

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**PBLRC-C 3 -2019**

**Subject: Comparison of Bourinot's Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order**

**Date: June 17, 2019**

**To: Procedural By-law Review Committee**

**From: Ann-Mare Norio, Regional Clerk**

---

At its meeting held on April 10, 2019, the Procedural By-law Review Committee requested that staff prepare a comparison chart of the parliamentary procedures from Bourinot's Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order for Committee's information.

The comparison table of these parliamentary procedures is attached as Appendix 1 to this memorandum.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

---

Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

### **Appendices**

**Appendix I Differences between Bourinot's Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order**

## Differences between Bourinot's Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order

Action	Bourinot's Rules of Order (BRO)				Robert's Rules of Order (RRO)			
	Interrupt?	Second?	Debate?	Amend?	Interrupt?	Second?	Debate?	Amend?
End debate on item	1) No 2) No	1) Yes 2) Yes	1) Yes 2) No	1) No 2) No	No	Yes	No	No
Comments:	<p><b>BRO</b> references two way to end debate on a motion. <b>First</b>, motions on which question is called will be debated at the next meeting if the motion fails. E.g. "I call the question, will the Niagara Region spend \$1.00? If the motion fails, it will be debated at the following meeting. Similar to postponing/deferring an item. <b>Second</b>, a motion to have Council proceed to the next order of business by administering a vote. This requires majority.</p> <p><b>RRO</b> references one way to end debate on a motion: "I call the question". This requires a 2/3 majority vote in order to proceed.</p>							
Consider item out of order	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comments:	While <b>BRO</b> requires a majority vote, <b>RRO</b> requires a 2/3 vote to amend the agenda.							
Postpone discussion on item until more desirable time	No	Yes	Yes, time only	Yes	1) No 2) No	1) Yes 2) Yes	1) Yes 2) Yes	1) No 2) Yes
Comments:	<p><b>BRO</b> writes that discussion can be postponed to a specific date or indefinitely. It requires a majority vote.</p> <p><b>RRO</b> references two ways to postpone: (1) <i>indefinitely</i> or (2) <i>definitely</i>. (1) <i>Indefinitely</i> requires a majority vote and postpones the item to an unspecified date rather than formally approving or rejected it. (2) <i>Definitely</i> requires a majority vote and moves the item to the next meeting.</p>							
Postpone consideration of item to address urgent business	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Comments:	While <b>BRO</b> allows for debate, <b>RRO</b> moves right to a vote if seconded. Both procedures require a majority vote.							
Enquire about procedure/consequences	Yes	No	Yes, point only	No	Yes	No	No	No
Comments:	<b>BRO</b> requires a member to say "Point of Order", and allows for debate specific to the enquiry. No vote is taken, chair rules on the decision. <b>RRO</b> requires a member to say "Point of Parliamentary Procedure", and does not allow for debate. No vote is taken, the Regional Clerk or delegate will provide information being requested.							
Object to incorrect procedure	Yes	No	Yes, point only	No	Yes	No	No	No
Comments:	While <b>BRO</b> allows for debate, <b>RRO</b> does not. The chair rules on the decision for both procedures.							

# Differences between Bourinot's Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order

## Other Notable Differences:

- **RRO** specifies that there are four types of motions and are listed in the following rank (all of which take precedence over the other):
  1. Privileged motions
  2. Incidental motions
  3. Main motions
  4. Subsidiary motions
- **BRO** allows for members to reconsider a motion that has failed. It requires a 2/3 majority vote and can be debated. The motion would then be considered at the next meeting and written notice of motion must then be provided by the specific member, advising that the matter will be readdressed at the next meeting. **RRO** allows for motions to be reconsidered. However, reconsiderations can only be made on the day the vote to be reconsidered was taken, or on the next succeeding day, a legal holiday, or recess not being counted as a day. The motion to reconsider must be put forward by a member who voted on the prevailing side and any member may second it. It can be made while any other question is pending, even if another member has the floor. The motion to reconsider cannot be amended, postponed *indefinitely*, or committed. If the motion to reconsider is postponed *definitely*, the question to be reconsidered and all adhering questions go with it.
- **RRO** allows for members to limit or extend limits of debate by achieving a 2/3 majority vote. E.g. "I move that members be allowed to speak a third time in debate on the main motion". It requires a second and can be amended. It cannot be debated.
- **RRO** allows for a "Division of Question" by achieving a majority vote. Members may move that a motion be divided into two separate paragraphs, both requiring their own vote. It requires a second and can be amended. This can only be applied to main motions and amendments.