

Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Testimony to House Committee on General and Housing, Vermont House of Representatives

Update – Truth and Reconciliation Commission Selection Panel

January 11, 2023

During the FY 2022 Legislative Session, Act 128 was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Scott. The Act establishes a process by which a Selection Panel will recruit and select three Commissioners who will implement the provisions of Act 128, the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In October 2022, the seven members of the Selection Committee were seated and began the work of selecting Commissioners. The members of the Selection Committee are:

Judith Chalmer
N. Bruce Duthu
Jennifer Morton-Dow
Etan Nasreddin-Longo
Nina Ridhibhinyo
Vanessa Santos Eugenio, Co-Chair
Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Co-Chair

To date, the Selection Panel has completed the following steps in the recruiting process:

- The Selection Committee has established and followed a schedule of weekly meetings, which are conducted via Zoom.
- The Selection Committee has named Co-Chairs who are responsible for holding meeting space, ensuring that all voices are heard, working with state agencies, ensuring that minutes and documents are created and held, implementing a work plan, and supporting members of the committee.
- The Co-Chairs met with the Agency of Administration to establish systems for accessing the Commission budget. The Committee created a budget for its work as well as a budget for the Commission in FY 2024 and submitted these budgets to the Agency of Administration to be included in the Governor's budget for FY24.
- Co-Chair Santo-Eugenio has met with the Agency of Human Services to establish pathways for ensuring that job descriptions and recruitment aligns with the requirements for state employment as well as to establish a collaborative partnership with the Agency.
- The Committee adopted a work plan which projects completion of its work by the deadline of March 31.
- The Committee is currently writing a job description for the Commissioner position.
- The Committee is currently creating a matrix that articulates the requirements for the Commissioners.
- The Committee is currently writing interview questions for the position of Commissioner.

- The workplan includes a commitment to complete the work on the job description, matrix and interview format and questions in early January. Advertising and outreach will commence in mid-January. Application packages will be accepted in February. Interviews, including a public inquiry session, will be conducted in February and early March. Commissioner selection will be completed by March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Santos Eugenio, Co-Chair

Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Co-Chair