



# **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

### **MINUTES AND VERBATIM REPORT**

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The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



No. 6 — November 27, 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

Room 8 Legislative Building  
1:00 p.m., November 27, 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  
Mr. Glen Hart  
Mr. Len Taylor  
Mr. Kevin Yates

**Staff to the Board**

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

**Officials — Legislative Assembly Service**

Ms. Linda Kaminski, Director, Human Resource and Payroll Services

**AGENDA**                    Moved by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Yates, that the proposed agenda be adopted. Agreed.

**MINUTES**                    Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Eagles, ordered, that the Minutes of Meeting #5/08 be adopted. Agreed.

**ITEM 1                    Table Item: Legislative Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2008-2009**

The Chair tabled the report.

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

That the Legislative Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial and Fiscal Forecast 2008-2009 be approved.

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

**Minute # 1703**

**ITEM 2                    Table Item: Legislative Assembly Service Actions 2008-2009; Mid-Year Report on Progress, November 2008**

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

That the Legislative Assembly Service Actions 2008-2009, Mid-Year Report on Progress be approved.

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

**Minute # 1704**

**ITEM 3****Decision Item: Appointment of Acting Chief Electoral Officer**

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

That effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Mr. David Wilkie be appointed Acting Chief Electoral Officer for Saskatchewan at the maximum of the DM2 salary range pursuant to sections 4.3 and 4.4 of The Election Act, 2006, and Directive 26.1 of the Board of Internal Economy.

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

**Minute # 1705**

**ITEM 4****Table Item: Legislative Assembly Security Policy**

The Board agreed to defer this item to a later meeting.

**ITEM 5****Other Business**

The Speaker advised the Board that the steering committee would consider a terms of reference for an organizational review of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. The review is to include consideration of the selection criteria for a new Chief Electoral Officer.

Moved by Ms. Eagles, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the meeting adjourn.

The Board adjourned at 1:19 p.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 13:00.]

**The Chair:** — Well welcome, and I'll call the meeting to order. And thank you each one for coming and we will try not to drag the meeting out. I know members have lots of other activities on their minds and at the end of the day. So first of all, can I have an approval for the proposed agenda?

Okay, I'll recognize Mr. Hart. Thank you. And a seconder as well. Mr. Yates. And yes, Greg?

**Mr. Putz:** — You have on the agenda security policy manual. I think that was something you wanted to defer to another meeting.

**The Chair:** — Yes, and when we get there, we'll mention that, right. And then approval of the minutes — I'm not sure how many had a chance to quickly peruse the minutes of the last meeting — can we have a mover to accept the minutes as presented? Mr. Yates. A seconder please. Ms. Eagles.

Table item, Legislative Assembly second quarter financial and fiscal forecast. And that should be the first tab, I believe, in your . . . Have members have had a chance to review the fiscal forecast, and if you have, can I have a mover that we accept the second quarter financial and fiscal forecast as approved? Mr. D'Autremont. Do we have a seconder on that please? Mr. Taylor. Is everyone agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. And then we also have one other item regarding the mid-year report in progress. Basically we're tabling it today so we don't have to . . . I don't know if we need a motion.

What I'll ask of the members, if you have any questions . . . I know it's the first time you have seen it, but it's basically being tabled for your information. And if we could have a motion accepting the mid-year report as progress on the Legislative Assembly.

Any comments before we move the motion? Any questions? If not, can I have a motion to move progress? Mr. D'Autremont. And could we have a seconder for that please? Mr. Hart, okay.

Now we come to the item that we specifically wanted to deal with today. We've had a fair bit of discussion around the item of putting in place an Acting Chief Electoral Officer. And we've had an opportunity to discuss both with the steering committee. And with the other members of the committee, we had a bit of a discussion the last time we were together when we had the other debate. As Chair, and in consultation with Mr. Putz and with Ken and the steering committee, I would recommend that we invite Mr. Wilkins to be the Acting CEO [Chief Electoral Officer].

I have contacted Mr. Wilkins and he is more than prepared . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . or Wilkie, pardon me, Wilkie. He has indicated to me that if he was offered the opportunity that he would be more than prepared to accept the position as Acting Chief Electoral Officer, and of course keeping in mind that Mr.

Wilkie would be the Acting Chief Electoral Officer until we get to the point of appointing a new Chief Electoral Officer.

With the appointment, and you have in front of you the information in regards to what would come as Chief Electoral Officer, the salary as well as the other amenities, or perks if you will, that would be coming to the Chief Electoral Officer. So if you have any questions, we have Linda Kaminski here as well if there are any questions regarding some of the finer details in salary and other perks. I just open the floor for any questions in regards to the appointment of Mr. Wilkie as the Acting Chief Electoral Officer.

And what I'm also suggesting as well is that we make it effective November 1. As you know, on October 22 we had moved a motion to suspend. On the 27th, I believe, we received a letter of resignation from the previous officer, and given the fact that there would be a bit of a time lag, and while we discussed the potential of an Acting Chief Electoral Officer, it would simplify everything, even for accounting, if we went the first of the month rather than, say, October 23. So it's my recommendation that we make this appointment effective November 1.

So if there's any questions from members . . . Mr. Yates.

**Mr. Yates:** — No, I was just going to move that.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Yes, that's good. Do we have a seconder to that? Okay, Mr. D'Autremont. Have you any questions in regards to the motion?

It's been moved that . . . Yes, Glen?

**Mr. Hart:** — This appointment as Acting Chief Electoral Officer is . . . there's no defined period on it? It's until such time that a permanent Chief Electoral Officer has been found?

**The Chair:** — That's correct.

**Mr. Hart:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — That's correct. There had been some discussion, but a couple of items that we'll discuss in a minute is there has been the question of whether we should do a review of how the office has been functioning, given some of the circumstances we've had to deal with in the past. And if we do that, then it would then probably forestall putting out a job search for a new officer.

And so given the fact that we really don't have a specific timetable, it just felt it would be appropriate, rather than putting in a specific time, that we leave it open. And the letter of invitation will indicate that — that it would be a period of time beginning November 1, pending the implementation of a new Chief Electoral Officer.

Any further questions? Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is the committee in favour of extending the

invitation to Mr. Wilkie to act as the Chief Electoral Officer for the province of Saskatchewan?

**An Hon. Member:** — Acting Chief Electoral Officer.

**The Chair:** — Acting, yes. Acting Chief Electoral Officer. Yes.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

Now just a couple items of information for you as well. In the very near future — and I'd like to meet Mr. Yates and Mr. D'Autremont just for a minute when we adjourn — but I'm going to ask committee members, there's been some . . . The Sergeant-at-Arms has presented to us a security policy for the Legislative Assembly, and quite frankly I haven't had the time to look at it carefully. I think of all the members I've surveyed so far there's one that's actually looked at it very closely. And I would like to ask the members to go through the security policy.

And at a later meeting — and I'm hoping we can have a meeting sooner rather than later, and so I'll ask that question in a minute — I'd like us to review it, and then we can come back. And if we have any questions before we move forward, even inviting Mr. Shaw to come and sit down with us so we can discuss any questions that might arise from this security policy with him before we move forward on it.

And the other issue I would like to invite members to look at is, as well . . . I'm not sure if we . . . Ken, do we have some guidelines or some thoughts regarding the search for a Chief Electoral Officer, for the sake of members to have in their possession?

**Mr. Ring:** — Linda was preparing a terms of reference, I think.

**The Chair:** — So we don't have that quite ready yet. Okay. Given the fact that we've been working on some of these guidelines and then there were terms of reference and the discussion they had, I had thought we might have something in place, but because we don't really have it in place, I really can't pass it on to the whole committee.

But what I would suggest is after consultation with the leads from both caucuses, we will then get that information out in plenty of time so the rest of the members have the opportunity to review it — both information in regards to what we might be looking at for costs to do a review of the office and what might be a length of time, and then the parameters we would follow so members are well-informed prior to the next meeting.

So I guess my question to the members now is, should we aim for a meeting prior to Christmas or early in the new year? Yes, Mr. D'Autremont.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — My suspicion is that early in the new year would be best, sometime in January.

**The Chair:** — Okay. And given the fact that early in the new year I know different members tend to try to take some time for time with family or just with their spouses, if members could

give me an idea, or your lead of your caucus, what would be the best time period. And then as a steering committee we will set a date.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

**Ms. Eagles:** — Sure.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Eagles. Thank you. A seconder? Mr. Taylor.

Thank you so much members, for your time, it's greatly appreciated. I know Thursday at 1 o'clock . . . a lot of other things on members' minds, but I appreciate that.

[The board adjourned at 13:19.]