



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 6 — December 5, 2023

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Randy Weekes, Chair
Biggar-Sask Valley

Mr. Terry Dennis
Canora-Pelly

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Matt Love
Saskatoon Eastview

Hon. Tim McLeod
Moose Jaw North

Ms. Alana Ross
Prince Albert Northcote

Ms. Nicole Sarauer
Regina Douglas Park

[The board met at 15:33.]

The Chair: — I'd like to call meeting 6/23 to order. It is now 3:33 p.m. I'd like to introduce all the board members in attendance today: from the government, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Alana Ross, MLA Terry Dennis; and from the NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition, MLA Nicole Sarauer and MLA Matt Love.

Could I have a mover to approve approval of the proposed agenda? Minister Harrison. Secunder? Ms. Sarauer.

The next order of business is I need a seconder and a mover that the minutes for meeting 5/23 be adopted as presented. Ms. Ross. Secunder? Mr. Love.

All in favour of those two motions?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would like to table documents 1 to 11.

Item no. 1, the audit letter from the Provincial Auditor to the Board of Internal Economy regarding the audit of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Item no. 2, the letter of response from the Board of Internal Economy to the Provincial Auditor regarding the audit of the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Item no. 3: (a) MLA accountability and disclosure reports for the year ended March 31st, 2023; (b) Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2023; (c) the New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2023.

Item no. 4, tabling of the amendments to Chief Electoral Officer directives dated October 16th, 2023 and November 30th, 2023.

Item no. 5, the *Year-End Report on Progress* for the period April 1st, 2022 to March 30th, 2023 for the Legislative Assembly Service.

Item no. 6, the second quarter financial report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the Legislative Assembly Service.

Item no. 7, the second quarter financial report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Registrar of Lobbyists.

Item no. 8, the second quarter financial report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Item no. 9, the second quarter financial report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth.

Item no. 10, second quarter financial report, 2023-2024 for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Saskatchewan.

And item no. 11, the second quarter financial report, 2023-2023

for the Office of the Ombudsman and public . . . Yeah, this should be 2023-2024 for the Office of the Ombudsman and the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner.

We'll move on to item no. 12, discussion and decision item, consideration of the proposed amendments to the Chief Electoral Officer directives. So any discussion on that item? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Sure. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I think that based on discussions that have occurred with the Chief Electoral Officer . . . And first I want to thank the Chief Electoral Officer for the work that he has done in putting together directives, working with both government and opposition in putting together the package that I think we'll be voting on shortly as far as the individual items.

The only area in which we had requested that there be an amendment to the submitted directives was to the polling period directive, and that was one single change, and that was with respect to the hours of voting on election day itself. The proposal had the election day polling period being from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., which was, you know, consistent with what the days had been in the lead-up to election day. Based on discussion, speaking for government, we feel it to be appropriate to maintain what had been the previous times of the election on election day, which had always been 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

So I spoke with the Chief Electoral Officer. He has submitted an alternative directive, or a revised version 2, CEO [Chief Electoral Officer] directive on that polling period. So government will be supporting the hours being, on election day only, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Aside from that, all of the other directives as tabled or submitted by the Chief Electoral Officer will be supported by the government.

The Chair: — I recognize Ms. Sarauer.

Ms. Sarauer: — All right. Thank you. I just want to join in with Minister Harrison's remarks and echo his thanks to the Chief Electoral Officer and all of his staff for the hard work that they do in putting forward these directives, laying the groundwork and a path for modernizing elections in Saskatchewan with a goal of ensuring that our elections are as accessible to as many people as possible. I know this is work that they've been doing for the course of several years.

I understand in conversations with the minister about government's concerns about this particular directive and the changes to voting hours. We do hope that government can work collaboratively with us, and with the Chief Electoral Officer in particular, in ensuring that the direction that the Chief Electoral Officer has been putting forward to modernize elections in Saskatchewan can be done in a more collaborative way in the future.

Aside from that, we are prepared to approve the directive as amended as has been indicated by Minister Harrison.

A Member: — These motions reflect that then?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Sorry, I don't have the latest draft of

the polling period motion.

favour?

The Chair: — We should ask the Clerk. Can you comment on that? Is these proposed changes part of the . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Okay. We'll go through 12(a) first. The motion is:

The Chair: — Carried. Is there any other business? Seeing none, would someone please move to adjourn the meeting?

That the Board of Internal Economy approve amended CEO Directive — Polling Divisions (CEO Directive 2023-009).

Hon. Mr. T. McLeod: — I so move.

A mover? Mr. Dennis. A seconder? Ms. Sarauer. All in favour?

The Chair: — Mr. McLeod. The meeting stands adjourned at 3:45 p.m. Thank you, colleagues.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[The board adjourned at 15:45.]

The Chair: — Carried. 12(b):

That the Board of Internal Economy approve amended CEO Directive — Polling Period (CEO Directive 2023-010), dated November 29th, 2023.

A mover? Minister McLeod, I just want to recognize that you are in attendance and thank you for your motion. A seconder? Mr. Love. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. 12(c):

That the Board of Internal Economy approve amended CEO Directive — Electronic Poll Books/Voting Record (CEO Directive 2023-011).

Mover, please.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Harrison. Secunder? Ms. Sarauer. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. 12(d):

That the Board of Internal Economy approve amended CEO Directive — Vote by Mail (CEO Directive 2023-014).

Mover? Ms. Ross. Secunder? Mr. Love. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. 12(e):

That the Board of Internal Economy approve CEO Directive — HRT Counting (CEO Directive 2023-018); and further,

That this directive will be in effect for Saskatchewan's 30th general election.

Mover?

Mr. Dennis: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Dennis. Secunder? Ms. Sarauer. All in