



**1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF 2025  
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION  
17 MARCH 2025  
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

**PRESENT:**

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

**SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melanie McField	Manager
Francis Kearns	Deputy Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am. The Chairman thanked all for attending.

**2. Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman and members each introduced themselves and provided a brief background on their experience, followed by the Commissions Secretariat staff.

**3. Background / Introduction to the Secretariat**

The Manager and Deputy Manager provided a brief background of the Secretariat and how it operates in supporting the Constitutional Commission and five other independent commissions.

**4. Constitutional Commission's Remit**

Members discussed the remit of the Commission, which focuses on advisory, reporting and awareness activities relating to the Constitution.

**5. History of the Constitutional Commission and Its Activities**

The Deputy Manager provided a brief history of the Constitutional Commission going back to its establishment under the 2009 Constitution. There have been four iterations since then, including the current one. A review of the Commission's most recent activities was provided as well, noting the educational work with Youth Parliament and the Collas Crill Student Moot, the advisory report on areas for Constitutional amendment in 2018, and the Freedom of Information initiative to release records relating to the 2020 Constitutional Amendment.

## **6. Forward Look**

The Chairman noted that he wishes to establish channels of open and honest communication between the Commission and the Government, which necessitates mutual respect. The Commission has historically had difficulty receiving responses from the Government entities it engages with, and the Chair seeks to find ways to rectify this. Members were optimistic that the upcoming election would provide an opportunity to establish a fresh and hopefully reciprocal relationship between stakeholders.

Members felt it would be helpful to establish a more formal process for the Commission's reporting requirements. Member Annalisa Shibli agreed to draft a procedure for this that can be included in the Commission's Policies and Procedures Manual. The Secretariat was asked to provide the current Policies and Procedures Manual, and any additional documentation which might be helpful, to Member Shibli.

The Chairman additionally requested to follow up on an outstanding issue from the former Chairman Vaughan Carter's time – Advisory District Councils (ADCs). The Secretariat was asked to conduct some research into the 2008/2009 Constitutional negotiation transcripts, as well as other relevant documents such as records of Parliamentary debates and the Advisory District Councils Bill, to provide information on what the original intention for these ADCs was.

The Chairman also mentioned his intention to invite former Chairman Carter to attend a Commission meeting in the future. As there has been no overlap in membership between this Commission and former Chairman Carter's incarnation of the Commission, it would be helpful to have a summary of any significant ongoing matters that were in progress at the end of former Chairman Carter's tenure.

## **7. Logistics & Practical Matters**

Members agreed that monthly meetings held on the second Monday of each month would be suitable. Meetings could be moved to Wednesday if the second Monday fell on a public holiday. In-person meetings were preferred, and it had previously been established that a meeting start of 11:30 am would be best.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **9. Action List**

### **Members were asked to:**

- a. Draft a formal process for reporting procedures for Members' review (Member Shibli).

### **The Secretariat was asked to:**

- a. Conduct research on the reasoning for including ADCs in the Constitution as outlined in item 6 above;

- b. Assist with inviting former Chairman Carter to a future Commission meeting as needed as outlined in item 6 above; and
- c. Schedule upcoming Commission meetings for the remainder of the year as outlined in item 7 above.

**10. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting**

- a. Summary of Significant Matters by Former Chairman Vaughan Carter
- b. Draft Reporting Procedures
- c. Research on Advisory District Councils

**11. Next Meeting**

The Secretariat would circulate a proposed date for the next meeting via e-mail.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 12:35 pm.



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J. Lemuel Hurlston  
CHAIRMAN  
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION