



# **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

### **HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT**

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Speaker



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## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Don Toth, Chair  
Moosomin

Mr. Dan D'Autremont  
Cannington

Ms. Doreen Eagles  
Estevan

Hon. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Hon. Don Morgan  
Saskatoon Southeast

Mr. Len Taylor  
The Battlefords

Mr. Kevin Yates  
Regina Dewdney

[The board met at 09:00.]

**The Chair:** — Being 9 a.m., I'll call this meeting to order. And first of all, thank you to each and every one being available to join with us for this board meeting this morning. And to members of the Legislative Assembly staff who are with us as well, we want to say thank you and welcome.

I believe you all have in front of you the proposed agenda for today's meeting. I trust you've had an opportunity to peruse it. I wonder if I could have a mover and a seconder to accept the proposed agenda. You don't mind signing this, Don? Moved by Minister Morgan. Or Don Morgan, correct. And seconded by Mr. Taylor. Thank you. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. Carried. Secondly, you have in front of you the minutes for meeting no. 3, the last meeting, July 27th, here at the Assembly. And you had an opportunity to peruse the minutes and, if you have, can I have a mover to adopt the minutes as presented.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. D'Autremont. Do we have a seconder to that motion? Mr. Yates. Those all in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. Carried. Now I'll just take a minute till we get these two motions officially signed.

The third item on the agenda is a tabling and decision item, the approval of the Legislative Assembly Service 2010-11 first quarter expenditure report. Are there any questions from the members, item no. 1? Any questions regarding the Legislative Assembly expenditure report, first quarter?

Seeing none, can I have a mover to move that the first quarter expenditure be moved. I recognize the member from Estevan. Moved by the member from Estevan, seconded by . . . Can I have a seconder for this motion? Mr. Taylor. Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, are the members in agreement with the . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. It's carried. As you can see from the agenda as well that we've tabled items regarding members' accountability. First of all, the audited letter from the auditor has been tabled. And on item 3 we have tabled the other day the MLA accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2010, the New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2010, and the Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2010.

We'll now move on to item no. 4, a decision item, a report on the recruitment of the Children's Advocate. Back in July you'll be aware of the fact in our meeting at that time we discussed where we were going with regards to a Children's Advocate.

And at that time the board appointed the Speaker, Minister Harrison, who was replaced by Mr. D'Autremont, and Mr. Yates to be the selection committee, working together with the Legislative Assembly. And we had assisting us Mr. Ken Ring and Ms. Ginette Michaluk, director of human services.

And first of all I'd like to say thank you to each one of the members and to our legislative staff for the assistance they gave us. I'm not sure if the staff have any comments but what I'll do is I'll give a brief overview of the work that was done. I'll ask if there's any further comments, if I've missed anything, and then we'll have a discussion on the recommendation that has come from the selection committee.

For those of you who are on the selection committee, you are very well aware of, but for those who weren't, following the board meeting the selection panel met, and we agreed that we would run ads early in September. And ads were placed in a number of newspapers across the province and across Canada September 4th and September 11th.

As a result of the ads advertising the position, you will note that there were 61 applications that were received in the office. And the selection committee had asked the Legislative Assembly to pare down, come back to the committee with a pared down number of applications or resumés that they felt were highly qualified. And then as a panel, the panel were asked as well to look through the 61 resumés and come back with any others they felt that they would like to interview.

At the end of the day, we accepted the fact, the five candidates that were presented to us by the selection panel, and then we conducted interviews. And those interviews were conducted mid-October following the by-election, so the work of the committee was . . . Basically we tried to work around the by-election so it didn't interfere with the by-election.

As a result of the interviews, the panel came to a final conclusion and are recommending to the Board of Internal Economy that Mr. Bob Pringle be appointed as the Children's Advocate for the province of Saskatchewan, effective January 1st, 2011.

At this time I'd like to . . . I don't know if Ginette, if you had a comment to make in regards to the process, or Mr. Ring. If not, I'd just open the floor for discussion by members around the table and then ask for your thoughts in regards to the recommendation. And from there I'd like a motion if it's agreed by the board to accept the recommendation of the panel. Can I have any discussion? Minister Morgan.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I'll make the recommendation. I'll move that we accept the recommendation.

**The Chair:** — Can I have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Taylor. Yes. Great.

So it's been moved by Minister Morgan, seconded by Mr. Taylor:

That the board recommend to the Legislative Assembly that a humble address be adopted to request the Lieutenant

Governor in Council to appoint Mr. Bob Pringle as Children's Advocate for a five-year term pursuant to section 12.1 of *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act*, effective January 1, 2011.

Do we have any questions or comments regarding the motion? If not, is it the pleasure of the board members gathered to accept the motion as it's being presented?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — We have agreement. Thank you. Carried. Do we have any further business before the board, board members would have?

**Mr. Yates:** — Are we going to report out today? When are we going to . . .

**The Chair:** — If I could just comment. What will happen today is — and I trust this will be passed on to both caucuses as well, so that they don't hear it outside of board members just sharing it first of all with their caucuses — that I have agreed to let Mr. Pringle know that the board has made this recommendation. And also through the office and through Ginette, Mr. Kevin Fenwick also had indicated that he would be more than happy to speak to the staff at the child advocate's office so they're not hearing from the media as well.

So that will happen, and then there is a process, and I'll ask Greg if he'd just maybe run us through the process that needs to be followed now for the recommendation. The motion will go to Lieutenant Governor in Council and then there'll be a resolution that will come to the floor of the Legislative Assembly that will be moved forward. And I believe that'll be, I think it's going to be a week or so down the road. It's just the process that follows so I'll let Greg explain that. Mr. Putz.

