



**1st MEETING OF 2018
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
30 JANUARY 2018
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

PRESENT: Vaughan Carter	Chairman
Olivaire Watler	Member
Natalie Urquhart	Member

Secretariat members present:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat
Sheila Alvarez	Administrator/Analyst
Lise Hurlstone	Administrator/Analyst

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of 1 November 2016 and the notes of the discussion held on 6 December 2016 were circulated to members, and approved, prior to this meeting.

3. Audio/Braille Constitution Project

Members discussed the successful event that took place at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands on 7 December 2017 launching the audio and braille formats of the Constitution, which were completed in partnership with the Human Rights Commission. Contributors to the audio project were in attendance, along with representatives from the Cayman Islands Public Library Service, the Lighthouse School and the Sunrise Adult Training Centre, each of which was presented with copies of the Constitution in braille.

It was noted that excellent feedback was received on the project, especially from project participants which have ended up becoming advocates for the Constitution as a result of their participation. The Secretariat noted that there is one final braille version of the Constitution that has not been allocated to any organisation yet, and Members agreed to consider possible locations to place this (either permanently or periodically). The Commission also noted its thanks to the Secretariat for its hard work on this project.

The Commission discussed how to increase public awareness of the project moving forward (including reaching out to the Sunrise Adult Training Centre, the Director of the Libraries, and the Lighthouse School) and agreed that it would be beneficial to mention these more accessible versions of the Constitution at the end of each press release the Commission issues in the future. Member Natalie Urquhart also agreed to provide suggested logistics for hosting a possible pop-up exhibition of the Constitution in its multiple formats and it was agreed that an updated version of the booklet *An Educational Guide to the Constitution* would also be circulated to school libraries, accompanied by correspondence mentioning the Audio/Braille Constitution resources.

4. Periodic Press Releases to Coincide with Topical Events

a. Annual Plan

The Commission requested the Secretariat compile a table recapping press releases made in 2017, and adding new topics and dates to be considered by the Commission for the upcoming year.

b. Advisory District Councils

It was noted that of all of the statements released by the Commission in 2017, the press release regarding advisory district councils garnered the most attention from the press during that period. The Commission has no further comment on the matter for the time being, but determined to continue to monitor in case further input could be instructive.

5. Outstanding Correspondence

The Chairman raised the issue of correspondence sent by the Commission that has gone unanswered. Some of the topics of the correspondence include the 2016 amendments to the Constitution, and clarification on the role of the Commission. The Commission agreed that these items are worth following up on and that it would be prudent to wait until the installation of the new governor in the next few months before raising this matter. In preparation for this the Commission requested the Secretariat to circulate relevant past correspondence for Members' review.

6. Model Cayman Islands Curriculum

The Chairman noted that the educational resources currently available on the Commission's website are a good foundation for learning materials, but that it had proved difficult to engage educators and those responsible for the management of education in the delivery of courses that included information on the Constitution. Explanations for this situation included that there were not sufficient resources and that even where these were available the persons that would have to deliver the material were not sufficiently versed in the subject or the context of the material in order to deliver in confidence. The Commission discussed the development of a model curriculum, based on the Model Human Rights Curriculum produced by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association, and agreed that if a similar document could be created in respect of the Cayman Islands Constitution and its history, this could gather together material and present these in a more accessible and meaningful fashion. It was also noted that this would also provide an excellent opportunity for oral histories to be recorded on certain

issues, which could inform and supplement the materials. The Chairman agreed to reach out to the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) to see whether they would be interested in participating in this project.

It was also noted that while this curriculum development would likely assist in respect of secondary and tertiary studies, other alternatives would be better suited for younger students. To this end, the Commission considered educational materials for teaching the constitution to primary school children in the US titled “The Constitution for Kids”. It was agreed that similar materials using the Cayman Islands constitution should be developed for key stages 1 and 2 locally.

7. Any Other Business

a. Meetings of the Commission

Members agreed that quarterly Commission meetings should be arranged to conduct regular Commission business moving forward, with Members being available via email as needed.

b. Quarterly Meetings with the Governor

The Commission agreed with the suggestion that quarterly meetings with the new Governor should be explored, as was the case previously.

c. All-Commission Meetings

Members discussed the possibility of having meetings of members of each of the Commissions supported by the Secretariat due to the overlap of some of the topics handled by each Commission. No action points on this matter were agreed at this time.

d. Documentation of Recent Constitutional Developments

Members discussed the need for a formal document detailing the constitutional developments that have taken place in the islands in recent years. One important source of documentation is the *Founded Upon the Seas* history book, originally published in 2003, but this does not meaningfully capture the developments leading up to and subsequent to the current 2009 version of the Constitution. Members agreed to review the current history on the Commission’s website and also to review the list of all Constitutions to ensure it was inclusive. The Secretariat will contact the CI National Archives to enquire whether there were plans to update the *Founded Upon the Seas* history book.

8. Action List

The members were asked to:

- a.** consider possible locations to place the final braille version of the constitution (either permanently or periodically);
- b.** Member Natalie Urquhart to provide suggested logistics for hosting a possible pop-up exhibition of the Constitution in its multiple formats;
- c.** the Chairman to reach out to contacts at UCCI regarding developing a tertiary/secondary curriculum on Cayman Islands Constitution; and

- d. review documentation detailed in 7.d. above.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. consider public awareness opportunities related to the audio/braille formats of the Constitution;
- b. distribute updated booklets titled *An Educational Guide to the Constitution* and Constitution to local school libraries;
- c. draft correspondence to accompany the distribution of educational guide booklets;
- d. compile a table recapping press releases made by the Commission in 2017, and adding new educational topics and dates for 2018 to be considered by the Commission;
- e. circulate outstanding correspondence; and
- f. enquire re: an update to the *Founded Upon the Seas* history book.

9. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Public awareness opportunities of Alternative Constitution Formats
- b. Annual Plan
- c. Outstanding Correspondence
- d. Model Cayman Islands Curriculum
- e. Documentation of Recent Constitutional Developments

10. Next Meeting

Members agreed to provide the dates they are available in April 2018 to the Secretariat to coordinate the next meeting date.

11. Termination

The meeting was closed at 4:10 pm.



Vaughan Carter
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION