2), 47–48*



## T

### **Tabling of Documents**

In order of business

*SO 24(1)(e), 22*

### **Third readings**

Motions for the third reading of a bill are debatable

*SO 43.1(1)(e), 37*

In order of business

*SO 24(2)(a), 22*

### **Time limits**

For closure motion

*SO 47, 41*

In Committee of Supply or in committees established under *SO 72*

*SO 73(5), 61*

Concurrence

*SO 76(3), 63*

During debate of a motion in Committee of the Whole House

*SO 46(6), 40–41*

Estimates Procedure

*SO 71, 60*

General rule with exceptions of 20 minutes

*SO 46(1), 40*

Instances of not more than 60 minutes speaking time

*SO 46(2), 40*

Leader of Opposition and Premier may not delegate their right of unlimited time under *SO 46(3)*

*SO 46(5), 40*

For member of the Official Opposition responding to Ministerial Statement

*SO 25.1(2)(a), 25*

For member of the Third Party responding to Ministerial Statement

*SO 25.1(2)(b), 25*





For Member speaking in immediate reply to Minister of Finance in giving Budget Speech

*SO 46(4), 40*

For Minister delivering Ministerial Statement

*SO 25.1(2), 25*

Time limits for each Head of Expenditure in Estimates

*SO 74(2), 62*

Unlimited time for Leader of the Opposition and Premier in motions of non-confidence

*SO 46(3), 40*

## U

### **Unanimous consent**

Instance when motion may be made with unanimous consent of the House, without notice having been given under *SO 55*

*SO 56, 46*

### **United Kingdom House of Commons at Westminster**

Use of precedents of

*SO 1(2)(c), 1*

**Unparliamentary language.** *See* Offensive language

**Urgent Public Matters.** *See* Matters of Urgent Public Importance

## V

**Verbatim Report.** *See* Hansard

### **Virtual proceedings**

Manner of meeting for committees

*SO 67.1, 57*

Manner of meetings for daily sittings

*SO 9.1, 13*

**Visitors.** *See* Strangers

**Votes.** *See also* Division

Member may not reflect upon a vote of the House except to move that such vote be rescinded

*SO 49, 42*



## W

### **Ways and Means Motion**

Adoption of motion an order to bring in Bill or Bills based on provisions of

*SO 58(3), 48*

May be laid on table at any time during a sitting by a Minister of the Crown

*SO 58(1), 47*

Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to motion "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government"

*SO 59, 48*

Wording for motion for presentation of Budget

*SO 58(2), 47–48*

### **Wednesdays.** *See also* Private Member's Day

Effect of Wednesday Adjournment

*SO 30, 28*

Order of Business

*SO 24(3), 23*

Time for adjourning the House

*SO 9(3), 13*

Time for meeting in the House

*SO 9(1)(b), 13*

### **Westminster**

Use of precedents of

*SO 1(2)(c), 1*

### **Witnesses**

Certificate to be filed by Chairperson for witnesses summoned to attend before any committee

*SO 69(1), 58*

Clerk authorized to pay summoned witnesses a reasonable sum determined by the Speaker

*SO 69(2), 58*



Details for claim for payment from witnesses  
SO 69(3), 58