

Standing Committee on
Procedure and Privileges



Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, No. 2

Chair: Ms. Kate Reid

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SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly.



Kate Reid

Chair, Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES**

**REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE RULES OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, NO. 2**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
Written Questions.....	1
Orders of the Day for Thursdays	2
Sitting Schedule	3
APPENDIX A	1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

REPORT ON THE REVIEW THE RULES OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, NO. 2

INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges (Committee) is pleased to report on its review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly (the Rules).

In June 2025, Committee received a letter from Speaker Shane Thompson requesting a review of the Rules. Specifically, the Speaker asked Committee to consider if the Rules related to Written Questions should require Members to provide the Speaker with 24 hours notice of a written question before it is read in the House as well as whether the Orders of the Day for Thursdays should be altered, moving Notices of Motion and Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery earlier in the day. In September 2025, Committee received a second referral letter from Speaker Thompson, seeking a recommendation from Committee on a request from the Government House Leader, to alter the annual sitting calendar.

The correspondence from Speaker Thompson is attached as Appendix A.

Committee has considered these matters and is prepared to provide a report to this House.

Written Questions

Speaker Thompson raised a concern about the Rule 7.3(3) requiring the Speaker to ensure that Written Questions conform to the rules and practices of the House but not providing the Speaker with time to adequately review a Written Question before it is read on the floor of the Assembly. This risks Members advancing Written Questions that the Speaker must rule out of order. Specifically, the Speaker indicated a desire to: a) ensure that Members are sufficiently supported in the development of Written Questions by the Office of the Clerk staff to ensure that questions are consistently presented in a manner in keeping with the rules and practices of the Assembly; and b) ensure that finalized Written Questions can

be provided to interpreters in advance to ensure that complex, technical questions are appropriately interpreted into our Official Languages.

Committee appreciates the concerns raised by the Speaker and agrees that providing written questions to the Speaker with at least 24 hours notice is reasonable. Therefore, Committee makes the following recommendation.

Recommendation 1:

The Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges recommends that the following be added to Rule 7.3:

(3.1) Written Questions must be provided in writing to the Speaker at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the sitting day.

Further, while Committee appreciates the desire to provide Members with support during the development of Written Questions, Committee recognizes that different Members require different levels of support. For those Members who would prefer to do most, or all, of the work associated with developing their Written Questions, Committee believes that they can and should be able to do so. To that end, Committee makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation 2:

The Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges recommends that the Office of the Clerk develop and distribute to all Members of the Legislative Assembly a document providing Guidelines for Written Questions and including a template that can be used by Members.

Orders of the Day for Thursdays

In February 2025 the Rules were amended to alter the placement and timing for consideration of Motions on Thursdays, with Motions moved to item 04 on the orders. This change was intended to highlight the importance of Motions, which often relate to pressing public issues. Committee believes this change has been beneficial in raising the profile of motions.

Committee has considered the need to further update the Orders of the Day for Thursdays, as outlined by Speaker Thompson, and believes the recommended changes are reasonable. Committee recommends:

Recommendation 3:

The Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges recommends that 4.1 (5) be amended to read:

The daily orders of business in the Assembly on Thursdays shall be:

01. Prayer
02. Ministers' Statements
03. Members' Statements
04. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
05. Notices of Motion
06. Motions
07. Returns to Oral Questions
08. Acknowledgements
09. Oral Questions
10. Written Questions
11. Returns to Written Questions
12. Replies to Commissioner's Address
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
16. Tabling of Documents
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Sitting Schedule

The Government House Leader raised a concern with the Speaker that Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) meetings are frequently scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, which coincides with the starting date for the Autumn sitting of the Assembly. For Members of Executive Council this creates a scheduling conflict in ensuring that Ministers are available for the business of the House, while also ensuring that Ministers can participate in FPT meetings.

Committee appreciates the concerns raised by the Government House Leader and makes the following recommendation.

Recommendation 4:

The Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges recommends that Rule 2.1(1)(c) be amended to read:

a Sitting beginning on the second Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

This concludes the Committee's report on its review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, No. 2.

APPENDIX A

- Correspondence from Speaker Shane Thompson