



**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

**HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT**

---



**No. 3 — March 21, 2023**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Randy Weekes, Chair  
Biggar-Sask Valley

Mr. Terry Dennis  
Canora-Pelly

Hon. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Hon. Everett Hindley  
Swift Current

Mr. Matt Love  
Saskatoon Eastview

Ms. Alana Ross  
Prince Albert Northcote

Ms. Nicole Sarauer  
Regina Douglas Park

[The board met at 09:01.]

**The Chair:** — Good morning, everyone. It is 9:01. I'd like to call this meeting to order. And in attendance today from the government is Minister Jeremy Harrison, Minister Everett Hindley, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Terry Dennis; from the opposition MLA Nicole Sarauer and MLA Matt Love.

I would like a mover . . . Yes?

**Ms. A. Ross:** — I did make it.

**The Chair:** — And in attendance is MLA Alana Ross. Good. And I would like to ask for a mover and a second to approve the proposed agenda. I recognize the Government House Leader, mover; and seconder is the Opposition House Leader.

Also may I have a mover and a seconder to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mover, Mr. Dennis; seconder, Mr. Love.

At this time I'd like to introduce the Clerk, Iris Lang. And would you please introduce your officials.

**Ms. Lang:** — Good morning, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd like to introduce our LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] team that's with me this morning: Dawn Court, chief executive; Krista Halayka, principal director of member services, both from our member and corporate services division. So with that, Mr. Speaker, if you'd like me to proceed.

**The Chair:** — Please proceed.

**Ms. Lang:** — Okay. On March 13th, this board asked the LAS to provide an option of what maintaining a formula-based system for MLA pay would look like, keeping in mind that the result is not something that members were comfortable with.

Practically speaking, it's difficult to have rules that are suitable for every circumstance. A principle-based approach, alongside a formula-based system for MLA pay, provides some room for flexibility. An option for members to consider, related to MLA pay and pay for additional duties found in directive #21, annual indemnity and allowances; directive #19 Board of Internal Economy indemnity and expenses; and directive #17.2, committee indemnity and expenses, is that a maximum and a minimum percentage range be applied to CPI [consumer price index].

These are the three directives that deal directly with MLA annual indemnity, annual allowance for extra duties, and per diem indemnity for out-of-session meetings, outstanding committees, and this board.

The current formula-based system used for MLA pay has not fluctuated significantly until this year. The current CPI rate appears to be an anomaly. Since the last formula review of MLA pay, the actual CPI rate has ranged from 3.3 to 0.6 per cent. Therefore an option for members to consider is to include a limit on the current formula-based system that adds a maximum range of 3 per cent and minimum range of zero per cent.

That's our report.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Sure, well first I just want to say thanks so much through you, Clerk, to your team, for doing a significant amount of work on this at the request of the board in preparing and bringing forward an option on amendments to directives #17.2, #19, and #21, and very much in keeping with what the board had asked with respect to maintaining a principle-based approach, the principle being that MLAs shouldn't be setting their own remuneration each and every year, that we should have a formula as we have had under the Wakabayashi report for now nearly two decades.

And would concur with the statement very much about the aberration. And we've been clear as members on both sides that there was not a degree of comfort with where CPI had landed this year, but also with the joint intention that we have a principle-and formula-based approach going forward.

And I think this option very much captures that. The government is supportive of adopting this option, making amendments to the directives #17.2, #19, and #21 to reflect that. And again I just want to thank you as Clerk, Iris, for the work that you've done, and your team.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Yes, I would just like to add my thanks along with Mr. Harrison to you, Madam Clerk, and your LAS team for the work that it took to come forward with this solution to what you say is a bit of an anomaly this year. We were pretty clear when we discovered what the salary rate increase would be this year, that that wasn't likely an appropriate raise for government and opposition MLAs.

What I appreciate about the solution that you brought to the table is that it's something that will not just be applied to this year but all years moving forward, so that hopefully we will not be in this type of situation again, understanding that it is an aberration. But we never know when another aberration can happen, so thank you for your work on this.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. Next item is agenda no. 1. I'll ask for a mover and a seconder for the following motion:

That directive #17.2, committee indemnity and expenses, clause 8 be amended by inserting after Saskatchewan:

“to a maximum of 3% and a minimum of 0%”.

Mover please? I recognize the Government House Leader. Secunder? I recognize the Opposition House Leader. All in favour? A show of hands, please.

I note that it's unanimous. Carried.

Item no. 1, motion 2, a mover and seconder:

That directive #19, the Board of Internal Economy

indemnity and expenses, clause 7 be amended by inserting after Saskatchewan:

“to a maximum of 3% and a minimum of 0%”.

A mover, please? I recognize the Opposition House Leader; and seconder is Government House Leader. All in favour? Show of hands, please.

It's unanimous. Carried.

One more. Item no. 3, a mover and seconder please for the motion:

That directive #21, the annual indemnity and allowances, clause 8 be amended by inserting after Saskatchewan:

“to a maximum of 3% and a minimum of 0%”.

A mover, please? I recognize the Government House Leader. And a seconder? I recognize the Opposition House Leader. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — A show of hands, please. I note that it's unanimous. Carried.

Is there any other business? Seeing none, would someone move that we adjourn the meeting? I recognize Mr. Dennis. This meeting now stands adjourned at 9:10. Thank you.

[The board adjourned at 09:10.]