



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Private Bills

Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta
Amendment Act, 2024

Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024

Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
9 a.m.

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Chair
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC), Deputy Chair

Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
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Bill Pr. 2 Sponsor

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Bill Pr. 3 Sponsor

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Standing Committee on Private Bills

Participants

Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024	PB-16
Chris Christie, Interim Executive Director, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta	
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Gloria Keylor, Provincial Leader, Sisters of Providence	
Mary Grace Valdez, Provincial Councillor, Sisters of Providence	
Jason Lai, Legal Counsel, Kingsgate Legal	
Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024	PB-20
Paul Muir, Executive Director, Rosebud School of the Arts	
C. Yvonne Chenier, KC, Legal Counsel, IntegralOrg	

9 a.m.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

[Ms Pitt in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I'll call this meeting to order. It is 9 o'clock.

I'd like to welcome members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills. My name is Angela Pitt. I am the MLA for Airdrie-East and the chair of this committee. I'd like to ask that members and those joining this committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then I will call on those joining us remotely, which are none right now, beginning to my right. Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Madam Chair. My name is Justin Wright. I'm the MLA for the charming constituency of Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Bouchard: I am Eric Bouchard, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Petrovic: Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South.

Mr. Deol: Good morning, everyone. Jasvir Deol, MLA, Edmonton-Meadows. Thank you.

Ms Hayter: Julia Hayter, MLA, Calgary-Edgemont.

Ms Govindarajan: Vani Govindarajan, office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: Perfect.

For the record a few housekeeping items before we turn to the business at hand. Microphones are operated by *Hansard*. Please don't touch them. Members participating – there are no members remotely. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting. I believe our guests are also able to watch these proceedings in the room adjacent while they wait for their turn to join us for presentation.

We'll move to agenda item 2, which is the agenda. I will draw everyone's attention to the draft meeting agenda. Would anyone like to propose any amendments?

Would a member like to move a motion to approve the agenda? Mr. Dyck moves that the Standing Committee on Private Bills approve the opposed agenda distributed for its May 7, 2024, meeting. All in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. So carried.

Approval of the minutes. We have also a set of minutes from our last meeting. Would anyone like to propose any amendments?

Would a member like to move to approve the minutes? Mr. Wright moves that the Standing Committee on Private Bills approve the minutes as distributed of its meeting held on March 26, 2024. All in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. So carried.

Item 4, hearings on petitions. Petitions on three private bills are being heard here today. Copies of the bills are available online, and pursuant to Standing Order 104 Parliamentary Counsel's report on the bills was distributed to members last week.

I'd like to give a quick overview of the process for us ahead here today. The petitioners and, when applicable, any other interested parties appear before the committee. All individuals giving

evidence on the record must be sworn in. Petitioners have been advised that they have up to 10 minutes for their opening remarks. Following each presentation from the petitioners, committee members and Parliamentary Counsel are provided the opportunity to ask questions. Please ensure that you have asked for all the information you need to be prepared to make recommendations regarding each of the bills before us here today.

Once all three hearings have been completed, the committee will deliberate on the bills consecutively. For each private bill the committee will need to make one of the three following recommendations: first, that the bill proceed as is; second, that it proceed with amendments; or that it not proceed at all.

Once the committee has made its recommendations, I will report on behalf of the committee to the Assembly. The Assembly will consider our recommendations, and then for those private bills that proceed to second reading, the process is the same as any other bill in the House; namely, proceeding through second reading, Committee of the Whole, third reading, and Royal Assent, or it may be dropped from the Order Paper, which is hopefully not the case because there's been a lot of work put into this. Are there any questions about the process or the petitioners? All right.

The first bill, Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024. Hon. members, at our meeting on March 26, the committee received an overview of the petition for Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024, from Parliamentary Counsel, and the petition was found to be in compliance with standing orders 90 to 94. On March 27 the chair reported to the Assembly on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 99. The bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly on March 28 by the bill's sponsor, Mr. Justin Wright. Then in accordance with Standing Order 100 the bill was automatically referred to the committee after its introduction.

I'll now ask that the presenters for Bill Pr. 2 be invited to join us, and I will ask Parliamentary Counsel to swear them in.

[Ms Christie was sworn in]

Good morning. Welcome. Thank you for joining us and driving from so far away.

Ms Christie: From far away, and it was a long drive.

The Chair: It's a pleasure to have you here. My name is Angela Pitt. I am the chair of this committee. I will confirm for the record that you have been sworn in.

Ms Christie: I have.

The Chair: Just a couple of notes before we begin the hearings. The microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so there's no need for you to operate them. If you have a phone with you, can you please put it on silent.

I will start by having our committee members introduce themselves, and then I will have our guest introduce herself. Starting to my right, Mr. Wright, please introduce yourself.

Mr. Wright: Justin Wright, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Bouchard: Eric Bouchard, Calgary-Lougheed.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Petrovic: Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South.

Ms Sigurdson: Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview. Good morning.

Mr. Deol: Jasvir Deol, MLA, Edmonton-Meadows.

Ms Hayter: Julia Hayter, MLA for Calgary-Edgemont. Good morning.

Ms Govindarajan: Good morning. Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: Now for our guest. Please introduce yourself.

Ms Christie: My name is Chris Christie. I'm the interim executive director for the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta. I wasn't the presidential nominee or running as a Republican nominee in the United States, even though I have the same name. I just want to clear that up.

Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024

Ms Christie: Thank you for the opportunity to present regarding our act amendment. I bring both greetings and regrets from our board of directors, who wanted to have a member attend with me, but it is farming season, seeding season, calving season, and tax recovery season, so I hope I do them proud.

The Medicine Hat community foundation was established by an act of the Legislature in 1992. There was a subsequent amendment approved in 2005 that changed our name to the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta as well as other changes that ensured we could more properly serve our entire southeast region, and I'm before you again to advance that cause. We are one of 207 community foundations across the country and one of 13 in Alberta. We match donors with causes they care about, we make grants to organizations that help citizens thrive, and we work with partners to collaborate on solving complex community issues. Last year we granted out over a million dollars to charities in southeastern Alberta, and our endowment fund currently sits at a little over \$27 million.

Our amendment before you has just two parts. The first is to formally include special area 4 in the geographic area that we cover. I think you've all been given this map of the region of southeastern Alberta that we cover. For years we've been serving special areas 2 and 3. Special area 4 was always included in our map but was colored grey, which kind of meant: well, we kind of sort of cover you but not officially. As you know, the special areas all work together and essentially operate as one unit under their own act, so we thought it was very important to have them officially included. We haven't been actively serving special area 4, nor have they been formally connected to a community foundation, but we now have two staff who travel out to special areas and our rural counties to help them build their own endowment funds and access grants from our main endowment. As the letter from the chair of the special advisory council indicates – I believe you received that as well – they are very excited to now have that opportunity. Special area 4 will be receiving their first grants next month.

9:10

The second part of our amendment is to revise the membership of the nominating committee that appoints our volunteer board of directors. In the current act, one of the positions no longer exists, and the list is very prescriptive, with too much emphasis on membership from the city of Medicine Hat. We would like to ensure that the rural areas that we serve have increased representation on the nominating committee, which we anticipate will lead to increased rural participation on our board of directors.

I've provided a signed copy of the board motion that approves our proposed amendment. You may have noticed that it refers to the foundation by our shortened name, Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta, which is sort of our marketing kind of logo and name. Please know that it's the same organization. From what I can gather, the name has shortened simply over time, but we still use the legal name with our CRA and financial operations.

In closing, I'd just like to thank our MLA, Justin Wright, for his eagle eyes in reviewing our documents, and I would especially like to thank Vani in the Parliamentary Counsel for all her help in shepherding us through this process. I'm pretty sure I created more work for her than anybody else that has ever presented in front of this committee. Anyhow, thank you again, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

The Chair: Thank you so much.

I will now open the floor up to members who have any questions.

Mr. Wright: Hi. I appreciate the callout on catching the documents there. You discussed in the amendments that the membership of the board is going to change, and we see that under section 6(2). The changes provide a lot more flexibility in regard to who may be on the board, including the example of allowing mayors and reeves of any municipality or community that serves under the foundation's area rather than the more specific mayor of Medicine Hat, which was the previous case. Why did you take that approach versus leaving it as is, I guess?

Ms Christie: We're really trying to focus on the rural areas and get more participation from them. The past way of doing it wasn't working really well because, you know, it depended on who the mayor was and how much they wanted to participate, and we were not including our regional areas. We just thought that it could be any mayor or reeve of any community, any chamber of commerce, any justice. We're really trying to focus. We've put staff out in our rural areas rather than – it's been too heavy on Medicine Hat. The response has been awesome.

Mr. Wright: A follow-up if I may, Chair.

The Chair: Go ahead.

Mr. Wright: With these changes, could you describe the process in which appointments to the board will be decided?

Ms Christie: Right now we're in a recruitment phase, so we've put out public notices and invitations for nominations to the board. I collect them as the executive director. Then the nominating committee is struck. They review the applications. They're usually through a letter of intent and resumé. They review that. If they decide they want to interview potential people, they'll call them in for that, and then they make the recommend – well, they don't. They appoint to our board, so they would say: you're getting this person and this person. We do in advance say we have – like, this year we have three openings. We're in need of a lawyer, and we're in need of another rural appointee. So that's their task, to help fill those skill sets.

Mr. Wright: Wonderful. Thank you.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you for being here. I grew up in southern Alberta, actually in one of these communities, in Bow Island, so this is of interest to me. I guess my question is – the main city is Medicine Hat, so collectively the numbers are there, potentially, if the mayor of Medicine Hat wanted to run and be the chair of this. What's the mechanism on a fair vote, instead of just saying, "I'm the mayor of Medicine Hat; I have the collective votes; I've got the mass," so

that somebody maybe in a smaller community could potentially also be the chair? When you're doing these nominations, is it just based around size? Is it going to be a vote of sorts? What's the mechanism to actually make sure that it's just not always the mayor of Medicine Hat or there's a fair . . .

Ms Christie: The discussions have taken place that they want to rotate. There will be a tracking of rotation. This year it's going to be – I believe the reeve of Cypress county is our mayor or reeve representative, and they're going to track every year: "Okay. Last year you did it. Now we're going to move it out to county of Forty Mile. Then it's going to go up to Brooks and district." That sort of . . .

