



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

## **Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs**

---

ACVA • NUMBER 001 • 1st SESSION • 42nd PARLIAMENT

---

**EVIDENCE**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

—  
**Chair**

**Mr. Neil Ellis**



## Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

• (1110)

[*Translation*]

**The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Hugues La Rue):** Honourable members of the committee, I see a quorum.

I must inform members that the clerk of the committee can only receive motions for the election of the chair.

The clerk cannot receive other types of motions, cannot entertain points of order, nor participate in debate.

[*English*]

We can now proceed to the election of the chair. Pursuant to Standing Order 106(2), the chair must be a member of the governing party.

I am now ready to receive motions for the chair.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Sherry Romanado (Longueuil—Charles-LeMoynes, Lib.):** I move that Mr. Neil Ellis be elected chair of the committee.

**The Clerk:** It has been moved by Mrs. Romanado that Mr. Neil Ellis be elected chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions?

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Clerk:** I declare the motion carried and Mr. Ellis duly elected chair of the committee.

I invite Mr. Ellis to take the chair.

[*English*]

**The Chair (Mr. Neil Ellis (Bay of Quinte, Lib.)):** I'd like to thank everybody.

If the committee is in agreement, we'll proceed with election of the vice-chairs.

I see agreement.

**Mrs. Cathay Wagantall (Yorkton—Melville, CPC):** I move that Robert Kitchen, Souris—Moose Mountain, sit as vice-chair.

**The Chair:** Go ahead, Christine.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Christine Moore (Abitibi—Témiscamingue, NDP):** I move that Ms. Irene Mathysen be elected second vice-chair.

[*English*]

**The Chair:** We'll do the first vice-chair and then the second.

**The Clerk:** Pursuant to Standing Order 106(2), the first vice-chair must be a member of the official opposition.

It has been moved by Mrs. Wagantall that Mr. Kitchen be elected as first vice-chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions?

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

[*Translation*]

**The Clerk:** Pursuant to Standing Order 106(2), the second vice-chair must be a member of an opposition party other than the official opposition.

I am now prepared to receive motions for the second vice-chair.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** I move that Ms. Irene Mathysen be elected second vice-chair.

**The Clerk:** It has been moved by Ms. Moore that Ms. Mathysen be elected as second vice-chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions?

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Clerk:** I declare the motion carried and Ms. Mathysen duly elected second vice-chair of the committee.

[*English*]

**The Chair:** We have some routine motions that everybody has here. We could pass these in order or pull some of them with the will of the committee. If we're ready today, we could form the subcommittees on agenda and procedure with the will of the committee.

On that, we would have myself and the two vice-chairs automatically, and we need two members from government.

**Mrs. Cathay Wagantall:** Could we get copies?

**The Chair:** We'll start with analyst services. I need a motion moved:

That the Committee retain, as needed and at the discretion of the Chair, the services of one or more analysts from the Library of Parliament to assist it in its work.

**An hon. member:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Discussion? All in favour?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** We'll invite the analysts to the table.

Next, for the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, can we have someone move this motion:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be established and be composed of the Chair, the two Vice-Chairs and two members from the government.

**An hon. member:** So moved.

**The Chair:** Do we want to appoint them today or at the next meeting?

Okay, it's today. Names?

**Mrs. Sherry Romanado:** I move that the motion be amended to read:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be established and be composed of the Chair, the two Vice-Chairs, Colin Fraser and Alaina Lockhart.

**The Chair:** First we need to agree on the amendment to the motion. All those in favour?

(Amendment agreed to)

**The Chair:** We will now vote on the motion as amended. All in favour?

(Motion as amended agreed to [See *Minutes of Proceedings*])

**The Chair:** Thank you.

The next routine motion is on meetings without a quorum. It reads:

That the Chair be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and to have that evidence printed when a quorum is not present, provided that at least three (3) members are present, including one member of the opposition and one member of the government.

That's moved by Colin Fraser. Is there discussion?

All in favour?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next one is on the time for opening remarks and questioning of witnesses. It reads, "That witnesses be given 10 minutes to make their opening statement, round one consisting of Conservatives, six minutes; Liberals, six minutes; NDP, six minutes; Liberals, six minutes; and in round two, Liberals, six minutes; Conservatives, six minutes; Liberals, three minutes—"

• (1115)

**Mrs. Christine Moore:** The French is not the same. In the French, it says five minutes.

**The Chair:** The version you have is from the briefing books of old notes, I guess, and this is what is suggested for the new committee.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** So now it's six minutes?

**The Chair:** What's posted on...? Did you get a copy of this?

**Ms. Christine Moore:** I have the copy in French, and in French it says five minutes.

**The Chair:** It has to be a printing mistake, then, in French.

**An hon. member:** That's the old one.

**The Chair:** Okay. It's the old one. It's in English in the new one.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** Okay. Fine.

**The Chair:** For round two, it would be Liberals, six minutes; Conservatives, six minutes; Liberals, six minutes; Conservatives, five minutes; NDP, three minutes.

Can I get somebody to move this?

**Mrs. Alaina Lockhart (Fundy Royal, Lib.):** I move:

That witnesses be given ten (10) minutes to make their opening statements, and that the order and time allotted for the questioning of witnesses in the first round be as follows: Conservative Party – six (6) minutes, Liberal Party – six (6) minutes, New Democratic Party – six (6) minutes, Liberal Party – six (6) minutes; that the order and time allotted for the questioning of witnesses in the second round be as follows: Liberal Party – six (6) minutes, Conservative Party – six (6) minutes, Liberal Party – six (6) minutes, Conservative Party – five (5) minutes, New Democratic Party – three (3) minutes.

**The Chair:** Is there any discussion?

All in favour?

(Motion agreed to [See *Minutes of Proceedings*])

**The Chair:** The next one is on distribution of documents. Would someone move this motion?

**Mr. Doug Eyolfson (Charleswood—St. James—Assiniboia—Headingley, Lib.):** I move:

That only the Clerk of the Committee be authorized to distribute documents to members of the Committee and only when such documents exist in both official languages and that witnesses be advised accordingly.

**The Chair:** Is there any discussion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next motion is on working meals. Could we have a mover?

**Mrs. Sherry Romanado:** I move:

That the Clerk of the Committee be authorized to make the necessary arrangements to provide working meals for the Committee and its Subcommittees.

**The Chair:** Is there discussion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next one is on travel, accommodation, and living expenses of witnesses. Would someone like to move the motion?

**Mr. Bob Bratina (Hamilton East—Stoney Creek, Lib.):** I move:

That, if requested, reasonable travel, accommodation and living expenses be reimbursed to witnesses not exceeding two (2) representatives per organization; and that, in exceptional circumstances, payment for less or more representatives be made at the discretion of the Chair.

**The Chair:** That's moved by Bob. Is there any discussion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next routine motion is on access to in camera meetings. Could someone move the motion?

**Mr. Colin Fraser (West Nova, Lib.):** I move:

That, unless otherwise ordered, each Committee member be allowed to be accompanied by, and be responsible for, one staff person at *in camera* meetings and, in addition, each party shall be permitted to have one staff member from a House Officer attend *in camera* meetings.

**The Chair:** Is there discussion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next one is on transcripts of in camera meetings.

**Mr. Colin Fraser:** I move:

That one copy of the transcript of each in camera meeting be kept in the Committee Clerk's office for consultation by Members of Parliament.

**The Chair:** Any discussion?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next one has to do with notice of motion.

**Mrs. Sherry Romanado:** I move:

That 48 hours' notice be required for any substantive motion to be considered by the Committee, and that the notice of motion be filed with the Clerk of the Committee and distributed to members in both official languages; and, that completed motions that are received by the close of business day shall be distributed to members the same day.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** For the 48 hours, do we have to stipulate that it is "open" hours, so that a Saturday motion is available on a Monday, or do we exclude weekend days?

**The Chair:** It's two overnights. I think it's in the big book.

It doesn't have to be 48 hours; it's two nights. The House uses the same system.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** Okay.

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The next one is on ministers appearing before the committee. It reads:

That whenever a minister is appearing before the Committee, every effort should be made in order for this meeting to be televised.

That's been moved by Ms. Lockhart.

(Motion agreed to)

**Mr. Doug Eyolfson:** Chair, could I have another motion? This might be either an extra motion or a revision to the travel accommodation. I'd like to move that when witnesses wish to appear but are unable to travel, they can appear by teleconference. Would that be a reasonable option?

**Ms. Christine Moore:** I don't think that has to be in a motion. If a witness is not available, we could just offer him accommodation by video conference. I don't think it has to be on paper.

●(1120)

**The Chair:** We can subpoena them and make them come, or as a committee we could decide that they could teleconference.

**Mr. Doug Eyolfson:** Sure.

**The Chair:** I guess the other procedural discussion is whether we could teleconference in, but that would be a discussion for another day.

**A voice:** It's more logistical than anything.

**The Chair:** Yes, it's a question of logistics.

This is all we have on the agenda for today. We could adjourn or we could discuss where we want to go right now. Otherwise, we could wait until we have a meeting on Thursday and there would be an agenda coming out on that.

Are there any suggestions?

**Mr. Colin Fraser:** I would propose that we wait until Thursday to do that, so I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**The Chair:** Robert.

**Mr. Robert Kitchen (Souris—Moose Mountain, CPC):** Before we entertain that motion, I wonder if we could invite the minister to attend at his pleasure to discuss the mandate letter at his earliest convenience.

**The Chair:** The motion is as follows:

That the Minister of Veterans Affairs be invited to appear in front of the Committee at his earliest convenience.

Is there discussion on that? If not, we could call the vote.

**Ms. Christine Moore:** I think maybe we could first check on the availability of the minister. When we discuss our agenda at our next meeting on Thursday, we'll figure out when he is available and decide then. I think it's an easier way to proceed.

**The Chair:** If that's fine with Mr. Kitchen, we could ask the minister if he could give us some dates on which he could attend, and we'll try to bring him back at the earliest convenience.

**Mr. Robert Kitchen:** That motion has no date constraint.

**The Chair:** Okay. That's perfect.

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** We have a motion to adjourn.

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** Thank you, everybody. The meeting is adjourned.





Published under the authority of the Speaker of  
the House of Commons

---

### SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

---

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the *Copyright Act*. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a Committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the *Copyright Act*.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its Committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

---

Also available on the Parliament of Canada Web Site at the following address: <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité  
du Président de la Chambre des communes

---

### PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

---

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

---

Aussi disponible sur le site Web du Parlement du Canada à l'adresse suivante : <http://www.parl.gc.ca>