



**1ST MEETING OF 2021
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
11 JUNE 2021
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

PRESENT:

Vaughan Carter	Chairman
Sophia Harris	Member
Dr. Christopher Williams	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst
Sheila Watler	Administrative Officer

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am. The Chairman thanked all for attending.

2. Updates**a. Curriculum changes in schools**

The Chairman noted that he followed-up with the Ministry of Education's representative for curriculum development regarding his previous request that the proposed curriculum documents be sent to the Commission in order for Members to review. To date, the Chairman has not received a response and will continue to follow-up on this request.

b. Correspondence with Celebrate Cayman

The Chairman followed up again with the Chairman of Celebrate Cayman; however a response has not yet been received. The Chairman will continue to follow up. The Commission agreed that this agenda item will be subsumed going forward by item 2. h. below regarding Constitutional Resources.

c. Children's book educational project

The initial draft comic book created by the Public Relations and Education Coordinator is now ready for proofing. Member Sophia Harris agreed to proof read the Pop Quiz sections and revert with her feedback prior to the next meeting.

d. History of the Cayman Islands Constitution

Members were informed that the final version of the updated timeline is now available on the website. The website also features an interactive version which is very user friendly. The timeline was based on a document originally created by the Constitutional Review Secretariat. The Chairman noted that the timeline complements the comic book nicely.

e. Research on Overseas Territories' Provisions for Speakers

Members were informed that the Chairman is currently preparing an additional commentary, which will be the parent document to the research on Overseas Territories' provisions for speakers. The commentary will be circulated to Members for comments.

f. Constitutional Provisions Requiring Legislation

The Chairman continues to correspond with the Institutions Supporting Democracy to seek their feedback on the status of legislation relevant to them which is required by the Constitution. Members discussed the possibility of establishing legislation for the Commission to carry out its constitutional mandates and agreed to consider this further in the future.

g. Proposed Constitutional Amendments

i. Explanation of s.81 of the Constitution

The Chairman indicated that the Explanation of s.81 of the Constitution was included in the 2021 Update document.

ii. Explanation of Constitution Amendment Order, 2020

The Chairman advised that an Explanation of the Constitution Amendment Order, 2020 was included in the 2021 Update document.

h. Constitutional Resources

It was noted that a "Call for Submissions" of constitutional resources was included in the 2021 Update document as an alert to the public to consider whether they are in possession of any historical documents relevant to the Constitution. The Chairman advised that the strategy to collect constitutional resources will be launched in early 2022 after the Public Relations and Education Coordinator returns from maternity leave.

3. Matters Arising

a. 2021 Update

Members reviewed the finalised 2021 Update document and agreed for the Secretariat to draft a press release to accompany it. The Chairman agreed to make an appearance on Radio Cayman in recognition of Constitution Day on 5 July 2021 to discuss the Update. He will liaise directly with Radio Cayman to make arrangements.

Member Sophia Harris requested a Zoom call to further discuss the points to be raised during the Radio Cayman interview. The Secretariat will make arrangements for the agreed upon date of 25 June 2021.

b. Explanatory Note on Day and Bodden Bush Case

The Chairman noted that this Explanatory Note was included in part in the Commission's 2021 Update document. It was agreed to publish the full Explanatory Note immediately accompanied by a press release which the Commission approved.

c. Explanatory Note on the Appointment of the Premier and Speaker

The Chairman noted that this Explanatory Note was included in part in the Commission's 2021 Update document. The full document was published in April 2021 following the 2021 General Election.

d. Advisory District Councils

The Commission considered the issue of legislation for Advisory District Councils as outlined in the Constitution, and whether it would be appropriate to seek public consultation on this matter. Members agreed that it would be useful to gather research on the historical reasoning for including Advisory District Councils in the Constitution and requested the Secretariat to carry out the same.

e. Facebook Page

The Chairman noted that the Public Relations and Education Coordinator developed a Facebook page for the Commission in order to reach a wider audience.

f. Constitutional App Development Project

Members were informed that the Public Relations and Education Coordinator has begun work on a Constitutional Commission App which will make the Constitution more accessible for users. This project will be progressed further in early 2022 once the Public Relations and Education Coordinator returns from maternity leave.

4. Any Other Business

- a. Member Sophia Harris noted that she had received feedback on the Explanatory Note on the Appointment of the Premier and the Speaker which was published in April 2021, which she would forward to the Secretariat for circulation to Members.
- b. Members discussed whether it would be helpful to utilise CIGTV to feature a segment on the Constitutional Commission as an educational endeavour. It was agreed that this would be a good resource and Member Christopher Williams agreed to reach out to a contact at CIGTV.
- c. The Chairman advised that he had a call with the UK CPA BIMR Election Mission (the "Mission") prior to the election as they had reached out to various civil society organisations at that time. He also made reference to a locally produced report titled Domestic Observers' Report (the "local report") on the Cayman Islands General Election 2021, as well as the overseas report currently being prepared by the Mission. He noted that the Commission should review both reports to determine whether a comment is necessary. Members agreed to review the local report, review the Mission's report when it becomes available, and to provide their feedback on both. The Secretariat will assist by circulating copies of both reports to Members for their review and feedback once available.

5. Action List

Members were asked to:

- a. follow up re: the proposed curriculum documents (if not received) (Chairman);
- b. proof read the wording for pop quizzes in the Children's book educational project (Member Sophia Harris);
- c. draft additional commentary on the role of the Speaker and any constitutional issues which have arisen in connection with this position to provide further context for the publication of the research undertaken on Overseas Territories' Provisions for Speakers (Chairman);

- d. consider research provided related to Advisory District Councils once available (Members);
- e. liaise with Radio Cayman as detailed in 3. a. above (Chairman); and
- f. reach out to contact at CIGTV as described in 4. b. above (Member Christopher Williams).

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. draft press release as outlined in item 3. a. above for the Chairman's review;
- b. arrange a Zoom meeting as outlined in 3. a. above;
- c. issue the press release and Explanatory Note in item 3. b. above;
- d. conduct research as outlined in item 3. d. above and circulate to Members;
- e. circulate feedback as outlined in item 4. a. above to Members; and
- f. circulate copies of both reports as outlined in item 4. c. above to Members once available.

6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Curriculum changes in schools
- b. Children's book educational project
- c. Research on Overseas Territories' Provisions for Speaker
- d. Constitutional Provisions Requiring Legislation
- e. Constitutional Resources
- f. 2021 Update
- g. Advisory District Councils
- h. CIGTV Segment
- i. Election Reports

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place via Zoom on 25 June 2021 at 9:30 am.

8. Termination

The meeting was closed at 11:13 am.



Vaughan Carter
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION