

BILL NO 108

Thirty-first Legislative Assembly First Session

Legislative Renewal Act

The Commissioner of Yukon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, enacts as follows:

Title

1. This Act shall be known as the *Legislative Renewal Act*.

Special Committee

2. (1) A Special Committee of the Yukon Legislative Assembly shall be appointed during the spring 2005 sitting of the Legislative Assembly to conduct a public review of the legislation, rules and practices that apply to the Yukon Legislative Assembly and its members.

(2) The Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the three recognized political parties in the Legislative Assembly, plus the Speaker, who shall act as neutral Chair of the Committee.

(3) At any time that the Speaker is unable to attend the business of the Committee, the Deputy Speaker shall substitute for the Speaker as Chair of the Committee.

(4) The remaining members of the Committee shall be chosen by the recognized leaders in the Legislative Assembly.

Mandate

3. (1) The Committee shall conduct public consultations throughout the territory, beginning no later than three months after this bill receives assent, and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly no later than nine months from the date of assent.

(2) The scope of the public consultation shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of consideration

- (a) establishing a Code of Ethical Conduct for members within the *Legislative Assembly Act*;
- (b) creation of an *Executive Council Act* including
 - (i) definitions of the terms “Premier” and “Minister” and the principal duties pertaining to those roles, and
 - (ii) qualifications required of members to be appointed or, once appointed, to continue to serve as Cabinet Ministers;

- (c) options for increasing resources and support for members' constituency responsibilities;
 - (d) measures to improve public awareness of proceedings of the Yukon Legislative Assembly and the legislative process, and to encourage public participation in the decision-making process;
 - (e) amendment of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly respecting
 - (i) fixed opening dates for legislative sittings,
 - (ii) composition and role of standing, special and select committees,
 - (iii) mechanisms for the referral of reports from departments and agencies and for the review of government bills prior to second reading,
 - (iv) suggested rules for tributes, ministerial statements and private members' statements,
 - (v) proposals for the review of Deputy Head appointments and appointments to major boards and committees,
 - (vi) measures to improve the accountability of Ministers to the Legislative Assembly for the performance of the departments, Crown corporations, or agencies for which they are responsible,
 - (vii) ways to increase public involvement in legislative decision-making, such as allowing witnesses to appear before standing, special or select committees,
 - (viii) improving the ability of opposition members to exercise their legitimate roles of legislative review and government scrutiny,
 - (ix) proposals for greater access of private members' business to the Order Paper;
 - (f) suggestions for periodic future review of legislative practices and procedures; and
 - (g) other matters the Committee may deem appropriate for public review.
- (3) If the Legislative Assembly is not sitting at such time as the Committee is prepared to report, the Chair shall transmit the report to all members of the Assembly and table the report when the Assembly next sits.
- (4) Individual members of the Special Committee shall be free to table independent reports dissenting from the recommendations of the committee as a whole.

Committee Procedures

4. The Committee shall determine its own procedures for achieving the general mandate as outlined above, including the form of public consultation to be used, subject to the approval of its budget by the Members' Services Board.

Administration and Research

5. (1) Administrative and research support to the Committee shall be provided through the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) The Clerk will assist in the preparation of the final report and recommendations of the Committee to the Legislative Assembly, and may advise on legislative amendments or other initiatives that may be required to bring effect to the Committee's recommendations.

Implementation

6. Implementation of any, or all, of the Committee's recommendations shall be subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly, and nothing in this *Act* shall limit the ability of the Legislative Assembly to establish its own rules of procedure.