



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

MINUTES AND VERBATIM REPORT

Published under the authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



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**BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY
2004**

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Chair
Prince Albert Carlton

Mr. Glenn Hagel
Moose Jaw North

Ms. Donna Harpauer
Humboldt

Mr. Ben Heppner
Martensville

Hon. Deb Higgins
Moose Jaw Wakamow

Hon. Andrew Thomson
Regina South

Mr. Kevin Yates
Regina Dewdney

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

November 24, 2004

5:30 p.m.

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

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Chair
 Mr. Glenn Hagel
 Ms. Donna Harpauer
 Mr. Ben Heppner
 Hon. Deb Higgins
 Hon. Andrew Thomson
 Mr. Kevin Yates

Staff to the Board

Marilyn Borowski, Director, Financial Services
 Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
 Margaret Tulloch, Secretary to the Board

AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Heppner, that the proposed agenda be adopted. Agreed.

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Thomson, ordered, seconded by Ms. Higgins, that the Minutes of Meeting #2/04, #3/04, #4/04 and #5/04 be adopted. Agreed.

ITEM 1**Table Items**

The Chair tabled the following items:

- a. Legislative Assembly Quarterly Financial and Fiscal Forecast: 4th Quarter for the Fiscal Year 03-04, 1st and 2nd Quarter for the Fiscal Year 04-05;
- b. Members' Accountability and Disclosure Reports for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2004;
- c. Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Opinion, and Schedule of Fixed Assets for the Government and Opposition Caucuses for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2004;
- d. Report of the Provincial Auditor – Memorandum of Audit Observations;
- e. End-of-Term Financial Statements, Auditor's Opinion and Schedule of Fixed Assets for the Government Caucus.

ITEM 2**Discussion Item: Legislative Assembly Reclassification Plan**

The Board agreed to meet "in camera" at 5:40 p.m.

The Board resumed public meetings at 8:10 p.m.

ITEM 3(a)**Decision Item: Directive #3.1 – MLA Travel and Living Expenses — Secondary Accommodation Rates**

Moved by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That Directive #3.1 – *MLA Travel and Living Expenses* be amended as follows:

Delete subclauses (4)(a) and (4)(b) and replace with the following new clause (4):

- (4) Subject to clause (5), instead of clause (3)(d), with the required documentation, every Member who represents a constituency wholly outside the city of Regina has the option of claiming reimbursement for accommodation expenses in the city of Regina up to the maximum of the rate

payable for private accommodation to out-of-scope employees under The Public Service Act, 1998 as set out in the Financial Administration Manual, for each day the private accommodation is available for the Member's occupancy and is not rented to any other person. No claim for rent by any other Member in respect of the same premises may be reimbursed.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1591

ITEM 3(b)

Decision Item: Directive #3.1 — MLA Travel and Living Expenses — Access to Constituency Services funds for travel expenses

Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Heppner:

That Directive #3.1 – *MLA Travel and Living Expenses* be amended as follows:

Add the following to clause (11) after the words "Subject to clauses (7) to (9)":

"and clause (3.1) of Directive #4.1 – *Constituency Service Expenses*,"

And that Directive #4.1 – *Constituency Service Expenses* be amended by adding a new clause (3.1) as follows:

(3.1) A Member may use up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year of expense funds calculated under clause (2) of this Directive for travel and living expenses subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The Member has used all of the funds that have been allocated to him under Directive #3.1 – *MLA Travel and Living Expenses*; and
- (b) Travel and living expenses claimed under this clause meet all of the terms and conditions of Directive #3.1 – *MLA Travel and Living Expenses*.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1592

Moved by Ms. Harpauer, seconded by Ms. Higgins:

That in regard to Directive #3.1 – *MLA Travel and Living Expenses*, Members who attend a function in their roles as MLAs, be reimbursed the cost of the ticket to attend the function, provided:

- Food will be served at the function;
- The function cannot be related to political party activities such as are outlined in Directive #4.1, clause (7) – party or party constituency association meetings and events, party leadership campaigns, party fund raising events, personal election nomination meetings;

And further, that:

- The reimbursement is only for the cost of the Member's ticket. The travel provisions are restricted to Member's expenses only; and
- Attendance at a function does not require prior approval from the Speaker.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1593

ITEM 4

Decision Item – Directive #6 – Constituency Assistant Pay and Benefits

Moved by Mr. Heppner, seconded by Mr. Hagel:

Effective April 1, 2005, that the provisions for constituency assistants be changed as per the recommendations outlined in the document "Current Issues and Recommendations Regarding Constituency Assistant Pay and Benefits":

- I. Allocation of Vacation Leave Credits and Statutory Holiday Pay for Certain Categories of Employees
- II. Automatic Generation of Salary Cheque for Certain Categories of Employees
- III. Member Assignment of Salary Rate for Constituency Assistants
- IV. Standard Provision for Notice Upon Termination of Employment (no just cause, defeat, resignation or death of a Member)
- V. Standard Pay Provision for Constituency Office Clean-up and Closure: Defeat, Resignation or Death of Member
- VI. Standard Provision for Severance Upon Termination of Employment (no just cause, defeat, resignation or death of a Member)
- VII. Salary Continuance While in Receipt of Workers' Compensation Benefits
- VIII. Policy and Procedure Manual

That a new Directive be developed to authorize constituency assistant benefits and this Directive be brought to the Board for review and approval.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1594

ITEM 5(a)(b)

Decision Item: Legislative Assembly Gift Shop Proposal – Consideration of Options; Amendment required to *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That the Board of Internal Economy agree to the following commitments:

That a gift shop be established in the Legislative Building subject to the following:

- That the Board of Internal Economy request that *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* be amended if required to allow the operation of a gift shop;
- That the RSM Associates be asked to propose both a one-year and a two-year plan to operate a gift shop;
- That the RSM Associates be required to submit the proposed gift shop inventory items to the Speaker for approval in advance of distribution in the gift shop.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1595

ITEM 6(a)

Directive #4.1 – Constituency Service Expenses Amendments: Calculation of Allowance

Moved by Ms. Harpauer, seconded by Mr. Thomson:

That Directive #4.1 – *Constituency Service Expenses* be amended as follows:

Delete clause (2) and replace with new clause (2) as follows:

"(2) The maximum allowance available to each Member per annum is \$35,000";

and,

In clause (15), delete "subclause (2)(b)" and insert "clause (2)".

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1596

ITEM 6(b)(c)

Decision Item: Directive #4.1 – Constituency Service Expenses – Amendments – (b) Purchase of gifts (c) Centennial Celebration Events

Moved by Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. Heppner:

Effective January 1, 2005:

That new Directive #5 be approved as follows:

Directive #5
(s. 50(3)(e), (f), c.L-11.1

SASKATCHEWAN 2005 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

- (1) During the 2005-06 fiscal year, each Member is entitled to reimbursement or to have direct payment made on his or her behalf for the cost of certain gifts that commemorate Saskatchewan 2005, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) Gift items must be purchased from the Legislative Assembly gift shop, SPMC or Saskatchewan Centennial Merchandise gift outlets as approved by the Speaker;
 - (b) Gift items cannot be for personal promotion of the Member or his or her political party by containing the Member's name or contact information, constituency name, political party name, logo or colors;
 - (c) Gift items may be distributed to individuals or groups in recognition of an achievement or public service, and to institutions.
- (2) For purposes of clause (1) the maximum amount that a Member may claim during the period of April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 is \$1,000.
- (3) During the period of January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, a Member may claim the costs to host a reception in his or her constituency that commemorates Saskatchewan 2005 Centennial celebrations.
- (4) Any cost incurred pursuant to clause (3) shall be charged to Directive #4.1 – *Constituency Service Expenses*.
- (5) This Directive shall expire on March 31, 2006.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1597

ITEM 7

Decision Item: PDA Device Cell Phones

Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That the capital cost of the PDA (personal digital assistant) device that functions as a cell phone and the monthly operating expenses can be charged to Directive #2 – *Telephone and Related Expenses*, provided the PDA device cell phone is the only cell phone purchase charged to Directive #2 in accordance with clause (4) of the Directive, that states:

"This allowance is intended to provide one fax machine and one cellular telephone per Member."

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1598

ITEM 8

Other Business**Decision Item: Directive #4.1 Amendment – Gift Purchase**

Moved by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mr. Heppner:

That Directive #4.1 – *Constituency Service Expenses* be amended as follows:

Add to clause (4)(b) the following words to be added after the word “plants”, “and books”.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1599

Decision Item: Health Plan Benefits for Legislative Assembly Employees

Moved by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mr. Heppner:

That health plan benefits for Legislative Assembly employees and Members be provided under the out-of-scope Public Service health plan at the earliest possible opportunity;

That on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy that the Speaker communicate this decision to the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1600

Decision Item: Health Plan Benefit Premiums for Former Members of the Legislative Assembly

Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That effective November 24, 2004, Health Plan premiums be paid for Members (including their spouses) that resign, retire or are defeated, and that the premium cost provided be on the basis of 10 per cent for each year of service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly; and

That on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy, the Speaker communicate this decision to the Minister of Finance.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1601

Decision Item: Directive #21 – Annual Indemnity and Allowances Amendment

Moved by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mr. Heppner:

Effective April 1, 2005,

That Directive #21 – *Annual Indemnity and Allowances* be amended as follows:

Delete the amount of “\$5,319*” in clause (6) and replace with “\$9,000*”;

And, that for the fiscal year 2005-2006, the indexing provision of clause (8) not be applied to the amount of \$9,000.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1602

Decision Item: Directive #24 – Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision Amendment

Moved by Mr. Yates, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

Effective April 1, 2005

That Directive #24 – *Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision* be amended as follows:

Delete subclauses (4)(b) and (4)(c), and replace with new subclause (4)(b) as follows:

- (b) at the direction of the MLA, the purchase of a computer system or systems, an upgrade of an existing computer system or systems, technical computer support, and other equipment and furniture to a maximum of \$10,000.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

Minute #1603

Information Item – Clarification of Directive #24 — Constituency Office Equipment and Furniture Provision

The Speaker provided information in response to a previous request from Mr. Thomson regarding purchasing regulations under Directive #24.

Moved by Ms. Harpauer that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Teleconference
December 17, 2004
5:30 p.m.

Present: Members of the Board of Internal EconomyBy Teleconference:

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Chair

Mr. Glenn Hagel

Ms. Donna Harpauer

Mr. Ben Heppner

Hon. Andrew Thomson

Hon. Deb Higgins

Staff to the Board

Marilyn Borowski, Director, Financial Services

Linda Kaminski, Director, Human Resources & Administrative Services

Gwenn Ronyk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Margaret Tulloch, Secretary to the Board

ITEM 1**Decision Item: Directive #21 – Annual Indemnity and Allowances Amendments**

Moved by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Ms. Harpauer:

That effective upon the coming into force of the applicable amendments to *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, Directive #21 – *Annual Indemnity and Allowances* be amended as follows:

- (1) Delete clause (7)(b), and add the following to clause (7)(a) with any adjustments to the amounts that may occur as a result of applying the indexing provision in clause (8):

Government House Leader	\$11,742
Deputy Government House Leader	\$ 5,871
Opposition House Leader	\$11,742
Deputy Opposition House Leader	\$ 5,871
Third Party House Leader	\$ 5,871
Government Whip	\$11,742
Opposition Whip	\$11,742
Third Party Whip	\$ 5,871
Government Deputy Whip	\$ 5,871
Opposition Deputy Whip	\$ 5,871
Chair, Standing or Special Committee	\$11,742
Deputy Chair, Standing or Special Committee	\$ 5,871

- (2) Add the following new clause (7)(b):

Annual allowances for extra duties shall be payable in 12 equal installments, in arrears, on the first day of each month for the previous month.

- (3) Add the following new clause (7)(c):

A Member may assume any number of the extra duties enumerated above; however, no Member shall claim more than one annual allowance for extra duties pursuant to this clause.

- (4) Delete clause (7.2).

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

The Board agreed to meet “in camera” at 6:00 p.m.

The Board resumed public meetings at 7:52 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Harpauer, seconded by Ms. Higgins, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 18:53 p.m.

The board met at 17:30.

The Chair: — Well good evening everyone. I believe that we have all members of the board in attendance here so I think we'll proceed with our meeting. I want to welcome everybody to the meeting and I want to introduce to you, or just put on record, that from the Legislative Assembly Office we have a clerk, Gwenn Ronyk; Marilyn Borowski, who is with financial services; Linda Kaminski with human resources; and also Janis Patrick is with us here today; and on my left is Margaret Tulloch, assistant to the Speaker.

You have been given an agenda in your earlier packages and it's labelled draft agenda. And then more recently, just now, you've been given a piece of paper that has on it a label called final agenda. I ask you to just peruse it quickly if you wish and notice that there is item 8, other business.

My objective here would be to go through item 1 first of all, and then go into camera for item 2 and any other things that members might wish to discuss at that time in camera, then come back make the decisions necessary respect to all items. So if I could first of all have a motion to approve the proposed agenda?

Mr. Yates: — I so move.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Yates. Do we have seconders on the board then? A seconder of motion? Thank you very much, Mr. Heppner. All in favour? Any opposed? The motion is carried.