Mr. Dyck: Yeah. So it's a one-year term per cycle, I guess it would be.

Ms Christie: Yeah. There's been no talk about actual term limits. We're just trying to get more fair and equitable, you know, rather than focusing everything out just in Medicine Hat.

Mr. Dyck: Excellent.

Chair, may I have a follow-up?

The Chair: Yeah. Go ahead.

Mr. Dyck: So you're expanding significantly, which is fantastic, but what are a couple of key goals that you're trying to go for by this expansion, this significant land mass expansion in quite a few areas? What's the key goal?

Ms Christie: Over the last three years, four years we've set up rural advisory committees in each of the four regions, so the special areas plus Oyen – Acadia Valley is one – Cypress county, the county of Forty Mile, as well as Brooks, and, like, Newell county. They all have their own advisory committees that work with our staff to help promote. We have specific goals in terms of how much money we want to grant out, you know, for each region as well as how much we want their endowments to build.

Endowment building is like a slow cooker. It's not a microwave. In our fifth year we're now starting to see bequests being left to the rural region. The rural people don't want to leave their money in Medicine Hat. They want it to stay to benefit their area. I mean, everything all depends – right? – but our hope is to get to \$40 million in endowment, with the majority of that coming from the rural areas. Then that endowment stays under their purview, so they get to decide where their money goes rather than recommending to Medicine Hat and then we decide where the money can go. Right? We're trying, like I say, to empower those regions.

Mr. Dyck: Excellent. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Any other questions for our presenter?

Member Ceci: I'll just introduce myself. Chris, I'm Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo.

Ms Christie: You've been to Medicine Hat a few times.

Member Ceci: Thank you for your presentation. It was a really good presentation.

The Chair: I'll ask Parliamentary Counsel if they have any questions for our presenter. No? Wonderful.

All right. Mr. Stephan.

Mr. Stephan: Sure. I have one. I'm always interested in community foundations. I know the Red Deer area has a community foundation. I know donor-advised funds are very popular, especially with Alberta having such generous charitable tax credits relative to the rest of the country. Does your community foundation also offer donor-advised funds?

Ms Christie: Yes, we do, and we're having great fun with CRA's recommendation of the antidirected giving ruling, whether you're qualified donees or nonqualified donees, so it's creating a bit of an issue for us. But, yes, we have donor-advised funds. What I would say about that is that for our rural areas especially – and I feel like I just really want to focus on our expansion out there – there are not a lot of registered charities out in the rural areas, so we're trying to open it up to Alberta societies, so nonprofit societies in Alberta. And donor-advised people: those funds really want to support additional organizations in that space. So, yes, we do have donor-advised funds.

Mr. Stephan: That's great.

The Chair: Do you have a follow-up, Mr. Stephan?

Mr. Stephan: No.

The Chair: Perfect. Of course, you asked a tax question.

Ms Govindarajan has a question for our presenter.

Ms Govindarajan: I know you spoke to this. I was hoping I could just ask you to confirm for the record that the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta and the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta, that's referred to in some of the documents, are one and the same organization.

Ms Christie: Yes, they are.

Ms Govindarajan: Thank you.

The Chair: Perfect. That looks like the hearing on Bill Pr. 2 is complete. Thank you so much for presenting here today, and thank you for the wonderful work that you do in the community and surrounding areas of Medicine Hat. You're welcome to leave if you have other commitments, but you're also welcome to join back in the other room for the rest of the hearings if you'd so like.

Ms Christie: I would love to stay, but I have a donor in Okotoks that wants to leave \$2 million for a Redcliff fund. I don't want to jeopardize this, though. If you have questions, Vani can just ask, okay? Is that all right?

The Chair: No, no. Our work with you is done. Yes, absolutely. Thank you so much.

Ms Christie: Okay. Great. Thank you.

The Chair: Go get that cheque.

Nothing like a room of politicians. They understand that.

9:20

Member Ceci: But Okotoks isn't close to this area.

The Chair: It's, like, en route on the way home, Okotoks.

Member Ceci: No, no. In terms of where she . . .

The Chair: Hey, Joe, it doesn't matter where the money comes from.

Hon. members, at our March 26 meeting the committee received an overview of the petition for Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal

Centre Amendment Act, 2024, from Parliamentary Counsel, and the petition was found to be in compliance with standing orders 90 to 94. On March 27 the chair reported to the Assembly on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 99. The bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly on March 28 by the hon. Ms Gray on behalf of the bill's sponsor, Member Calahoo Stonehouse. Then in accordance with Standing Order 100 the bill was automatically referred to the committee after its introduction.

I will now ask the presenters for Bill Pr. 3 to be invited to join us, and I will ask that Parliamentary Counsel swear them in so we can proceed with the hearing.

[Sister Keylor, Sister Valdez, and Mr. Lai were sworn in]

The Chair: Good morning. Welcome. Thank you so much for being here today. It's better inside than outside. I will confirm on the record that you have been sworn in. Just a couple of notes before we begin the hearing. The microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so there's no need to operate them yourself, and if you have a phone with you, would you please put it on silent.

I will start by having our committee members introduce themselves to you, and then we'll have our guests introduce themselves to the committee, starting with Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright: Morning, everyone. My name is Justin Wright. I'm the MLA for the charming constituency of Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Bouchard: Good morning. I'm Eric Bouchard, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Mrs. Petrovic: Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South.

Ms Sigurdson: Good morning. I'm Lori Sigurdson. I'm the MLA for Edmonton-Riverview.

Member Ceci: Good morning. I'm Joe Ceci. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Buffalo and a colleague of Member Calahoo Stonehouse.

Mr. Deol: Good morning. Jasvir Deol. I'm the MLA for Edmonton-Meadows.

Ms Hayter: Good morning. I'm Julia Hayter. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Edgemont.

Ms Govindarajan: Good morning. Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: Now to our guests.

Mr. Lai: Good morning. My name is Jason Lai. I'm legal counsel for Providence Renewal Centre.

Sister Keylor: Good morning. I'm Sister Gloria Keylor. I'm a Sister of Providence.

Sister Valdez: Good morning. I'm Sister Mary Grace Valdez, Sisters of Providence.

The Chair: Wonderful. Thank you so much. I will now turn the floor over to you.

Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024

Mr. Lai: Thank you, everybody. Hopefully, our private bill today is relatively straightforward. It's with respect to the legal entity Providence Renewal Centre. The proposed private bill in front of you is with respect to an amendment. The only, I guess, provision in there is updating the name from Providence Renewal Centre to Providence Centre/Providence Renewal Centre. Then I'm going to provide a little bit, I guess, of the background of the entity kind of from a legal perspective, and then Sister Keylor will provide a little bit of comment with respect to the operations and everything that the entity provides.

The petitioner was originally incorporated back in 1961 through An Act to Incorporate The Sisters of Charity of Providence of McLennan. This was the original name of the entity. As part of that act the petitioner was granted the

power to conduct charitable institutions of any kind or nature whatsoever and without in any way restricting the generality of the foregoing, shall have power to conduct schools, hospitals, out-patient clinics, schools of nursing, homes for the aged, convents and chapels and to impart education and moral training to students.

There was also a subsequent amending private bill that was enacted in 1983, which was known as The Sisters of Charity of Providence of McLennan Amendment Act. Similar to today, the sole purpose of that amending act was to amend the name to its current name, Providence Renewal Centre.

The reason that we're before you today, as I'd mentioned earlier, is to update the name to include "providence centre" in the legal name of the entity. The reason that we're doing so is that there is a related entity which is known as The Sisters Of Charity Of Providence Of Western Canada that has an operation that they house which is kind of referred to as providence centre, and there is an intention, internally at least, to just transfer those operations over to the entity that is being hopefully amended today. As part of those discussions, there was an internal decision to have the name reflect the fact that it's going to be housing these operations as a site instead of the related entity.

As part of kind of our due diligence we've confirmed with corporate registry that this name is available and that we've reserved it. It's currently set to be reserved and then expired on July 2, 2024.

As I had mentioned, the only change that we're seeking through this bill is a change to the name. There is no impact on the charitable purpose or any type of, I guess, reason for existence in trying to do what it's supposed to do for the public.

I'll have Sister Keylor provide a little bit of comment with respect to its operations and kind of what is being transferred over there and how it still falls within the scope of the entity.

Sister Keylor: Thank you very much, Jason.

We moved our headquarters to Edmonton from Calgary. We still have an operation in Calgary. They're care centres. But we wanted to be closer to our sisters that were working in the north, so that's why we moved to Edmonton, established Providence Centre, and then established Providence Renewal Centre.

Providence Renewal Centre has as its sole purpose, I guess, to provide to the people that come according to our charism, according to our mission. We can have people come who deal with anything to do with education, with health care, with any kind of social services that are there. It's a nonprofit organization, and we are able to receive donations in Providence Renewal Centre. We cannot receive donations in Providence Centre because it's a private corporation. We have many people that would like to contribute to our works, that support our works and would like to be part of our works. Therefore, we'd like to transfer our operations of Providence

Centre into the Providence Renewal Centre, which is a public corporation, and we can receive and provide a different kind of service to the people that we serve. We plan to be here for many years to come and continue to operate both our centres.

9:30

The Chair: Perfect. We'll open up the floor to members. Do you have any questions for our presenters? It looks like you were thorough. I see Mr. Ceci first.

Member Ceci: Thank you very much for your presentation. So you moved up here to be closer to the bulk of sisters. Is that . . .

Sister Keylor: That's correct.

Member Ceci: That's correct.

I was just looking at the number of entities in Alberta named Providence. There are seven pages of them. There's a lot. I know the top one, Providence Child Development centre in Calgary, and they do tremendous work. You're related to that?

Sister Keylor: Yes. That was one of our foundations. We founded that work.

Member Ceci: That's great. Terry was a long-time executive director. I knew him well, and I miss him.

Anyway, thank you very much for being here.

Sister Keylor: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Dyck.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you very much. My question just revolves around the location. Was this originally started in the town of McLennan?

Sister Keylor: A hospital. We had a hospital in the town of McLennan, yes.

Mr. Dyck: In northern Alberta, northwestern Alberta?

Sister Keylor: Yes.

Mr. Dyck: And then you guys came down to Edmonton? Hence, the location change as well.

Sister Keylor: Correct.

Mr. Dyck: Okay. That's no longer functioning in any way in the town of McLennan?

Sister Keylor: We are no longer involved in the hospital in McLennan, but the hospital continues to function.

Mr. Dyck: Okay. Excellent. Well, thank you very much. I just wanted to clarify that.

Sister Keylor: Thank you.

The Chair: Ms Sigurdson.

Ms Sigurdson: Thank you. Well, thank you so much for your presentation, and I just wanted to thank you for your good work over the years. You know, the riding I have the honour to represent – the dividing line between me and Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse is the Whitemud freeway. You guys are south of that, and I'm north of that. I know the Providence Centre well because I've gone to an iftar there, I've gone to yoga retreats, I've gone to meditation retreats, and I've even done a personal retreat myself just for a

couple of days to reflect on things. This was years ago. Anyway, I certainly appreciate the service that you provide, and I think it's really valuable, and, yeah, I just wanted to let you know that.

Thank you.

Sister Keylor: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Any other questions from members of this committee for our presenters?

Seeing none, any questions from Parliamentary Counsel?

Ms Govindarajan: I just wanted to ask you. I understand that there's a name change, but it's being done in order to also facilitate the movement of operations. Can you just speak to those operations and whether or not they were in the scope of the existing operations that are permitted under your act?

Mr. Lai: Right. Under the act, kind of as I alluded to, it has to do with charitable institutions of any kind, including the conduct of hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, nursing homes for the aged, covenants, and chapels. I think Sister Gloria can comment more specifically, but my understanding is that it does fall under that, and specifically it's supposed to deal with the aged sisters. It cares for them in those facilities that are being transferred over, I guess, just in terms of a little bit of background. It's still all within kind of the same property, so to speak, so really it's just an internal move of the operations from one facility or one company to the other, both which have pretty similar charitable purposes. But Sister Gloria can maybe comment specifically on the operations that are being provided by Providence Centre.

Sister Keylor: Providence Centre is basically our home and where the sisters – it changes frequently, but we're about 50 sisters there, half of whom are Sisters of Providence. The rest are located in different places around Alberta. We provide a home and care for elderly sisters and the aging sisters. Yes, that's one of the things, but primarily it's our home.

The Chair: Okay. Any follow-up?

Ms Govindarajan: Sorry. Could you just provide the full name of the organization that – sorry. It was the sisters of charity of western Canada. I understand that you're changing the name, and I'm just wondering if there's any possibility of confusion between the two organizations that both use Providence Centre. Could you just state the full name of that organization, please?

Mr. Lai: The full name of the entity that currently houses the operations is the Sisters of Charity of Providence of Western Canada, and then it'll be moved into, hopefully, Providence Centre/Providence Renewal Centre. Hopefully, there won't be much confusion since it'll literally be in the name now. But fingers crossed, I suppose.

The Chair: Wonderful.

With that . . .

Member Ceci: Just a quick question.

The Chair: Mr. Ceci.

Member Ceci: Jason, you said "covenants and chapels" a couple of times. Is that a legal term, "covenants," or do you mean convents?

Mr. Lai: No. Convents. Sorry. Yeah. I can't speak or spell, apparently, in my notes. Yes. They're convents.

Member Ceci: Good. Thanks.

The Chair: We'll make the correction on *Hansard*.

That looks like this concludes the hearing on Bill Pr. 3. Thank you so much for attending here today, and thank you so much for the work that you do and have done that has contributed to the very fabric of our province. We're so grateful for that. You may leave if you have other commitments, or you may go back to the hearing room and watch the rest of the proceedings if you so choose.

Sister Keylor: Thank you very much.

Mr. Stephan: I like your chances.

The Chair: You wouldn't presuppose the outcome, would you?

All right. Hon. members, at our meeting on March 26 the committee received an overview of the petition for Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024, from Parliamentary Counsel, and the petition was found to be in compliance with standing orders 90 to 94. On March 27 the chair reported to the Assembly on the petition pursuant to Standing Order 99. The bill was subsequently introduced in the Assembly on March 28 by the bill's sponsor, Mrs. Chelsae Petrovic. Then, in accordance with Standing Order 100, the bill was automatically referred to the committee after its introduction.

I will now ask that the presenters for Bill Pr. 4 be invited to join us, and I will ask Parliamentary Counsel to swear them in so that we can proceed with the hearing.

[Mr. Muir and Ms Chenier were sworn in]

The Chair: Good morning. Welcome. Thank you so much for being here. I will confirm for the record that you have been sworn in.

Just a couple of notes before we begin the hearing. The microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so you don't need to operate them. If you have a phone with you, could you please put it on silent.

9:40

I will start by asking the committee members to introduce themselves, and then we'll have our presenters introduce themselves, and then we'll proceed with the presentation.

Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright: Thank you, Madam Chair. Justin Wright, MLA for the charming constituency of Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Bouchard: Good morning. I'm Eric Bouchard, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed.

Mr. Dyck: Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Mrs. Petrovic: Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South.

Ms Sigurdson: Good morning. Lori Sigurdson, Edmonton-Riverview.

Member Ceci: Good morning. Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo and arts and culture critic.

Mr. Deol: Good morning. Jasvir Deol, MLA, Edmonton-Meadows.

Ms Hayter: Good morning. Julia Hayter, Calgary-Edgemont, MLA.

Ms Govindarajan: Good morning. Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: Now for our presenters.

Ms Chenier: I'm Yvonne Chenier, KC, legal counsel for Rosebud School of the Arts.

Mr. Muir: My name is Paul Muir. I'm the executive director at Rosebud School of the Arts. A pleasure to be here.

The Chair: Thank you so much for being here. We'll ask you now to proceed with your presentation.

Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024

Mr. Muir: Thank you, Madam Chair, and of course thanks to Member Petrovic for sponsoring this bill and to all the members of the committee for your time today. The primary reason for petitioning the amendments in the RSA Act at this time is to modernize some of the language and bring the act in line with who and what the organization is today and subsequently lay the groundwork for the next few decades of Rosebud's exciting future.

I'll just drop this in. In the final act of William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* after the wrongly accused Hermione has died and a statue of her has been erected, Paulina speaks the words: "It is required you do awake your faith." These words bring about the miraculous transformation and rebirth of Hermione as her statue slowly comes back to life. Many would argue that we are in a time of rebirth, and I for one am very optimistic about the future.

The Rosebud story is a remarkable one. The Rosebud River valley, known to the Blackfoot people as Akokiniskway, by the river of many roses, was a popular winter camping spot for our Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. The Wishart family were one of the first settlers in the area and were respectful and generous neighbours with the Blackfoot people.

By the 1920s Rosebud was a booming agricultural community with a wider population of roughly 2,100 people, boasting a hotel, a school, a mercantile, lumberyard, Chinese cafe and laundry, dance hall, pool hall, blacksmith shop, drugstore, bank, and a livery business. The rail line ensured that the community would continue to be an agricultural hub for decades.

Much later as the province grew and more people moved to urban centres, the hamlet dwindled, and by the early 1970s, like so many hamlets in the province, Rosebud was almost a ghost town. In 1973, with the support of the Crescent Heights Baptist church, LaVerne Erickson started the very first Rosebud Camp of the Arts as an outreach program for urban youth. This evolved into a residential high school by 1977, and the first dinner in theatre started in 1983 as a grassroots fundraiser with home-cooked meals by Mrs. Dalwin* and an outdoor production thanks to Allen Desnoyers.

Such was the success of this initiative that it continued year after year. The school then evolved into a postsecondary fine arts school, and it was at this time, 1988, that the Rosebud School of the Arts Act was established. The organization now produces four productions at the Rosebud Opera House, four productions at the Rosebud Studio Stage. There's a renowned buffet at the mercantile, and of course we present choir concerts, open air summer concerts. There are art galleries and other festival events that regularly draw 40,000 guests annually.

In addition to that, Rosebud School of the Arts has graduated 129 well-trained theatre students, many of whom have professional careers and are making an impact on the cultural fabric of our province and beyond and many others who have become leaders and community builders in whatever discipline they end up choosing. There are even many more who have taken maybe one or two years of training at Rosebud and have transferred their training from Rosebud to other institutions.

*This spelling could not be verified at the time of publication.

At the core of our mission there's a desire to enrich the lives of all Albertans. We strive to do that by offering grace and understanding through the art of storytelling, the practice of mentorship, and the gift of hospitality. We value community and diversity. We value curiosity as a path towards excellence and truth. We value the land we call home, its beauty, its stories, and its people. We value faith and the adventure of grace embodied in the story of Jesus, which inspired a radically inclusive and grace-filled world view. We believe in the power of story as an integral part of our culture to transform, to heal, and also to awake our faith in the most general of terms.

When the RSA Act was established in 1988, it was not known that Rosebud would become Alberta's best-loved rural theatre destination, and of course now it's a major part of our operations. The amended bill incorporates modern language that accurately covers what the organization does and strives to do and will allow us to continue to grow according to our strategic planning. Rosebud School of the Arts is a CRA-registered charity, and the charity's directorate has approved the modern wording of the objects contained in the proposed bill.

I have to say that it is extremely rewarding to see Rosebud graduates so well represented in all facets of professional theatre in our province season after season, from acting to playwriting to theatre design to stage management to directing to marketing and technical theatre, and I haven't even begun to talk about film and TV. We are both proud and humbled by what happens in this tiny little hamlet of 89 people right at the gateway to the badlands, and we're grateful for the kind of positive impact that we're having on Alberta's cultural landscape.

Last year we celebrated 50 years since the very first Rosebud Camp of the Arts in 1973, and thankfully, having survived the pandemic, there was indeed much to celebrate. It is required that we do awake our faith, and as I walk through the mercantile dining room in Rosebud and watch our guests connect with one another from across the province and witness audiences leap to their feet after being moved by a wonderful story on one of our stages and when I see our students learn, grow, and transform into the people they were meant to be, my faith is awakened, and I couldn't be more grateful.

