

*Tabled by the  
Government House Leader  
2017-11-09  
Bause.*



**REPORT  
OF  
THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Hon. Andrew Parsons, MHA (Burgeo-Lapoile), Chair  
Hon. Siobhan Coady, MHA (St. John's West)  
David Brazil, MHA (Conception Bay East - Bell Island)  
Lorraine Michael, MHA (St. John's East - Quidi Vidi)  
Scott Reid, MHA (St. George's - Humber)

Your Committee recommend that the following provisional Standing Orders relating to the annual sitting calendar and daily sitting times of the House, which were introduced on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for the calendar year 2017, be made permanent and that the replaced Standing Orders be repealed:

1. (1) Standing Orders 8 to 11 are deleted and the following are substituted:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

(2) Standing Order 24(3) is deleted and the following is substituted:

24.(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.

Your Committee further recommend that

**Ballot for Election of Speaker**

1. Standing Orders 4(6) and (7) be repealed and the following substituted:

(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.

2. Standing Order 25 be repealed and the following substituted:

**Statements by Members**

25. (1) On each sitting day, up to five Members, other than Ministers of the Crown, may be recognized to make a Members' Statement.

(2) Each statement shall be no more than one minute in duration.

and that

**Petitions**

3. Standing Order 91 be repealed and the following substituted:

Form of petition

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.

4. Standing Orders 93 and 96 be repealed; and

5. the petition template in the Appendix be repealed and the following substituted:

**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.**

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Hon. Andrew Parsons, MHA  
Chair  
Standing Orders Committee

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017