



MEETING AOC **182-19-22**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT**

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**  
**CAUCUS ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**9:00 AM**

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**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
5. In Camera Matters
  - a) Sessional Work Plan/House Planning
    - i. Day's Meetings and Events
    - ii. Previous Days' Business
    - iii. Ministers and Members' Absences
    - iv. Members Statements
    - v. Oral Questions
    - vi. Written Questions
    - vii. Tabled Documents
    - viii. Orders of the Day
    - ix. Motions
    - x. Committee of the Whole
    - xi. Theme Days/Members' Initiatives
  - b) Decision on form of Briefing re: Post-Health Emergency Management
6. New Business
  - a) Presentation on Points of Order
7. Deferred Items
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

# POINTS OF ORDER

Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight



# Points of Order

## Introduction

A point of order may be raised to call the Speaker or Chair's attention to something that clearly breaks the rules, practices or procedures of the Legislative Assembly.

- Can be raised at any time
- But should be raised at the earliest opportunity
- Usually raised right away or next day after having the chance to review Hansard
- Most often used to call Speaker or Chair's attention to "unparliamentary language"
- Stand up and state, "M. Speaker or M. Chair, I rise on a point of order"
- Clearly and briefly state your point of order, including a reference to the rule, practice or procedure that has been broken.

# Points of Order

## What They Are Not For

A point of order may be raised to call the Speaker or Chair's attention to something that clearly breaks the rules, practices or procedures of the Legislative Assembly. However, it is not right to use a point of order:

- to direct a question at the Member speaking
- to clarify a part of your speech that is then misquoted or misunderstood
- to dispute the accuracy of facts stated in debate
- to move a motion
- to request the Speaker to rule in anticipation or on a hypothetical matter.

# Points of Order

What to do when one is called on you

If you are speaking and another Member rises on a point of order, take your seat until called on by Speaker/Chair.

After hearing the Member's point of order, the Speaker can do any or all of the following:

- Speaker may dismiss point of order and ask you to continue your speech/debate/statement
- Speaker may decide it is a point of order and ask you to apologize and/or withdraw your remarks.
- Speaker may hear debate from you and other Members on whether it is a point of order
- You can ask for some time to think about what you want to say if you want to debate the order

# Points of Order

What to do when you want to call a point of order

If another Member is speaking and you want to call a point of order, rise and get the Speaker's attention, or get the Chair's attention, by stating "point of order".

Once recognized:

- Clearly and briefly state your point of order
- Reference the rule, practice or procedure that you believe has been broken.
- Take your seat and wait for the Speaker's decision.

# Points of Order

## What to do when you are ruled out of order

If another Member rises on a point of order, and the Speaker rules that it is a valid point of order, most likely you will be asked to apologize, and if appropriate, withdraw any remarks that were out of order:

- If this happens in committee, you can challenge the Chair, and the Speaker will hear the debate
- Stand, apologize and withdraw your remarks
- If you refuse to apologize the Speaker, will ask you again to apologize
- If you refuse to apologize, the Speaker will reference you by name (not riding) and you will be asked to leave the Chamber for the remainder of the day.



# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were upheld:

The Premier raised a point of order in response to comments by the Member for Range Lake in her reply to the opening address which the Premier believed imputed a false motive on him. The Member's comments were: "Mr. Premier has a very good reputation of listening to the Members and addressing the needs of Members. He's at his best when you go see him in private. You go see him in his office, and you bring an issue forward, and he will look after them, but something really funny happens when he walks into this Chamber."

Speaker ruled there was a point of order because the Member questioned the Premier's conduct in the House. The Member retracted her remarks.



# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were upheld:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre raised a point of order on the Member for Hay River South for accusing him of lying in his previous comments.

Member for Hay River South retracted her heckling comment. Speaker ruled no point of order.

# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were upheld:

Speaker responded to a point of order raised by the Government House Leader, which suggested that the member for Monfwi violated Rule 24(h), (i), (j), and (k) and that his remarks accusing the premier of acting beyond her authority when terminating the appointment of the president of Aurora College were "inappropriate and unparliamentary."

Speaker ruled that the member's comments were contrary to Rule 24. Speaker asked the member to withdraw his remarks and apologize to the house.

The member refused to withdraw his remarks and was subsequently removed from the House.

# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were not upheld:

The Government House Leader raised a point of order suggesting that the Member for Yellowknife Centre contravened rule 23 when the member made comments on his Facebook page after the October 27 speaker's ruling, which the House Leader argued criticized the ruling.

The House Leader "likened the Facebook comments to a note passed in the House."

Speaker ruled that rule 23 applies only to debate in the House and the Speaker has no way of knowing whether social media posts are made from within the chamber, or elsewhere in the building. Speaker found no point of order.

Speaker cautioned members that statements, including social media posts, made outside the House "can amount to a breach of privilege or even contempt of the House."

# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were not upheld:

Premier raised a point of order suggesting that the Member for Mackenzie Delta's apology regarding point of order 14(4)-2 was insincere.

The Member's apology was "for the sake of proceeding, I will take it back."

Speaker ruled no point of order as it is not the Speaker's role to determine the level of sincerity of a comment made.

# Points of Order

## Examples of points of order

Based on previous Speaker's rulings, here are some points of order that were not upheld:

Premier raised a point of order in response to a Member's statement by the Member for Mackenzie Delta. The Premier suggested that the Member's Statement referred to statements the Member heard outside the House, along with statements from CBC articles, which contravenes the rules of the House, since the other Members are not privy to this information.

Speaker ruled no point of order, since the Member's statement was just a response to what the Member's constituents were saying and thus it does not need to be tabled in the House.