The minutes have been supplied. There are minutes to meeting no. 2 the year '04, and three in year '04, four in '04, and five in '04. One motion for approval of those minutes, or any comments or questions in respect to those minutes?

Could I have a motion then to approve the minutes? Mr. Thomson, seconded by Ms. Higgins. Those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Any opposed? The motion's carried.

Item 1, tabling of items.

Item (a). I'm tabling with the committee Legislative Assembly quarterly financial and fiscal forecast, fourth quarter for the fiscal year '03-4. First and second quarter for the fiscal year, 2004-2005.

There's just one thing I'd like to bring to members' attention and that is the current projections. The second quarter expenditure summary that's provided indicates that for the 2004-2005 year the Legislative Assembly will be over budget by 243,000 and that's comprised up of budgetary expenditures which would be over budget by 267,000. That is due to the authorization of the sound system for the Assembly for the Chambers. And in the meantime the statutory expenditures are going to be under budget 24,000, so that at this stage we're going to be over by 243,000. There is a request in under the supplementary estimates that is for making up that amount, 267,000. And so I think we'll come out all right on the budget once that's passed in the next short while.

The only risk then at that . . . the biggest risk I guess at this stage to us staying on budget or off budget would be depending on how much committee work goes on between now and the end of the fiscal year. If there is a small amount of committee work we'll be all right. If there's a large amount of committee work then of course we may have to come back for more.

Item (b). Members' accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004. These have been tabled in the Legislature and I bring them to your attention.

The item 1(c), audited financial statement, the auditor's opinion and schedule of fixed assets for the government and opposition caucuses for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004 have been also tabled with the Legislative Assembly and are also tabled here for the committee.

Item (d). The report of the Provincial Auditor, memorandum of audit observations is in your package. I'll pause for a moment in case anybody has a comment or question on that. The auditor has some recommendations. It would be our intention to present the strategic plan to the board prior to consideration of the budget; that way we'd be able to begin to comply with some of the recommendations of the auditor.

Item (e). End of term financial statements, auditor's opinion, and schedule of fixed assets for the government caucus has been previously tabled in the House and has been added to the package here today for the use of the committee.

I believe that brings to an end the tabled items. At this stage then what I would . . . go into the discussion item with respect to personnel reclassification and I would ask consent of the members to go into camera.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — It's duly agreed so we will now go into camera.

The board continued in camera.

The Chair: — The committee will come to order. Members, I have a series of recommendations related to items 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, which I will propose to the committee.

Dealing first of all with item 3, decision item with respect to 3(a), secondary accommodation rates. We're finding that what has been happening is there's now going to be a significant difference between the maximum rates that may be claimed for owned or rented secondary accommodation. The rate for rental accommodation is indexed annually for inflation, but it will be substantially lower than the maximum rate for owned accommodation, according to the current regulations.

So after looking at this and looking at some of the principles, I was looking for a system that would be first of all the same for all and would be family friendly, that would provide for accountability. So we wanted to set up a system where members would be able to identify what amounts their accommodation cost, and so that the system would be fairly simple as well.

So the recommendation to the committee would be one system

for all, which would be a motion that would read as follows:

That directive #3.1, MLA travel and living expenses, be amended as follows:

Delete subclauses (4)(a) and 4(b) and replace with the following new clause (4):

(4) Subject to clause (5), instead of clause (3)(d) with the required documentation, every member who represents a constituency wholly outside the city of Regina has the option of claiming reimbursement for accommodation expenses in the city of Regina up to the maximum of the rate payable for private accommodation to out-of-scope employees under The Public Service Act, 1998 as set out in the Financial Administration Manual, for each day the private accommodation is available for the member's occupancy and is not rented to any other person. No claim for rent by any other member in respect of the same premises may be reimbursed.

We're open for discussion. Anybody have any comments or questions on this? That is the recommendation. Do I have a mover? Mr. Thomson. Seconded by Ms. Harpauer.

Those in favour of the motion please raise your hands. Those opposed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Motion is carried unanimously.

Just referring back to the agenda, with respect to item 2, I just want to put on record that there has not been any decision item or any decisions made with respect to any changes to the Legislative Assembly reclassification plan. Back to item 3, item 3(b), interpretation of eligibility of travel claims.