**Mr. Putz:** — I just wanted to remind the board that this isn't a committee of the Assembly so there's no way like the normal standing committee process of reporting your recommendations to the House. Normally the board does that through a media release. And Mr. Speaker has prepared a media release to go out today at the appropriate time after you've had an opportunity to speak to your respective caucuses and also, as Mr. Speaker's explained, that the staff of the office are made aware of the board's recommendation.

I just want to remind board members that this is a recommendation to the Assembly and the next step in the process will be a resolution in the Assembly at some appropriate time when the two House leaders can agree to that day. And I suspect it would be in consultation with Mr. Pringle so that he can be present and have any family. That's the tradition of our House is that when a resolution of this nature is passed, it's a time when the candidate can be present. And then Mr. Speaker then usually has a tea or some way of marking the occasion for that member. So it's something the House leaders need to discuss, when the appropriate time would be for that resolution.

It would be a motion by leave. And technically it would be a humble address because the legislation requires that there be an order in council passed to this effect. And so the House then, as

Mr. Speaker's explained, would be passing a resolution and it's a humble address requesting that the order in council be passed to comply with the Act.

So it is sort of a three-step process. You've completed step 1 today. Step 2 will be in the House. And then based on that humble address recommendation for the OC [order in council], that would be the third and final step. So I just wanted to clarify that for board members.

**The Chair:** — Mr. D'Autremont.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — We would receive the report though today in the House, from the committee during routine proceedings under reports.

**Mr. Putz:** — If the board so desires, we can have copies distributed to all members in the House. If that's something that the board would like done, certainly that could be done.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Taylor.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I just want to clarify this. I thought I heard Greg say the Board of Internal Economy doesn't report as a committee to the legislature under normal circumstances. I think Dan was suggesting we do. Could I get clarification on what report Dan is talking about, and whether or not there's a normal process to do that, Greg?

**Mr. Putz:** — Maybe, Dan, you correct me if I'm wrong. I'll see if I understand what you're trying to get at, Dan, was that Dan would like the report that you just agreed to — I would suggest without the resumés and any information that would be inappropriate for public distribution — that the three pages or whatever that Mr. Yates was talking about would be the thing that's distributed to members. There wouldn't be any . . . You're right, Len, there's no formal process. What I understand, Dan, is you just want the report, that you just agree to distribute it to members, and we put that in an envelope and individually address it to each of the members for distribution.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Just for further clarification, there's no actual report. Nobody stands and reports. The distribution just occurs.

**Mr. Putz:** — There's no formal process. If members wanted to give leave to somebody to do that, then you could do it. But that would be a decision of the members themselves.

**Mr. Taylor:** — So I don't know if this is addressing Dan's issue or not, but I just want to make sure we're all on the same page here.

**The Chair:** — I agree. I think it's important that the board is really on the same page on this. Mr. D'Autremont.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I was just assuming that we would make a report from this committee to the Assembly as to what our recommendation was and that then the Lieutenant Governor in Council would come forward with a resolution based on that report. But this committee is public. This is being broadcast now. So the information that we are discussing is public, as of this meeting. Who our recommendation is . . . I just felt it was probably appropriate that the recommendation also be done in

the House, the report of the recommendation.

**The Chair:** — So if I understand correctly, Dan, and what Mr. Taylor is saying, you're basically recommending that the board allow a distribution of the three-page report to the board from the selection panel be available to all members and that we just do it by mail.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Well I would prefer to see . . .

**The Chair:** — Well on the members' desks. Is that what you're . . .

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — No. Same as you would do a report from one of the standing committees — that we report the recommendation to the House orally as well as distribute the report.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Minister Morgan.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I don't think there's a procedure in place to do that. Because we're not voting on it. There's no tabling process. What we have, what will happen will be a motion that will be put forward by somebody representing this committee, and the motion will be that we call on the Lieutenant Governor to make this appointment. So that will be the motion that's there. So there is no method for this report to be received or whatever else. The individual members will know about it from their caucuses, but if you want to circulate it, that's fine. But what we should do is have a press release done as soon as possible and have the motion brought to the House as quickly, because that would be the time you would have . . .

**The Chair:** — I'll ask Greg to clarify, please.

**Mr. Putz:** — The next step in this process is a motion in the House, and that's what I was saying. It's a humble address. And based on this board's recommendation, the motion would come forward. Presumably, in the past, it's been the government lead on the board that moves the motion. And that motion then would be the House accepting Mr. Pringle as the next Children's Advocate and asking that an order in council in compliance with the Act be passed.

So that's the next step. Before there's an order in council, you have to wait for the Assembly to pass that resolution. And that'll be up to the House leaders when that comes in because you have to do it by leave — set aside the normal business. And you also will need to give Mr. Pringle some opportunity to be in the gallery. It's a more formal occasion — as I said, it's a humble address — so that he and his family can be there and that the Speaker establish some way to mark the occasion with a tea or something similar to that.

**The Chair:** — And I thank you, Greg. I think it's very clear that really a formal process, just given the normal time and constraints, would not happen today outside of both the board members representing their caucuses informing their caucuses of the decision that was made at the board meeting, so caucuses are aware of the recommendation going to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. And that's how members will be informed.

And as I've indicated earlier, Mr. Pringle will be informed of the board decision. Ms. Ginette Michaluk will follow through with Kevin and he'll inform the staff. And that'll be all done before a press release is done so that the individuals involved have a heads-up and they're hearing from, I believe, the appropriate sources before the media releases the story. So we do have a bit of a calendar we're following to ensure that we followed proper procedure.

Do we have any further questions? If not, a motion of adjournment.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — From Minister Harrison.

Thank you so much, members, and thank you to the staff. And have a great day.

[The board adjourned at 09:22.]