



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 3 — November 28, 2017

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Corey Tochor, Chair
Saskatoon Eastview

Hon. Greg Brkich
Arm River

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Mr. David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre

Mr. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Hon. Paul Merriman
Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland

[The board met at 12:18.]

The Chair: — Well welcome, everybody, and thank you for joining us today for Board of Internal Economy meeting 3/17. Joining us today: David Forbes, Warren McCall, Jeremy Harrison, Paul Merriman, and Greg Brkich.

First item is the agenda and approval of the proposed agenda. Moved by David. Oh . . .

Mr. Forbes: — Yes. I just want . . .

The Chair: — I recognize David.

Mr. Forbes: — Advise the committee too that I would want to pull item no. 15, and also I'll be having a motion to go along with item 17.

The Chair: — All right. We'll amend the agenda as outlined by David. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. So that was amending of the agenda. Now we'll vote on the agenda, I believe we have to do. A mover of that motion would be? Jeremy Harrison. Second? David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Next is the minutes from our last meeting. Open for discussion? Seeing none, can we get a mover of the motion to adopt last meeting's minutes? Paul Merriman. Seconded by Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Now we'll go through a number of reports to be tabled. Tabling of the first and second quarter financial forecast for the 2017-18 fiscal year for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth. Just a tabling item.

Next one, item 2, tabling of the first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2017-18 for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar.

Item 3, tabling of the first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2017-18 for the Office of the Ombudsman.

Item 4, tabling of the first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2017-18 for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Item 5, tabling of the human resource and financial policies for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Item 6, tabling of the first and second quarter of the forecast for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Saskatchewan.

Item 7, tabling of the first and second financial forecast for the 2017-18 fiscal year for the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Item 8, tabling of the year-end Report on Progress 2016-17 for the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, June '17.

Item 9, tabling of the Provincial Auditor management letter to the Speaker.

Item 10, tabling of the response letter for the Board of Internal Economy to the Provincial Auditor.

Item 11, tabling of the capital asset management policy for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth, November 1st, 2017.

Item 12 is the discussion and decision item on RARF [Refurbishment and Asset Replacement Fund]. The motion will read:

That any remaining 2017-18 funding provided for the Refurbishment and Asset Replacement Fund in excess of what is required to complete the renewal of the CCTV system will be authorized for redirection towards additional security enhancements in the Legislative Building.

I'm looking for someone to move that motion. So moved, Jeremy moves. I'm looking for a seconder. Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Item 13 is a proposed amendment to directive 2.1, telecommunications. The amendment as follows:

“Clause (2) amended

Subclause 2(c)(i) is amended:

(a) by striking out “associated” and substituting “additional”

(b) by adding “, (ii) and (iii)” after “2(b)(i)”.

Subclause 2(c)(ii) is removed.

Subclause 2(d) is amended:

(a) by striking out “associated” and substituting “additional”

(b) by adding “, (ii) and (iii)” after “2(b)(i)”.

(c) by striking out “Additionally, the costs associated with subscribing to and using the internet are eligible expenses under this provision provided it is used for MLA business.” and substituting “provided they relate to MLA businesses.”

And Clause (11) is removed and internal references are re-numbered accordingly.

And that motion will be moved by Dustin Duncan, who has just joined us. Appreciate his support. Seconded by Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Item 14: Proposed amendments to directive 3.1 — MLA Travel and Living Expenses.

That directive 3.1 — MLA Travel and Living Expenses be amended by removing the following clauses:

(16) During periods when the Assembly is sitting, any Member living 350 kilometres or more from Regina may travel by executive air between Regina and his or her home in the constituency. The actual cost of the air trip shall be charged to the member's travel expense provision. A member's spouse may accompany the Member on any of these air trips in accordance with the Executive Air standby policy. In the event there is a charge for the travel by the spouse, the cost of the airfare for the spouse will be borne by the Member.

Next removal is:

(17) Notwithstanding clause 16, any Member is entitled to claim the cost charged by Executive Air for each air trip taken on executive aircraft at any time during the fiscal year; and that Member's travel expense provision shall be reduced by the actual amount of the air trip. An air trip:

- a) must be on the flight authorized by a Member of the Executive Council who is travelling on executive government business;
- b) may only be undertaken by a Member if the air trip was scheduled prior to the Member requesting the trip; and
- c) may be used by a Member, who is a Member of Executive Council, if that air trip was a previously scheduled air trip, if the Member of Executive Council mentioned in this clause did not authorize the air trip and is travelling on MLA business and not executive business.

So this is just . . . On this motion, I'm looking for someone to move the motion. Jeremy Harrison. Seconder? Greg Brkich. All those in favour? Carried.

Now on to item 16:

That directive 13.1 be amended as follows:

Subclause 2(a) is removed and internal references are numbered accordingly.

I'm looking for someone to move that motion. Jeremy Harrison.

Seconded by Paul Merriman. All those in favour? Carried.

Now on to item 17, and this motion is:

That the authority of subsection 68(2.1) of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*, directive 31, anti-harassment policy, be approved; and,

That said directive shall come into force on the day the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan adopts standing orders for proceedings on board reports and subsidiary remedial action to deal with breach of anti-harassment directive and policy.

Who would like to move that motion? Jeremy moves, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour? Carried.

So the next motion is . . . I'll let David, because this is your motion to . . . You have it.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it's a pleasure to introduce this next motion. We've been consulting with both sides of this, but this complements the work that we've done for the harassment policy between members.

But this one really has us instruct the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] to review what we have in place and determine best practices framework, of how we should move forward to make sure that the issues of harassment are dealt with and that clearly members are well served by the policies and whatever needs to be done to make sure we're in a good place, and the people who work for us are protected and the people who work with us are protected.

And so this is a framework that we asked to get done and reviewed, and we think this is a good step forward as a complement to the work that we've been doing already.

The Chair: — Jeremy.

[12:30]

Mr. Harrison: — All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank Mr. Forbes for introducing the motion. As Mr. Forbes indicated, there's been discussion between the parties and I want to thank the official opposition for their work that has gone into the policy that we just voted on. And we're going to be introducing into the House this afternoon the result of a couple of years of work that we have very much collaboratively participated in and worked together on ensuring that we have an appropriate policy in place for anti-harassment between members. And you know, we are committed to making sure that all of those who work directly with us, for us in this building and in our constituency offices, are going to be working in a safe environment. And that's something that we're very committed to and have been working on now for nearly two years.

So look forward to the vote and the government's fully supportive. And want to thank the official opposition and also my colleagues for the work that's gone into this.

The Chair: — I recognize David Forbes.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay. Thank you very much. And I too want to thank all the people who worked over the past two years on this and the staff who provided their advice and that led up to today. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move this following motion:

That the Board of Internal Economy authorize a review of existing anti-harassment policies to identify criterion for a best practices framework to protect members of the Legislative Assembly, every person employed by a member of the Legislative Assembly, any person employed by contract to a member of the Legislative Assembly, and every person whose work is associated with a member of the Legislative Assembly including but not limited to any person employed by the Legislative Assembly; and,

That expert assistance may be engaged by the Board of Internal Economy to identify the criterion to be included in a best practices framework report; and,

That the recommendations also identify means by which any recommended anti-harassment framework may be enforced; and further,

That a report with recommendations be presented to the Board as soon as is practicable.

I do so move.

The Chair: — Seconded by Jeremy Harrison. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. That concludes our agenda. I'd like to thank the members once again for their work on the board. This meeting is now adjourned.

[The board adjourned at 12:32.]