



2nd MEETING OF 2026
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
6 MARCH 2026
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:

J. Lemuel Hurlston	Chairman
Annalisa Shibli	Member
Hon. Alex Henderson KC	Member

APOLOGIES:

Melanie McField	Manager
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SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst
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1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:28 am. The Chairman welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**a. Minutes of Meeting Held on 2 February 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026 were confirmed with no changes. The Secretariat was asked to upload these to the website.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**a. Constitutional Issues for Discussion****i. Entitlement to Legal Aid**

The Chairman updated members that the Secretariat has not yet been able to draft the letter to the Director of Legal Aid (the "Director"), but it will be drafted and issued as soon as possible. Members asked that the draft include assurances to the Director that there is no intention of aggressive questioning, as the intention is primarily information-seeking. The Secretariat will draft this for the Chairman's review.

b. Third Report for 2025

The Chairman noted that the September-December 2025 report is complete, but that he has asked the Secretariat to wait until after the current session of Parliament is completed to send. The Secretariat will accordingly circulate next week to all parties.

c. Education Activities

i. Youth Parliament Debate

The Chairman noted that the Youth Parliament Debate will take place on Monday, 9 March 2026. Unfortunately, there was not time to accommodate a presentation by the Constitutional Commission in this session. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with the Parliament Management Commission regarding the agenda for the next year.

ii. Constitutional History Display

Work on the Constitutional History Display continues. The Chairman asked that the Secretariat keep the Speaker updated on progress periodically, as he originally suggested the display.

d. Advisory District Councils

The Chairman updated members on his discussion with the Premier on this matter, which took place on Thursday, 26 February, and included the Secretariat Manager and Research Analyst. In that conversation the Premier noted that he planned to establish a Parliamentary Select Committee to examine the possibility of implementing Advisory District Councils (ADCs) at the session of Parliament beginning 4 March 2026. The briefing note on the ADC research provided by the Constitutional Commission would be used to establish the Terms of Reference for the Select Committee, and he hoped that the Constitutional Commission would agree to serve as an oversight body to ensure progress was being made. The Secretariat was asked to follow up with the Premier on this at the end of next week, per his request, for an update.

e. Amendments to the Elections Act

Members were provided with a copy of the draft proposed Elections Act amendments, shared by the Supervisor of Elections. The reason for requesting these amendments was to confirm that there was progress being made on the recommendations in the Elections Observers reports issued in 2025. In reviewing the proposals, members had some questions and requested that the Secretariat prepare a reply to the Supervisor of Elections to seek clarity on these. The Secretariat will draft said correspondence for the Chairman's review.

f. Resourcing at the Courts

The Research Analyst noted that she had recently been provided with a copy of the Chief Justice's speech from the 2026 Grand Court Opening, and would forward to members once this meeting was completed. Members can then review for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Any Other Business

a. Commission Chairpersons Meeting

The Chairman revisited the issue of holding a meeting between all Commissions Secretariat-supported Chairpersons, and asked that the Manager be reminded to progress this.

b. Meeting Dates Going Forward

It was noted that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for 10 April. The Chairman asked members and the Secretariat their preference/availability for meetings thereafter. It was agreed that after April, meetings will be held on a Monday. The Secretariat will circulate calendar invitations for the remainder of the year after the April meeting.

6. Action Items

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. upload the minutes to the website, per item 2.a. above;
- b. draft a letter to the Director of Legal Aid for the Chairman’s review, per item 3.a.i. above;
- c. circulate the September-December 2025 Report to parties, per item 3.b. above;
- d. continue to liaise with the Parliamentary Management Commission on Youth Parliament 2027, per item 3.c.i. above;
- e. progress work on the Constitutional History Display and keep the Speaker updated, per item 3.c.ii. above;
- f. follow up with the Premier on the status of the Advisory District Councils Select Committee, per item 3.d. above;
- g. draft letter to the Supervisor of Elections on Elections Act amendments, per item 3.e. above;
- h. circulate Chief Justice’s speech from the Grand Court Opening 2026, per item 3.f. above; and
- i. follow up on the Commissions Chairpersons Meeting, per item 4.a. above (Manager).

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- a. Third Report for 2025
- b. Constitutional Issues for Discussion
 - i. Entitlement to Legal Aid
- c. Advisory District Councils
- d. Education Activities
 - i. Display in Constitution Hall
- e. Amendments to the Elections Act
- f. Resourcing of the Courts
- g. Commission Meetings with Chairpersons

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting scheduled for 10 April 2026 at 11:30 am.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:10 pm.



J. Lemuel Hurlston
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION