



**2ND MEETING OF 2021
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
17 NOVEMBER 2021
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

PRESENT:

Vaughan Carter	Chairman
Sophia Harris	Member
Dr. Christopher Williams	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jackelin Connolly	Administrative Officer
Derricka Neysmith	Administrative Officer
Nadira Lord	Visiting Observer/Support, Ministry of BC&L

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 am. The Chairman thanked all for attending and acknowledged two new temporary staff, Jackelin Connolly and Derricka Neysmith, who were providing support in the meeting due to the absence of the usual Secretariat support staff. The Chairman also acknowledged the presence of Nadira Lord, an experienced civil servant visiting the meeting to provide support to the new administrative staff.

The Chairman further acknowledged the appointment of Ms. Marilyn Conolly in her new role of Manager for the Commissions Secretariat and thanked her predecessor, Ms. Deborah Bodden, for her assistance over the past decade.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of 11 June 2021 were approved.

3. 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 for Members to review. The Chairman will update the Members once he receives a response and it was agreed that the matter would be revisited at the next meeting.

b. Correspondence with Celebrate Cayman

The Chairman had also followed up once again with the Chairman of Celebrate Cayman regarding constitutional research that Celebrate Cayman had undertaken and whether these documents could be made available via the Constitutional Commission's website. The Chairman undertook to update

Members once a response is received and Members agreed that this matter should be addressed again at the next meeting.

c. Children’s book educational project

The Commission enquired as to whether there had been any progress on the final publication of this book. No update was available for the meeting in the absence of the Public Relations and Education Coordinator who on maternity leave. The Commission noted this understandable absence, wished the Public Relations and Education Coordinator and her family well and noted that an update on publication would be an important deliverable in the first quarter of 2022.

d. Constitutional Provisions Requiring Legislation

The Chairman advised that a comprehensive letter regarding Supplementary Legislation in the Constitution, which represented the culmination of a significant project, was sent on 15 October 2021. This correspondence was sent in accordance with convention to His Excellency, the Governor, the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The Chairman reported that he had had an opportunity to discuss this correspondence with the Governor and indicated that it was had been well received. The Chairman has subsequently been invited to meet with the Premier to discuss the various important issues raised in the correspondence. The Secretariat is currently working on scheduling a meeting date.

e. Constitutional Resources

The Chairman noted that this project had been announced in on Constitution Day 2021 and is due to be launched in the First Quarter of 2022 after the Public Relations and Education Coordinator returns from maternity leave. It was further noted that given the previous announcements and the stated intention that materials would be gathered and, if forthcoming, catalogued in good time prior to Constitution Day 2022, it will be important that this project proceeds expeditiously in the New Year.

4. Matters Arising

a. 2021 Update

Members noted that the Chairman’s appearance on Radio Cayman, in recognition of Constitution Day on 5 July 2021, was well received and there was an indication that he would be invited to make future appearances.

It was noted that Member Sophia Harris had requested a meeting in advance of the Chairman’s appearance so that the key messages that the Commission wanted to deliver could be decided. When Members were unable to agree a date and time for such meeting, the Chairman prepared detailed speaking notes, which were circulated in advance of the radio appearance and approved by the Commission Members.

b. 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. In addition, follow-up points were included in the recent correspondence dated 15 October 2021, and outstanding matters and have therefore been presented to His Excellency, the Governor, the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The Chairman also asked the Secretariat to arrange the simultaneous publishing of the research that had been undertaken on Overseas Territories' Provisions for Speakers with the Explanatory Notes on the Speaker of Parliament once these have been formatted.

It was noted that the need for any press coverage to advertise these Explanatory Notes could be considered when the Chairman returns to Island.

c. Advisory District Councils

The Commission discussed the issue of legislation for Advisory District Councils as outlined in the Constitution, and it was noted that this issue was also addressed in the Commission's correspondence of 15 October 2021 (see items 3d and 4b above). The Commission requested that the Secretariat review the constitutional talks that preceded the 2009 Constitution to identify and extract all references to Advisory District Councils so that these may be further considered.

d. 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. No update was available for the meeting but the Commission was advised that further action on this matter is planned to take place in the First Quarter of 2022 when the Public Relations and Education Coordinator returns from maternity leave.

e. Constitutional App Development Project

Members were also informed that the Constitutional Commission App will be progressed further in early 2022 once the Public Relations and Education Coordinator returns from maternity leave.

5. Any Other Business

- a. Member Sophia Harris requested sight of the correspondence that the Commission had engaged in following the first amendment of the 2009 Constitution. The Secretariat was asked to circulate this correspondence to the Commission Members and the Chairman undertook to respond further to the Member's request.
- b. The Commissions Secretariat, in collaboration with the Computer Services Department, introduced Members to a more secure approach to sharing data using the 'Sharefile' platform. Members accepted the recommendation and will put this into operation going forward.

6. Action List

Members were asked to:

- a. provide updates as outlined in item 3.a. above (Chairman); and
- b. provide updates as outlined in item 3.b. above (Chairman).

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. arrange a meeting with Premier as outlined in item 3.e. above;
- b. liaise with the Chairman in scheduling publishing and press release dates as outlined in item 4.b. above;
- c. conduct the research as outlined in item 4.c. above and circulate to Members;
- d. circulate the correspondence regarding the changes to the Constitution to Members as outlined in item 5.a. above.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Curriculum changes in schools
- b. Children's book educational project publication date
- c. Research on Overseas Territories' Provisions for Speaker
- d. Constitutional Provisions Requiring Supplementary Legislation (including Advisory District Councils)
- e. Constitutional Resources (including materials from Celebrate Cayman)
- f. Facebook page and App development

8. Next Meeting

A date for the next meeting will be set via round robin with members.

9. Termination

The meeting was closed at 11:11 am.



Vaughan Carter
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION