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**APPENDIX A**

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**STANDING ORDERS**  
**OF THE**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

[Approved 25 January and amended 28 January 1864]

1. At the hour of Meeting, as nearly as may be, the Presiding Member shall take the Chair, and if it shall then appear that no quorum is present, he shall adjourn the Council to such convenient day as he may think meet.
2. Immediately after the Presiding Member takes the Chair, the Minutes of the proceedings of the last preceding day's sitting shall be read by the Clerk, in order that any error therein may be corrected, and when correct the same may be approved.
3. The Presiding Member shall preserve due order and decorum during each Session of the Council, and protect all the Members thereof in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges. He shall decide all questions of order that may arise, giving his reasons for such decisions, and citing the rule applicable to the case, but otherwise without comment. Any such decision, however, shall be subject to revision by the Council on appeal.
4. All questions of order, upon which appeals shall be made from the decision of the Presiding Member, shall be decided by direct vote of the Council without debate, the vote to be called by the Presiding Member in the following form: "Is it the pleasure of this Council to support the Chair?"
5. Any Member speaking upon any subject shall rise and address the Council (or in Committee) the Chairman.
6. In case two or more Members shall happen to rise at the same time, the Presiding Member shall name the Member who is to have the floor.
7. Upon any Member being called to order, he shall take his seat till the question of order be decided.

8. No motion, except to adjourn or for the previous question, shall be introduced, except the same be written in ink, and contain the name of the mover and seconder.

9. Every motion shall be read by the mover thereof, standing in his place, upon which it shall be handed to the Clerk who shall also read it. The Presiding Member shall then receive it, and put it to the Council, after which it shall be considered before the Council; but any motion may be withdrawn at any time, before a decision thereon, by the mover and seconder thereof, with the consent of the Council.

10. No Member shall speak more than once, except in explanation to the same motion, except the mover thereof, who shall be allowed to reply.

11. After the reply of the mover of any motion, no further discussion shall be allowed thereon; but unless an amendment be moved thereto, it shall be immediately put to the vote, after which no Member shall speak, or leave his seat until the final vote is taken.

12. Amendments shall be subject to the same rules as original motions.

13. The amendment shall be put to the vote before the original motion, and the last amendment before any previous one, except in cases raising or appropriating money, in which case the smallest sum shall be put first.

14. While any motion is under debate no other motion shall be entertained, except a motion to amend, to commit, to postpone, or to lay on the table, or a motion for the previous question, or to adjourn, which latter motion shall always be in order, except when the Council is in Committee of the whole.

15. A motion for commitment, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendments.

16. A motion to postpone, shall include a day for the further consideration of the question.

17. When a motion to lay on the Table prevails, the matter so delayed may be called up again on any subsequent day by the motion of any Member.

18. A motion for the previous question until it is decided shall preclude all debate, and all motions for amendments or otherwise shall be put in the following words: "Shall the main question be now put?"

19. Every Bill shall be introduced by leave granted to some Member, on motion therefor, in which motion the Title of the proposed Bill shall be recited, or its general objects expressed.

20. No Bill shall be committed or amended until it shall be twice read in Council; but the first reading shall follow its introduction as a matter of course, and may consist of its Title only.

21. Every Bill before its final reading and passage shall be committed, and each enacting clause separately considered in Committee of the whole, upon which it shall be reported to the Council with any amendment that may have been agreed upon in Committee. If the report be adopted in Council, no amendment shall afterwards be offered, except to the title or preamble; nevertheless a motion for re-committing may be entertained.

22. No Bill for raising money, or which in its operation shall have a tendency to increase the burdens of the people, shall be finally passed on the day on which it is introduced.

23. Upon the final reading and passage of any Bill, the same shall be certified by the signature of the Clerk.

24. The Council may resolve itself into a Committee of the whole for the consideration of any Bill or any other matter, upon the motion of a Member. When any such motion prevails the Presiding Member shall leave the Chair, appointing one of the Members as Chairman of the Committee.

25. When the Committee rise, which shall be by motion of some Member, and decided without debate, the Chairman shall report to the Presiding Member all amendments and resolutions adopted therein, who shall immediately refer the same to the Council for concurrence.

26. When any report of the Committee of the whole shall be submitted to the Council, as provided in the last preceding rule, no discussion shall be had thereon, and no amendment made thereto, but it shall be either adopted or rejected, or referred back with instructions, or postponed to a time to be fixed for asking the concurrence of the Council.

27. Select Committees may be granted upon motion of any Member, the selections to be made by the Presiding Member, unless named in the motion granting the same; provided always that the Member moving for a select Committee, shall in all cases be a member thereof.

28. A majority of the whole number of Members chosen, to compose any Committee, shall form a quorum thereof.

29. The reports of all special and select Committees shall be submitted to the Council in writing, bearing the date of the day of their adoption and the signature of the Chairman thereof.

30. No discussion shall be allowed upon the reception of the report of any Committee, but the same shall be forthwith either adopted or rejected, or referred to a Committee of the whole, or laid on the table, or deferred to some future time to be fixed by the Council.

31. The business of the Council shall be taken up and disposed of at each daily session in the following order:

FIRST—Reading the Minutes.

SECOND—Reading and referring Petitions, Memorials and other Communications.

THIRD—Orders of the Day.

FOURTH—Notices of Motions.

FIFTH—Any other business.

32. Whenever a division is taken upon any question before the Council, it shall be the duty of every Member present to vote on the same; and any present Member who shall not distinctly give his vote, on either side, shall be considered as giving his vote in the affirmative, and shall be counted among the Ayes accordingly.

33. Upon any division which may take place the Ayes and Nays shall be taken down by the Clerk, if any one Member shall so desire.

34. Upon the adjournment of the Council the Members will keep their seats until the Presiding Member shall have left the Chair.

35. That alterations or amendments may be made to the foregoing rules by the Council.

36. That the Council can by motion of any Member, suspend the standing orders for the time being without notice.

37. All Bills and motions thrown out cannot again be brought forward during the Session.\*

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**STANDING ORDERS**  
OF THE  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

[12 January 1865]

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**MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENTS.**

1. The hour of meeting shall be 3 o'clock, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and 1 o'clock, on Wednesday; should a quorum of Members not be present at the time at which the Council shall have been summoned on any particular day, the Presiding Member shall take the chair, and if it shall then appear that no quorum be present, he shall adjourn the Council to the time of meeting fixed for the next following day. †

2. It shall be lawful for the Council on the motion of any Member, duly seconded and carried by a majority, to alter the hour of meeting of the next sitting of Council, if it shall be deemed necessary for the speedy dispatch of business. †

**ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.**

3. Five Members inclusive of the Presiding Member shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; and in the event of a quorum not being present at the hour of meeting of the Council, it shall be lawful for the Presiding Member to summon any absent Members, and any Members so sent for, and not attending forthwith, shall be held to be guilty of contempt. †

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\* Standing Orders of the Legislative Council of British Columbia [1864], British Columbia, Legislative Council, GR 515, PABC.

† Amended, 30 January 1865.

4. No Member shall depart the House without the leave of the Presiding Member; and upon the adjournment of the Council, Members will keep their seats till the Presiding Member shall have left the Chair.

5. Any Member requiring leave of absence from the Council during its Session, shall make application to the Governor, personally or by writing through the Presiding Member.

6. Except on the first day of a Session, at the daily opening of the business of the Council, the list of Members' names shall be called over, and such as shall be absent without leave shall be fined Ten Dollars, and their names shall be entered on the minutes.†

7. Immediately after the Presiding Member take the Chair, the Minutes of the proceedings of the previous day's sitting shall be read by the Clerk, in order that any error therein may be corrected, and when correct the same shall be approved and signed by the Presiding Member.

#### RULES OF DEBATE.

8. The Presiding Member shall preserve due order and decorum during each Session of the Council, and protect all the Members thereof in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges. He shall decide all questions of order that may arise, giving his reasons for such decisions, when required by any Member, and citing the rule applicable to the case; but otherwise without comment.

9. Every Member shall in discussing any question, address the Chair, and shall stand while so doing; and should he wish to allude to the Speech or opinion of any other Member, he must do so without naming him; Official Members may be designated by their appointments.

10. If any two or more Members rise to speak at the same time, the President shall call on the person entitled in his opinion to pre-audience.

11. Upon any Member being called to order, he shall take his seat till the question or order be decided.

12. No motion, except to adjourn or for the previous question, shall be introduced, except the same be written in ink, and contain the name of the mover and seconder.

13. Every motion shall be read by the mover thereof, standing in his place, upon which it shall be handed to the Clerk, who shall also read it, and it shall then be put to the Council by the Presiding Member, after which it shall be considered before the Council; but any motion may be withdrawn at any time, before a decision thereon, by the mover and seconder thereof, with the consent of the Council.

14. No Member shall speak more than once, except in explanation to the motion, except the mover thereof, who shall be allowed to reply.

† Amended, 30 January 1865.

15. After the reply of the mover of any motion, no further discussion shall be allowed thereon; but unless an amendment be moved thereto, it shall be immediately put to the vote, after which no Member shall speak or leave his seat, until the final vote is taken.

16. While any motion is under debate no other motion shall be entertained, except a motion to amend, to commit, to postpone, or to lay on the table, or a motion for the previous question, or to adjourn, which latter motion shall always be in order, except when the Council is in Committee of the whole.

17. A motion for commitment, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendments.

18. A motion to postpone, shall include a day for the further consideration of the question.

19. When a motion to lay on the table prevails, the matter so delayed may be called up again on any subsequent day, by the motion of any Member.

20. A motion for the previous question until it is decided, shall preclude all debate; and all motions for amendments or otherwise shall be put in the following words: "Shall the main question be now put?"

21. Any Member intending to introduce a Bill, Resolution or other matter into the Council, shall give one day's notice of his intention, but shall not be permitted to introduce the same without leave, which must be obtained on the day of notice, from the Council.

22. In every case an amendment which has been moved and seconded, shall be put before the original question, and every later amendment before a former one.

23. A motion to amend a proposed amendment, cannot be put until the proposed amendment shall have taken the place of the original question, nor after it shall have been adopted, and no question can be put to the vote which is substantially the same as one on which the judgment of the Council has already been expressed in the current Session.

24. To prevent any misunderstanding in the Council, no Member shall be liable to answer for a motion made, or words spoken in the Council, unless it be at the same sitting, and before the adjournment; and the Council shall receive no information from without doors, of words spoken openly in the Council.

25. All imputations of improper motives shall be considered as being highly disorderly; and such conduct shall be minuted in the Journals, if it shall appear to a majority of the Council to be necessary.

26. An adjournment of the discussion of any question may be moved by a Member at any time, and if seconded, may be adopted or not by the majority.

27. No amendment shall be proposed upon an amendment which is under discussion.

28. No Member shall be allowed to read any speech.

29. Every motion and amendment must be in writing, and must be seconded before it can be put to the vote.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

30. The business of the Council shall be taken up and disposed of at each daily Session, in the following order:

FIRST—Reading the Minutes.

SECOND—Reading and referring Petitions, Memorials and other Communications.

THIRD—Notices of Motion.

FOURTH—Orders of the Day.

31. On the first day of the Session the Governor's Speech shall be read, with the Despatches, Bills and other Documents accompanying it, and such reading shall be the first reading of the said Bills. The Committee to prepare an address on the Governor's Speech on opening the Session, shall then be appointed by the Presiding Member on motion in Council.

32. With the exception of questions of privilege, which shall take precedence of all others, all business shall be taken in the order in which it appears in the "Order Book," unless by permission of the President, on good reasons being shewn for such deviation.

#### BILLS—RESOLUTIONS.

33. Every Bill except those sent down to the Council by the Governor, shall be introduced by leave granted to some Member, on motion therefor, but to expedite the conduct of business, no Member shall be allowed to introduce a Bill after fourteen days have elapsed from the date of the reply to the Governor's Address being presented, without the consent of every Member of Council present on such motion being put, but a majority may at any time request the Governor to introduce any Bill that may be desired.†

34. Every Bill before it passes, shall be read three times.

35. No Bill shall pass two readings on the same day, without the unanimous consent of the Council.

36. After the second reading of a Bill, the Council shall always resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council on the same, for the purpose of discussing the provisions of the said Bill, and any amendments to be proposed thereto, and in such Committee the Bill shall be gone through clause by clause.

37. Excepting where amendments are proposed by the Governor, a Bill which has been reported from a Committee of the whole Council, and agreed to, shall not be recommitted for the purpose of altering or reversing any thing therein contained, but solely for the introduction of new or supplemental matter, in aid of the provisions of the Bill previously agreed to.

† Amended, 30 January 1865.

15. After the reply of the mover of any motion, no further discussion shall be allowed thereon; but unless an amendment be moved thereto, it shall be immediately put to the vote, after which no Member shall speak or leave his seat, until the final vote is taken.

16. While any motion is under debate no other motion shall be entertained, except a motion to amend, to commit, to postpone, or to lay on the table, or a motion for the previous question, or to adjourn, which latter motion shall always be in order, except when the Council is in Committee of the whole.

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20. A motion for the previous question until it is decided, shall preclude all debate; and all motions for amendments or otherwise shall be put in the following words: "Shall the main question be now put?"

21. Any Member intending to introduce a Bill, Resolution or other matter into the Council, shall give one day's notice of his intention, but shall not be permitted to introduce the same without leave, which must be obtained on the day of notice, from the Council.

22. In every case an amendment which has been moved and seconded, shall be put before the original question, and every later amendment before a former one.

23. A motion to amend a proposed amendment, cannot be put until the proposed amendment shall have taken the place of the original question, nor after it shall have been adopted, and no question can be put to the vote which is substantially the same as one on which the judgment of the Council has already been expressed in the current Session.

24. To prevent any misunderstanding in the Council, no Member shall be liable to answer for a motion made, or words spoken in the Council, unless it be at the same sitting, and before the adjournment; and the Council shall receive no information from without doors, of words spoken openly in the Council.

25. All imputations of improper motives shall be considered as being highly disorderly; and such conduct shall be minuted in the Journals, if it shall appear to a majority of the Council to be necessary.

26. An adjournment of the discussion of any question may be moved by a Member at any time, and if seconded, may be adopted or not by the majority.

27. No amendment shall be proposed upon an amendment which is under discussion.

28. No Member shall be allowed to read any speech.



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32. With the exception of questions of privilege, which shall take precedence of all others, all business shall be taken in the order in which it appears in the "Order Book," unless by permission of the President, on good reasons being shewn for such deviation.

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34. Every Bill before it passes, shall be read three times.

35. No Bill shall pass two readings on the same day, without the unanimous consent of the Council.

36. After the second reading of a Bill, the Council shall always resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council on the same, for the purpose of discussing the provisions of the said Bill, and any amendments to be proposed thereto, and in such Committee the Bill shall be gone through clause by clause.

37. Excepting where amendments are proposed by the Governor, a Bill which has been reported from a Committee of the whole Council, and agreed to, shall not be recommitted for the purpose of altering or reversing any thing therein contained, but solely for the introduction of new or supplemental matter, in aid of the provisions of the Bill previously agreed to.

† Amended, 30 January 1865.

38. When a Bill has been passed by the Council, it shall be presented by the President, for Her Majesty's assent, to the Governor.

39. Whenever the Governor shall propose amendments to any Bill or Resolution sent up to him by the Council, the Council shall resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council on the same; but the provisions of the said Bill or Resolution, as previously passed by the Council, shall not then be taken into consideration, save in so far as the amendments proposed effect or have reference to the same.

40. When the Committee shall have reported to the Council on such proposed amendments, and the Council shall have come to a decision on such report, a copy of the Resolution of the Council, giving the result of the determination, or requesting a conference, shall be forwarded to the Governor.

41. No Bill, which has been rejected by the Council, shall be re-introduced during the same Session.

42. Upon the final reading and passage of any Bill, the same shall be certified by the signature of the Presiding Member.

43. It shall be in the power of the Governor to reserve Bills for Her Majesty's consideration, and to assent to them when so instructed, although the Council shall have been prorogued.

44. The Council may at any time request a conference with the Governor, particularly if there be matter to be considered which it might be detrimental to the interests of the Colony to have openly discussed in the first instance.

#### COMMITTEES.

45. The Council may resolve itself into Committee of the whole for the consideration of any Bill or any other matter, upon the motion of a Member. When any such motion prevails the Presiding Member may leave the Chair, appointing one of the Members as Chairman of the Committee.

46. When the Committee rise, which shall be by motion of some Member, and decided without debate, the Chairman shall report to the Presiding Member all amendments and resolutions adopted therein, who shall immediately refer the same to the Council for concurrence.

47. When any report of the Committee of the whole shall be submitted to the Council, as provided in the last preceding rule, no discussion shall be had thereon, and no amendment made thereto, but it shall be either adopted or rejected, or referred back with instructions, or postponed to a time to be fixed for asking the concurrence of the Council.

48. Select Committees may be granted upon motion of any Member, the selections to be made by the Presiding Member, unless named in the motion granting the same; provided always that the Member moving for a Select Committee shall in all cases be a Member thereof.

49. A majority of the whole number of Members chosen, to compose any Committee, shall form a quorum thereof; the first Member named to be Chairman of the Committee.

50. The reports of all Special and Select Committees shall be submitted to the Council in writing, bearing the date of the day of their adoption, and the signature of the Chairman thereof.

51. No discussion shall be allowed upon the reception of the report of any Committee, but the same shall be forthwith either adopted or rejected, or referred to a Committee of the whole, or laid on the table, or deferred to some future time to be fixed by the Council.

### PETITIONS.

52. Petitions may be presented to the Presiding Member by any Member immediately after the Chair is taken, provided that there shall be indorsed upon it a certificate signed by the Member presenting the same, or by some other Member of Council, that in his opinion the petition is throughout perfectly respectful and deserving of presentation, and that the statements contained therein are generally correct.

53. It shall be competent to any Member to move that such petition be read; but in making such motion he shall state concisely the purport of the petition, together with his reasons for wishing to have the same read, and the motion being seconded, the question shall be put whether the petition be read.

54. No debate shall take place on presentation of any petition, except as to receiving or reading such petition, and every petition after being received shall be laid on the table of the Council, for at least one day before it is again taken up and disposed of.

55. In any case where individual rights or interests may be peculiarly affected by any proposed Ordinance, all parties so affected may be heard before the Council when in Committee upon such Ordinance, either in person or by Counsel.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

56. Whenever a division is taken upon any question before the Council, it shall be the duty of every Member present to vote on the same; and any present Member who shall not distinctly give his vote, on either side, shall be considered as giving his vote in the affirmative, and shall be counted among the Ayes accordingly.

57. Upon any division which may take place, the Ayes and Nays shall be taken down by the Clerk, if any one Member shall so desire.

58. Whenever leave shall be given to any Member to introduce a Bill, Resolution, or other matter, a day shall be appointed for the introduction thereof, and all such appointments shall be entered in a book, to be entitled "Order Book," and notified on a board, to be entitled "Order of the day," and to be affixed to the door of the House.

59. All dropped Orders of the day must be considered dropped, and brought up again in the usual way. Messages and Bills, or other documents from the Governor, shall be read at the time they are received, or as soon as practicable; but the Council cannot adjourn until the Message, Bill, or document has been read to the Council.

60. When any motion has been made and seconded, it shall be put to the vote whether the matter proposed be debated or not.

61. The Reporters of the Public Press shall be admitted by season ticket, issued by the Clerk of the Council. The Public will be admitted by ticket only; each Member will be limited to the issue of two tickets for each sitting of the Council.

62. On the motion of any Member, though not seconded, "That Strangers do withdraw," such strangers must withdraw, including the Press.

#### CLERK.

63. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Council to make Minutes of the Votes, Resolutions, Addresses, Orders, Reports, Divisions, and all other proceedings of the Council, and to preserve the original Documents; to prepare for the use of the Printer copies of the Votes and of all Papers and Documents directed to be printed therewith; to see that they be correctly printed and distributed to the Members; to read aloud all such Documents as the Council may order to be read, with the exception of Messages from the Governor, which must always be read by the Presiding Member.

#### FINES.

64. All fines incurred or imposed by the Council, shall be enforced by Warrant under the hand of the Presiding Member, addressed to the Clerk of the Council.

65. The Council shall have power to remit, excuse, mitigate or refund any fines incurred or imposed.

66. All fines when paid shall be appropriated to the purchase of Books for a Library for the use of the Council, or to such other purpose as the Council shall from time to time determine by Resolution.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

67. Should any emergency arise, it is in the power of the Council to suspend the foregoing Standing Orders for the time being, by unanimous vote.