



# **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

### **MINUTES AND VERBATIM REPORT**

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The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



No. 4 — July 31, 2008

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Don Toth, Chair  
Moosomin

Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Cannington

Ms. Doreen Eagles  
Estevan

Hon. Donna Harpauer  
Humboldt

Mr. Glen Hart  
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Mr. Len Taylor  
The Battlefords

Mr. Kevin Yates  
Regina Dewdney

## BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Teleconference Meeting  
10:00 a.m. July 31, 2008

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**Present: Members of the Board of Internal Economy**

Hon. Don Toth, Speaker, Chair  
Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Ms. Doreen Eagles (by telephone)  
Mr. Len Taylor  
Mr. Kevin Yates (by telephone)

**Office of the Provincial Ombudsman**

Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman (by telephone)

**Staff to the Board**

Mr. Gregory Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Mr. Ken Ring, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk  
Ms. Margaret Tulloch, Secretary to the Board

**AGENDA** Moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the proposed agenda be adopted. Agreed.

**MINUTES** Moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. D'Autremont, ordered, that the Minutes of Meeting #3/08 be adopted. Agreed.

**ITEM 1** **Table Item: Legislative Assembly 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2008-2009, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2007-2008**

Moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Taylor:

That the Legislative Assembly 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2008-2009, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2007-2008 be approved.

The question being put and a debate arising, it was agreed.

**Minute # 1699**

**ITEM 2** **Decision Item: Special Warrant Request for the Legislative Assembly Service for payment of the purchase of new ergonomic chairs required in the Chamber**

Moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Taylor:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve special warrant funding of \$132,000 in the current fiscal year (2008-2009) for the Legislative Assembly Service for payment of the purchase of new ergonomic chairs required in the Chamber.

The question being put and a debate arising, it was agreed.

**Minute # 1700**

**ITEM 3** **Decision Item: Special Warrant Request for the Office of the Ombudsman**

The Board met in camera.

The item was presented by Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman.

The Board resumed public meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Taylor:

That Special Warrant funding for the fiscal year 2008-2009 be approved for the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman in the amount of \$55,000.

The question being put, it was agreed.

Minute # 1701

**ITEM 4**

**Table Item: *Legislative Assembly Service Priorities 2007-2008 for the Year Ended March 31, 2008***

Moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. D'Autremont:

That the *Legislative Assembly Service Priorities 2007-2008 for the year ended March 31, 2008* be received.

The question being put, it was agreed.

Moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the meeting adjourn.

The Board adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

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Hon. Don Toth  
Chair of the Board of Internal Economy

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Margaret Tulloch  
Secretary to the Board

[The board met at 10:00.]

**The Chair:** — Well to save the process of holding the line too long we're just going to move forward with the meeting that we've called for today. We have present with us Mr. Taylor, Mr. D'Autremont, Mr. Putz, and Mr. Ring. And how many of you have received the minutes so you have an idea of what the agenda is?

**Ms. Eagles:** — I, Doreen, have.

**Mr. Yates:** — Kevin has.

**The Chair:** — Kevin has. Okay, excellent. And those of us gathered here have the agenda and the minutes in front of us.

Could I have a motion then to accept the agenda as presented?

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — I so move. Dan.

**The Chair:** — Moved by Mr. D'Autremont. A seconder? Mr. Taylor. Thank you.

You've had an opportunity to take a quick look at the minutes. Could I have a mover to approve the minutes as presented? Mr. Taylor. A seconder? Mr. D'Autremont. Thank you. All in favour? Agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed, thank you. Carried.

Item no. 1 on today's agenda has to do with table item, Legislative Assembly first quarter financial and fiscal forecast '08-09 and the fourth quarter financial and fiscal forecast '07-08. I'm not sure if there were any questions, but first of all I'll have a mover to a motion that these statements be approved. Do I have a mover?

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. D'Autremont. I guess we'll have to do it in-house here because we have to have signatures on here. And the seconder? Mr. Taylor. Any discussion?

**Mr. Taylor:** — I have one question.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Taylor has a question.

**Mr. Taylor:** — It has to do with the budgetary expenditures. The summary item is item 1(a) in the book — summary item, budgetary expenditures — and it indicates that expenditures in the administrative directive 24.1 shows there were unbudgeted costs for moving and storage of MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] furniture and equipment as constituency offices were vacated and are relocated during the election. Can anyone tell me how many offices are we talking about?

**The Chair:** — Mr. Putz.

**Ms. Eagles:** — I'm sorry. I didn't hear what Mr. Taylor's actual question was, Mr. Speaker.

**The Chair:** — Okay, on the item regarding the Board of Internal Economy Legislative Assembly quarterly financial report, the first page, item no. 1, it says summary at the top and then fourth quarter starts off with . . . and it's about the third paragraph down where it says, expenditures in the administration directive 24.1.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Right.

**The Chair:** — At the bottom of that, Mr. Taylor had mentioned that he noticed there was a significant cost to fund the storage of furniture of MLAs who had retired or had been defeated. And his question was just how many offices, I believe, did this impact and what was the cost.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — So I'm not sure if Greg can answer that for us but I'll ask . . .

**Mr. Putz:** — Unfortunately we don't have Marilyn Borowski here with us. But both Ken and my recollection of this is approximately 29 members, although we can confirm that with you, and that's a combination of those retiring, etc. And some of this material also was moved into storage pending the election, whether new MLAs want to take up that equipment as part of their new office or not. So I can commit to get to you an exact number, but between Ken and myself here that's our recollection.

**The Chair:** — And I think if I could add too, remember during the election one of the Sask Party candidates happened to have an office close to a former NDP [New Democratic Party] candidate or member. And if I recall, they were told to vacate the office even before the election actually had transpired. So that means they had to . . . If I understand it correctly, then that equipment would have to be in storage and that the office wasn't held till after the election date so any . . .

**Mr. Putz:** — Yes, and pending taking up a new office in a different location. So it's a combination of, as I said, members retiring and situations as Mr. Speaker just pointed out.

**Mr. Taylor:** — I would like some more detail on that.

**Mr. Putz:** — We'll commit to get that for you, Mr. Taylor.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you.

**The Chair:** — So Mr. Taylor has asked for more detail, and more detail would be forthcoming to the members. Do we have any further questions regarding the motion?

**Ms. Eagles:** — Mr. Speaker, it's Doreen. I have a question regarding the chairs for the Chamber but perhaps I should just wait until that item . . . I guess it's the next item on the agenda, so I could ask that at that time then.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much, Ms. Eagles. Any further questions regarding the financial statements and the motion on the floor that we accept the quarterly financial reports for '08-09 and the fourth quarter for '07-08. Are we all agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Thank you very much, that's carried.

Decision item no. 2 on our agenda then has to do with the chairs, the special warrant for the Legislative Assembly Service for payment of the purchase of new ergonomic chairs required in the Chamber. And as members will recall back in the spring, we had — I guess if you will — just released some monies which we didn't carry forward. Now we have to . . . The chairs have finally arrived and if members haven't had the opportunity . . . they are in the Chamber. So sometime when you're in, if you want to just take a look and get a sense of what the chairs are like, feel free to do so.

However we now have to pay for the chairs which means we need a motion:

That the Board of Internal Economy approve a special warrant funding for 132,000 in the current fiscal year '08-09 for the Legislative Assembly Service for payment of the purchase of new ergonomic chairs required in the Chamber.

Do we have a mover to the motion? Mr. D'Autremont. A seconder? Mr. Taylor. And I'll entertain questions and recognize Ms. Eagles.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think you already answered this question. I believe I heard you say that that money that was budgeted in last year's budget was not carried forward?

**The Chair:** — Yes, that's correct.

**Mr. Putz:** — That's correct. The chairs did not arrive before the end of the last fiscal year, and consequently the funds that were set aside for the chairs were returned to the Minister of Finance.

And what the special warrant is doing now is basically asking the Minister of Finance then to provide the funding that we returned to him at the end of the fiscal year so that we can pay for these things. The chairs had arrived about a week after the end of our spring sitting, so it was well within the next fiscal year. So it was, I would say, a wise, prudent decision of the board to return the funding to the minister, and we're now seeking that the funding be reinstated.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay, thank you.

**The Chair:** — Do we have any further questions regarding this funding request?

**Mr. Taylor:** — No.

**The Chair:** — Is everyone agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Carried. Thank you very much.

We will now move forward to item no. 4. And at this time I would suggest that we move in camera for discussion on the

item no. 4 regarding the special warrant from the Office of the Ombudsman.

**Mr. Taylor:** — I think you mean item no. 3.

**The Chair:** — Pardon me, it's item no. 3. Item no. 3.

And at this time I will first of all have Mr. Fenwick just give us a little bit of an overview . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. Mr. D'Autremont has moved that we move in camera for this part of the meeting and second by Mr. Taylor. Thank you.

[The board continued in camera.]

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much. A motion was brought forward in the in camera session, moved by Mr. D'Autremont, second by Mr. Taylor:

That special warrant funding for the fiscal year 2008-09 be approved for the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman in the amount of \$55,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — It's agreed. Carried. Thank you.

One further item, item no. 4, is basically a table item, *Legislative Assembly Service Priorities 2007-2008* for the year ended March 31, 2008. I'm not sure if the members who've joined us by teleconference have this document.

**Mr. Yates:** — I don't have it in front of me, no.

**The Chair:** — You don't have it in front of you. Well basically it's the report to the Provincial Ombudsman, I believe . . .

**Mr. Putz:** — No, to the board.

**The Chair:** — Or to the board, great, regarding the Assembly's year-end report on progress. And I'm not sure how members would like to deal with this, if there's any discussion or we'd like to just hold it till we have an opportunity to have all members in together in a meeting?

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Is there any need for it to move forward quickly, or is there a problem if we table it until the next meeting?

**Mr. Putz:** — There's no problem if you table it until the next meeting. I think what the Provincial Auditor would prefer is if the board passed a motion saying they received and reviewed the report. But if members are not ready . . . I think this report was distributed to them sometime in mid-July, but if you're not ready to receive . . .

**Mr. Yates:** — Well I have read the report. I don't have it in front of me. I'm prepared to deal with it, okay, from my point of view.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, a motion to receive is in order.

**The Chair:** — I'm hearing that a motion to receive the report as presented is in order.

**Mr. Taylor:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. D'Autremont. Is there any further questions? Hearing none, are we agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Thank you very much.

Well that brings to an end the items on the agenda, and I would certainly like to extend my appreciation to those who were able to join us by teleconference today. Without your assistance, it wouldn't have been possible to deal with these matters, and I know that we definitely wanted to get the issue regarding the funding of the chairs out of the way. Mr. Putz was really leaning on the Speaker on this one — not really.

But thank you so much as well, Doreen, thank you. You can extend a warm thank you to your husband for allowing you the time to join us, and we trust that Vic's feeling much better today.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Well he's resting comfortably today. He's still got his problems, and I'm not sure if the other people that are involved in this call realized that we did have some bad news regarding Vic's cancer. And they found more cancer behind his abdomen and around his kidneys as well as the spot on his brain, so he's very weak. He's lost a lot of weight, and we're just really hopeful that things will work out.

**The Chair:** — Well, Doreen, as I've shared before, our thoughts and prayers are with you and Vic at this time.

**Mr. Putz:** — Yes indeed.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you so much. Thank you.

**The Chair:** — Hearing no further order of business on the agenda, do I have a motion to adjourn? Moved by Mr. D'Autremont. A seconder? Mr. Taylor. Is that agreed to?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed to. It's carried. Thank you so much for your involvement. It's truly appreciated being able to deal with these matters in an efficient and fluent manner. Thank you and have a great day.

[The board adjourned at 10:28.]