Travel claims now can be used for members travelling to discharge their duties any time a member is required to be absent from the member's home. There are certain restrictions that are already in the directives with respect to this, 3.1. I have a document regarding interpretation that I've sent out and that are available for members as to what is excluded and I'm wondering whether members wanted to amend that in any way.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I think it's . . . I think given the review of the directive it appears that this is clear as it stands, that the current practice is a reasonable one and as such I'm not convinced it needs to be amended.

The Chair: — Is that concurred with? Thank you.

Item 3(c), access to constituency service funds for travel expenses. Under this constituency service expenses for . . . under the travel expenses several members have stated to the Speaker's office that they find themselves in a position where they have run out of travel expense, simply run it out because of the way it's calculated, and have requested whether it might not be possible for, once they've run out of that, to be able to submit travel expenses which would then be applied for under the constituency service allowance; providing the constituency service allowance still has money left in it for those particular

members.

And also associated with that is a request that many members face; that they are now often requested to go to functions where the cost of attending the function far exceeds the allowances that are available — the normal per diem allowance that a member can submit for banquets. And there are third parties, particularly things like ABEX (Achievement in Business Excellence) awards or various awards, chambers of commerce dinners, perhaps hospital foundation dinners, as examples where the tickets far exceed the cost.

And my recommendation would be that we allow members . . . permit members by law to be able to use an additional \$5,000 worth of travel expenses which would come from their constituency service expense allowance. And that members be permitted to submit for payment any tickets that they would attend . . . for tickets that they would have to pay for to attend certain events in their constituencies or as part of their duties as MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly). This would all come out of the existing allowances.

So the recommendation that I would give is that this motion would be passed. Or I should perhaps open it up first for any comments or questions.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Chair, I just want to confirm or clarify this in fact is no increased cost. This is simply a transfer of the same funds that are available today?

The Chair: — That's right. This would apply to the same level of funds that are in existence at this time.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you. I'll move that, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair: — The motion before us then would be that directive #3.1 — MLA travel and living allowances be amended as follows:

Add the following clause (11) after the words, "Subject to clauses (7) to (9),"

"and clause (3.1) of directive #4.1 — constituency service expenses,"

and directive #4.1 — constituency service expenses be amended by adding a new clause 3.1 as follows:

A member may use up to a maximum of 5,000 per year of expense funds calculated under clause 2 of this directive for travel and living expenses subject to the following conditions:

A member has used all of the funds that have been allocated to him under directive 3.1, MLA travel and living expenses; and

Travel and living expenses claimed under this clause meet all of the terms and conditions of directive 3.1, MLA travel and living expenses.

That's been moved by Mr. Yates. Seconded by Mr. Heppner. Are all members in favour of the motion? Any opposed?

Motion is carried. Unanimously.

Further to this item to which I've just addressed, I would like to read this motion into the record:

That in regard to directive 3.1, MLA travel and living expenses, members who attend a function in the roles of MLAs be reimbursed the cost of the ticket to attend the function provided:

Food will be served at the function;

The function cannot be related to political party activity such as outlined in directive 4.1 clause 7, party or party constituency association meetings and events; party leadership campaigns; party fundraising events; person election nomination meetings.

And further, that:

The reimbursement is only for the cost of the member's ticket;

The travel provisions are restricted to members expenses only; and

Attendance at the function does not require prior approval from the Speaker.

Is there a mover? Ms. Harpauer. Is there a seconder? Ms. Higgins. Are there any comments or questions? Those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? Motion is carried unanimously.

The next item on our agenda would be item 4, an item with respect to constituency assistant pay and benefits. Members of the committee, even though we have over the years made changes to constituency assistant pay and benefits, we find at this time that in order to regularize and treat constituency assistants in a manner which is more consistent with our civil service employees' pay and benefits, some changes are required. And we also found that the time sheet process that was set up in 1988 is not adequately meeting current needs. So I have a series of recommendations with respect to constituency pay and benefits.

But first, there are recommendations which members are provided in members' packages with respect to allocation of vacation leave credits and statutory holiday pay for certain categories of employees. This would categorize employees into three categories: full-time, part-time, and casual.

Another place where we're recommending changes would be in your work, in your worksheets, automatic generation of salary cheques for certain categories of employees. This recommendation here would set up those constituency assistants designated as full-time on a payroll system that would automatically generate salary cheques without manual input.

And then with respect to item 3, member assignment of salary rate for constituency assistant. The salary rate ... I'm recommending that a salary rate be assigned to each constituency assistant and that the salary value should be entered in the computer system. And the assigned salary rate

would be used to calculate and generate the salary payable. Members would assign a certain rate of pay for their assistants. A form signed by the members would be required, and a salary rate assigned to each constituency's assistant would be set up on the computer system. Would certainly help with the processing of these cheques and this payroll.

Another item which a recommendation here would be, to make provision for standard provision for notice upon termination of employment. In this case, members would provide formal notice to their constituency assistant at the time their employment is terminated, and members forward a copy of the notice to the Legislative Assembly Office. A standard notice of provision be provided to those constituency assistants whose employment is terminated by the member for no just cause, which include termination upon the member's defeat and resignation, or death, and that the amount of the written notice provided to constituency assistants be as same The Labour Standards Act.

Another provision would be to provide for a standard pay provision for constituency offices' cleanup and closure. The recommendation is that the standard provision of up to seven days be provided for those constituency assistants assigned with the responsibility for office cleanup and closure upon the member's defeat, resignation, or death; and that payment for the office cleanup and closure duties be part of the notice provisions provided to constituency assistants; and that the funding of this provision be administered by a way of a new directive for constituency assistant benefits.

Also recommended, that the standard provision for severance upon termination of employment in the case of no just cause or defeat or a resignation or death of a member be implemented. The amount of severance provided to constituency assistants would be as follows: one week's pay if the period of employment is one year or more but less than two years; two weeks pay if the period of employment is two years but less than three years; three weeks pay if the period of employment is three years more but less than four; four weeks if the period of employment is four years or more but less than five years; five weeks pay if the period of employment is five years or more but less than six years; six weeks pay if the period of employment is six years more but less than seven years; seven weeks pay if the period of employment is seven years or more but less than eight years; and eight weeks pay if the period of employment is eight years or more. And the funding for this provision be administered by way of a new directive for constituency assistant benefits.

With respect to Workers' Compensation benefits, it is recommended that Workers' Compensation benefits provided to constituency assistants be similar to benefits provided to SGEU (Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union) employees.

Full-time and part-time constituency assistants would receive his or her normal earnings, and any benefits would be payable from the workmen's compensation would be paid directly to the Minister of Finance. That would be the case for not more than one year from date of injury.

But after one year from date of injury, then the constituency

assistant shall receive his or her normal earnings, and any benefits payable from Workers' Comp shall be paid directly to the Minister of Finance. The difference between the constituency assistant's normal earnings and benefit payable from Worker's Comp will be charged against the constituency assistant's sick leave benefits.

And for casual constituency assistants, they would continue to receive their compensation directly from the workmen's compensation board.

And the last recommendation on this, with respect with the policy and procedural manual, is that the Legislative Assembly Office prepare a draft constituency assistant policy and procedure manual for approval to the board. The manual will incorporate the processes and procedures for any provisions outlined in this document that are approved by the board.

And I would conclude with this that the new directive be developed to authorize constituency assistants' benefits and that this directive be brought to the board for review and approval.

Those are the recommendations on this item. I would open it now for any comments or suggestions or questions that board members may have. And I have with me here Linda Kaminski, who's been working on this diligently over the last while. And you might want to ask more specific questions of her.

Mr. Heppner. Moved by Mr. Heppner. Is there a seconder? Mr. Hagel.

I've put a lot into the record on this, but I want to read the motion before we vote the motion. And the motion is moved by Mr. Heppner and seconded by Mr. Hagel:

That effective April 1, 2005, that provisions for constituency assistants be changed as per the recommendations outlined in the document, "Current Issues and Recommendations regarding Constituency Assistant Pay and Benefits:"

- Allocation of vacation leave credits and statutory holiday pay for certain categories of employees;
- Automatic generation of salary cheque for certain categories of employees;
- Member assignment of salary rate for constituency assistants;
- Standard provision for notice upon termination of employment (no just cause, defeat, resignation, or death of a member);
- Standard pay provision for constituency office cleanup and closure: defeat, resignation, or death of a member;
- Standard provision for severance upon termination of employment (no just cause, defeat, resignation, or death of a member);
- Salary continuance while in receipt of Workers' Compensation benefits; and
- Policy and procedure manual.

That a new directive be developed to authorize constituency assistant benefits, and this directive be brought to the board for review and approval.

Those in favour of the motion, please raise their hands. Any opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

The next item is the item respecting the Legislative Assembly gift shop proposal.

The last motion was carried unanimously.

Members of the Assembly, I've had opportunity to discuss with many members in the Assembly about the advisability of a gift shop, and we looked at three different options. This year, more than previous years, members suggested that we should be putting into place a gift shop for the . . . particularly in view of the fact that it's centennial year.

We've examined three options: the option of having somebody, a private entrepreneur, come in and operate a gift shop; the second option being that it be operated by a non-profit organization here in the Legislative Assembly; and the third option being that it be a Legislative Assembly owned and operated gift shop.

There are considerable complications setting up a gift shop in the Legislative Assembly. Private would be the easiest to set up; however we would require a tender, to tender it. And any discussions we've had, we find that there really is not any interest on the part of entrepreneurs because they just don't feel that there would be enough traffic through here to make it a viable operation, which means that if we're going to have a gift shop we have to be prepared to subsidize it to some extent — whether it's run by a non-profit or by a Legislative Assembly owned and operated gift shop.

In both cases we would need to have some amendments to legislation to make it permissive for the Legislative Assembly Office to either have a contract with a non-profit organization to operate a gift shop or to hire . . . to authorize it to be able to implement a gift shop.

Having gone through all of those, it's important for the Legislative Assembly Office to know whether the board is supportive of the idea of a gift shop and under what conditions. Having gone through considerable discussion, I've got it narrowed down I believe to some conditions that I hope the board members will accept. And I will read a proposed motion, and we'll open it for discussion. This motion is:

That the Board of Internal Economy agree to the following commitments:

That a gift shop be established in the Legislative Building subject to the following:

That the Board of Internal Economy request that The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be amended if required to allow the operation of a gift shop;

That the Saskatchewan Museum Association be asked to propose both a one-year and a two-year plan to operate a gift shop; and

That the Saskatchewan Museum Association be required

to submit the proposed gift shop inventory items to the Speaker for approval in advance of distribution in the gift shop.

Is there a mover to that motion? Mr. Hagel. Is there a seconder? Ms. Harpauer. Are there any comments or questions? Mr. Thomson.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I just want to make certain for the record, we understand that this is a trial period. And I think that's what's indicated by the one- and two-year proposal, which is one of the other considerations obviously for us not being able to look at a private sector vendor over a trial period, but that it is not the board's intention at this point, that this would necessarily be renewed at the end of its one- or two-year period. And I would assume they'll return to this discussion once we see what the proposals look like.

The Chair: — Thank you. Mr. Hagel.

Mr. Hagel: — Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think in that context, we would want to make sure that the museum association return with a proposal very quickly so as to permit the realistic possibility of beginning operations early in the spring of '05 and taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the centennial year.

The Chair: — Thank you. And what I would also think it would probably have to do is if we did get a proposal from them, that I would distribute this proposal as soon as I received this, and we could call a quick meeting to authorize any additional things that would be needed.

Is the committee ready for the question? Those in favour of the motion as proposed by Hagel and Harpauer? Any opposed? Motion is carried unanimously.

We'll proceed to item 6, an item with respect to constituency service expenses. And, members of the committee, the issue before us is one that's been before us for a while and that has arisen from the methodology that we use to calculate the constituency services expenses allowance amount.

Currently the amount is set partly on a flat rate and partly on an amount that's connected to the voters, number of voters in the constituency. What we've found is that, although the constituency boundaries are set up within plus or minus 5 per cent of an average across the province — and they're supposed to be equal within plus 5 or minus 5 per cent — we found that the number of voters seemed to vary greatly from that because of the way the enumeration has been carried out.

In some cases they're carried out and people are able to find . . . enumerators are able to find people at home and other cases they're not. This has come up with quite an imbalance. So we looked at ways of adjusting this.

One of the ways would be to set it up using 2001 census figures. Another way would be to use the voters list from . . . (inaudible) . . . election but set a higher minimum base. The third way would just be to set a flat amount, make it equal for all constituencies.

And after consideration and getting advice in the usual manner, I'm proposing that the board adopt this motion.

That directive #4.1, constituency service expenses, be amended as follows:

Delete clause 2 and replace a new clause 2 as follows:

(2) The maximum allowance available to each member per annum is \$35,000; and,

In clause 15 delete subclause 2(b) and insert clause 2.

This motion would provide for a flat rate of \$35,000 per constituency for the constituency services expenses. Is there a mover to such a motion? Ms. Harpauer. Is there a seconder? Seconded by Mr. Thomson.

Those in favour of the motion please raise your hand. Any opposed? Motion is carried unanimously.