The proposed amendments in the Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024, will enable the organization to continue to enrich the lives of all Albertans for decades to come. Again, I want to thank the committee for taking the time to review these amendments, and I recognize what a privilege it is for the Rosebud School of the Arts to be considered in this way.

Thank you. I'm happy to take any questions.

The Chair: Well, thank you so much.

We'll now open the floor up to members of this committee to ask any questions they have of our presenters. Mrs. Petrovic.

Mrs. Petrovic: Thank you, Chair. I just see that there are a number of amendments to the definition section of the act. Are you able to expand on some of the rationales behind some of these changes and additions for me?

Thank you.

Mr. Muir: Yeah. Absolutely. Some of the bigger ones: you'll notice under (f) that "'Guild' means the association established under section 9(d)," which I can get to in a second. The type of training that we do in Rosebud with our students: we call it guild-style training. It really is modelled after sort of the European guild style of training where our instructors are more like mentors. We often say that it takes a village to train a theatre artist. It really is true that the training that happens in Rosebud happens not only in

the classrooms, in the studios, and on the stage, but ironically enough it happens in a conversation that happens on the street between an instructor and a student. That's one of the main ones.

Yvonne, are there others that you want to touch on?

Ms Chenier: Well, generally they're intended to modernize the language used in the statute and put some definitions in there that were not in the act before. There are more definitions used throughout the legislation and modern words.

The Chair: Any other questions for our presenters from the members?

Member Ceci: Wonderful presentation, by the way. Thank you very much. Did you say that the river of many roses is the valley that you're located in, that Rosebud is located in?

Mr. Muir: Yeah. We're right in the Rosebud valley, the Rosebud River valley. Yeah. Akokiniskway: the meaning of the word "Akokiniskway" is by the river of many roses. That was the name attributed to that river in that valley.

Member Ceci: I don't know what Indigenous nation you're talking about.

Mr. Muir: The Blackfoot people.

Member Ceci: Oh, okay.

Mr. Muir: We're actually just – like, Siksika is about 45 minutes south of us. Yeah. The Blackfoot people were the original caretakers of the land.

Member Ceci: Does the – what did you call it? – residential school still operate? It doesn't, does it?

9:50

Mr. Muir: Gosh, no. No.

Member Ceci: Your guild students: the young people come in and they stay for the shows, or do they stay in the hamlet?

Mr. Muir: They stay in the hamlet. Yeah. This is full-time training. Just like, you know, a young person might come to the U of A, for instance, and stay in residence there, many of the residents in Rosebud have basement suites that they rent out to students. Like, I would say that 95 per cent of our students do live right in town and they rent a room in a basement suite. There are a couple that live out of town. But, yeah, all the students are in residence.

Member Ceci: Does your season kind of not emulate the typical urban programs? Does it start in the spring and go to the fall instead of over the winter season?

Mr. Muir: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Good question. I'll break it up this way and say that our training program operates the same as most postsecondary schools, September to April, but our theatre season does start in the spring. It usually starts at the end of March or beginning of April and runs all the way until Christmas.

Member Ceci: Christmas. That's great.

I think that's it.

The Chair: Perfect. Mr. Dyck.

Mr. Dyck: Thank you, Chair. As you might know, I've been to Rosebud a few times. I'm very thankful for the work you've done. Had a few friends, actually, go through your program, especially on

the student side. Very glad for what you do. Thank you for serving the community in this way.

In section 10 of the amendment there's some conversation on indemnity, limitation of liability, and insurance. Have there been challenges with this? What is the reason to add this section? I'm just kind of curious on: can you expand on these amendments and the reasons why they're put into this?

Ms Chenier: This is a modern section that you see in other not-for-profit corporation kind of statutes, that is a good idea to put into an Alberta statute that's creating a corporation such as the Rosebud School of the Arts. It's similar to another Alberta statute, the Freedom to Care Act, which, you know, gives directors and trustees of societies and companies the same kind of protection, indemnity protection. So it's similar to that legislation. It's a modern clause. Without this in the incorporating legislation an organization may not have the same kind of indemnification at common law.

You'll note that subsection (4) of that does not make the organization itself any less liable for its actions or for those of its directors or governors. It's just the governors themselves that would be indemnified. It's a standard modern kind of indemnification section that you see in legislation, and it's good practice to put it into an organization. It gives potential governors comfort that they would not be putting their personal assets at stake if they sat on this board.

Mr. Dyck: Excellent. Thank you very much.

The Chair: All right. Any other questions from the members?

Seeing none, any follow-up questions from Parliamentary Counsel? No? Perfect.

Well, thank you so much for being here. This concludes our hearing for Bill Pr. 4. I know that Speaker Cooper is a big fan of the Rosebud Theatre and an advocate as well and was very pleased to have you here today. So thank you so much for the work that you do in our province and for being here. You may leave, or you may continue to watch the proceedings back in the waiting room if you so choose.

Mr. Muir: Thank you very much for your time.

Ms Chenier: Thank you.

The Chair: All right. Committee members, it is deliberation time. Moving to the deliberations and recommendations stage for Bill Pr. 2, the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024, the committee must recommend that the bill proceed, proceed with amendments, or not proceed. In this instance, the petitioners have requested an amendment. Is there any discussion on this, on Bill Pr. 2, Medicine Hat community foundation?

Seeing none, would anyone like to move the motion, which I believe we're going to put on the screen? Oh, perfect. There we go. Mr. Wright, would you like to move this motion?

Mr. Wright: Yeah, I'll move this motion. Madam Chair, I move that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend that Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024, proceed with the following amendment: section 2 is amended in the proposed section 1(b.1) by adding "Cypress County" immediately after "the County of Newell."

Mr. Stephan: Just a question. Should we be putting the word "charming" in front of Cypress there?

Mr. Wright: The answer is always yes.

The Chair: I'm going to ask the question on this motion. All those in favour of the motion moved by Mr. Wright, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.

That is carried.

Having finished our deliberations on Bill Pr. 2, we will consider our report to the Assembly. The committee could consider a motion directing staff to prepare the committee's report for presentation to the Assembly on Thursday. I'm going to put another motion on the screen. I will seek someone to move it. Actually, sorry, Justin; you're going to move it. Justin will move that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills (a) direct the Legislative Assembly to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill Pr. 2, Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta Amendment Act, 2024, which includes the committee's recommendations, and (b) authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly on May 9.

All those in favour of this motion, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.

That is carried.

If everyone is ready, we will move to the deliberations on Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024. As mentioned earlier, the committee must ultimately decide whether the bill should proceed, proceed with amendments, or not proceed. I will open the floor up for discussion on Bill Pr. 3.

Mr. Dyck: I'm going to move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills – I'm going to pause. I'm going to turn it over.

The Chair: Ms Sigurdson.

Ms Sigurdson: Yeah. Well, this is the discussion part, so I would just like to speak in favour of Bill Pr. 3, and when it's time, I'm happy to move it.

The Chair: This gets real awkward for the chair now. Is there any discussion on Bill Pr. 3?

Mr. Dyck: If no discussion, let's turn it back over to . . .

The Chair: Hold on. Mr. Stephan might have some discussion.

Mr. Stephan: I just want to say again that I like their chances, Chair.

The Chair: The chair would like to ask Ms Sigurdson to move the motion.

Ms Sigurdson: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend that Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024, proceed.

The Chair: All those in favour of the motion moved by Ms Sigurdson, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.

That is carried.

Hon. members, as the committee has finished its deliberations on Bill Pr. 3, we should provide direction on preparing our report. The committee could consider a motion directing staff to prepare the committee's report for presentation to the Assembly this Thursday. I will ask Ms Sigurdson that she will move that

the Standing Committee on Private Bills (a) direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill Pr. 3, Providence Renewal Centre Amendment Act, 2024, which includes the committee's recommendations, and (b) authorize the chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly on May 9, 2024.

All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.

That is carried.

10:00

Finally, we have our deliberations on Bill Pr. 4, the Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024. The committee will decide whether the bill should proceed, proceed with amendments, or not proceed. Who would like to begin our discussion?

Mrs. Petrovic: Chair, I was just going to state that I'd like to move this, that the Standing Committee on . . .

The Chair: Hold on. Hold on.
Any other discussions?

Mr. Stephan: Actually, I have a question.

The Chair: Mr. Stephan.

Mr. Stephan: And it's not that I like – well, I do like their chances. I want to ask Parliamentary Counsel because there are quite a few changes here, actually. My understanding is that this is principally modernizing their act and the rules in which they conduct themselves. Is there anything substantive in terms of expanding their scope?

Ms Govindarajan: I believe the petitioner spoke about the most significant expansion being to the objects of the organization, and you will have seen also the response from the ministry of culture that kind of spoke to the effect of that expansion. Then the petitioner also spoke to some of the – a lot of the changes are governance and modernization and then that additional indemnification clause that she spoke to. So I would say those are the three main changes, if that's answering your question.

Mr. Stephan: Thank you.

The Chair: Perfect.

Any other discussion?

Mrs. Petrovic, would you please move the motion?

Mrs. Petrovic: I move that
the Standing Committee on Private Bills recommend that Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024, proceed as presented.

The Chair: All those in favour of the motion moved by Mrs. Petrovic, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.
So carried.

Hon. members, as the committee has finished its deliberations on Bill Pr. 4, we should again give direction on the preparation of the report with our committee's recommendation. The committee could consider a motion directing staff to prepare the committee's report for presentation to the Assembly on Thursday. Mrs. Petrovic moves that
the Standing Committee on Private Bills (a) direct the Legislative Assembly to prepare a draft report on the committee's review of Bill Pr. 4, Rosebud School of the Arts Amendment Act, 2024, which includes the committee's recommendations, and (b) authorize the Chair to approve the committee's final report to the Assembly on May 9, 2024.

All those in favour of that motion, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no.
So carried.

Hon. members, are there any other items for discussion under other business?

Seeing none, our next meeting dates will come when there is work to be done here in this committee. You will be notified.

Would a member like to move a motion to adjourn? Mr. Ceci moves that the May 7, 2024, meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be adjourned. All those in favour, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. So carried.

[The committee adjourned at 10:03 a.m.]

