

Bill 1 takes a new direction

Key points from the November 14 Committee of the Whole transcript, regarding Bill 1 and the proposed amendment to exempt nonprofits

View transcript:

http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR_files/docs/hansards/han/legislature_26/session_3/20071114_1300_01_han.pdf

Dave Hancock, Government House Leader:

"I just want to highlight that at the appropriate time I will be bringing forward a further amendment which will deal the question of what I would call a public-good exemption, an exemption which would make it very clear that charitable organizations and voluntary organizations are not part of the registry process unless they are constituted to serve management, union, or professional interests not having a majority of members that are profit-seeking enterprises or representatives of profit-seeking enterprises. The reason I mention this now, Mr. Chairman, is, first and foremost, because it may impact how we consider all the rest of the amendments that we're bringing." *(page 1987, column 1)*

"Our language in this bill talks about directors, officers, or employees, but in any event it makes it very clear that persons who are in a voluntary organization which is truly a charitable or a public-good organization, as opposed to a special-interest organization, would be exempted from the registration under the Lobbyists Act." *(page 1987, column 1)*

Laurie Blakeman, House Leader for the Official Opposition

"I am delighted to hear the Government House Leader speak of amendments to come following this package that would be addressing [nonprofits'] concerns specifically around what's been referred to as the Quebec amendment." *(page 1987, column 2)*

Mo Elsalhy, vice chair of the all-party committee that recommended changes to the Act:

"I have to thank all the colleagues who sat on this committee for their open-mindedness and their patience as we all struggled to reach that balance, you know, that fine midpoint between our desire and our attempt to make government and the dealings of government more open and transparent and the reaction we had to give to members from the nonprofit sector and the volunteer sector when we heard their cries loud and clear when they said, you know, that the net of the act was cast too wide and it wasn't them that the act intended to catch." *(page 1987, column 2)*

"I am pleased that the Quebec amendment [exempting nonprofits] is coming forward." *(page 1988, column 1)*

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hancock also welcomed guests:

"It's also my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the House five leaders of Alberta's voluntary sector. There are more than 19,000 voluntary sector organizations in Alberta working in a variety of ways to improve the quality of life of Albertans. The staff and volunteers of these organizations are active in areas ranging from education to recreation to social services to much, much more. Over the last few months many of us have heard from these organizations as they contributed to the public discussion on Bill 1.

We're pleased to have these five I'd ask our visitors to stand when named: Russ Dahms, executive director of the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations; Lois Gander of the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta; Scott Lundell, Volunteer Alberta's volunteer board chair; Katherine van Kooy, president of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations; and Bob Wyatt, executive director of the Muttart Foundation. *(page 1953, column 2)*