With respect to item 6 (b) and (c), titled purchase of gifts and centennial celebration events, centennial year being upon us, members are anticipating that there will be a demand for items of centennial . . . centennial items that they would be able to gift to certain people or groups that are being honoured or celebrated, that they may have to . . . may like to call . . . have teas for these people that are being honoured, that there is a series, a whole catalogue full of centennial items — which as an MLA promoting the centennial it would be nice to be able to get — and so right now there's no current way for a member to access an allowance to do so.

In discussions on this item, I found that members thought that this would be a good idea for the centennial year, but not to extend it beyond the centennial year. And that we ought to set up a separate directive for use of MLA allowances for this Saskatchewan 2005 celebrations.

I'm going to propose to the board that effective January 1 — and this would be the wording of the motion:

Effective January 1, 2005, that new directive 5 be approved as follows:

Saskatchewan 2005 Centennial Celebrations

(1) During the 2005-06 fiscal year, each member is entitled to reimbursement or to have direct payment made on his or her behalf for the cost of certain gifts that commemorate Saskatchewan 2005 subject to the following conditions:

- (a) gift items must be purchased from the Legislative Assembly gift shop, SPMC, or Saskatchewan centennial merchandise gift outlets as approved by the Speaker;
- (b) gift items cannot be for personal promotion of the member or his or her political party by containing the member's name or contact information, constituency name, political party name, logos, or colours;
- (c) gift items may be distributed to individuals or groups in recognition of an achievement of public service, and to institutions.

(2) For the purposes of clause (1) the maximum amount that a member may claim during the period of April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 is \$1,000.

(3) During the period of January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 a member may claim the costs to host a reception in his or her constituency that commemorates Saskatchewan 2005 centennial celebrations.

(4) Any cost incurred pursuant to clause 3 shall be charged to directive 4.1, constituency service expense. And,

(5) This directive shall expire on March 31, 2006.

So this proposed motion includes a sunset clause and limits spending on these items to \$1,000.

Moved by Mr. Hagel. Seconded by Mr. Heppner. Question? Mr. Thomson.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Regarding the cost of hosting a reception, I assume the interpretation is a reception or receptions so that in case the member has multiple communities they may host different teas or a number of centenarians, people celebrating their 100th birthdays, that they can host teas in their honour. I assume that that means the plural.

The Chair: — I would assume . . . my own reading of it would be that you can host a reception and then you could host another reception. The only thing it seems to prevent would be to hold two receptions at once.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — That could be difficult.

The Chair: — We'll interpret it in that manner at any rate. Thank you. Any others? Those in favour of the motion, raise their hand. Any opposed to the motion? None. The motion is carried unanimously.

Proceeding to item 7, PDA (personal digital assistant), device cellphones, item 7.

Some members in the Assembly have gotten . . . practising using the BlackBerries. And these items have now been developed in such a way that not only that they can contact their computers at their offices, but they also have embedded in with them cell phones. So the current payment process would be for the item . . . for the member to have to submit two separate requests for payment — one for the telephone and one for the computer allowance.

I'm proposing that we amend it and simplify that process so that a member would only . . . so that all payment for an item like a BlackBerry would all come out of the telephone allowance.

The proposed motion is:

That the capital cost of a PDA, which means personal digital assistant device, that functions as a cell phone, and the monthly operating expenses can be charged to directive #2 — telephone and related expenses, provided the PDA device cell phone is the only cell phone purchase charged to directive #2 in accordance with clause 4 of the

directive which states:

This allowance is intended to provide one fax machine and one cellular telephone per member.

Is there a mover? Mr. Yates. And seconded by Ms. Harpauer.

Those in favour of the motion, raise their hand. Any opposed? None opposed. The motion is carried unanimously.

Further to the agenda, an item which we did not have an opportunity to include in the agenda but has come to my attention since then, relates to directive 4.1. Currently the expenses that may be claimed from this allowance include provincial and national pins and flags, drinks, photographs of tour groups, wreaths, flowers, and plants. These are things that can be purchased and distributed. And the members have found that there are times when these are not suitable items, but particularly when they go to schools, that perhaps a book would be even more suitable. And so I'm recommending that an amendment to this directive be authorized that would read as follows:

That directive 4.1, constituency service expenses, be amended as follows:

Add to the clause (4)(b) the following words to be added after the word "plants" the word "books."

Which implies that the book, that the word book be added after the word plants in this motion.

That the following words be added after the word plants "and books."

That makes a little more sense.

Now will somebody move the motion? Mr. Thomson and Mr. Heppner.

All those in favour of the motion raise your hands. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried unanimously.

Members of the Assembly, after looking through the health plan available to members and looking at the costs of these health plans, I believe that there's a way that there can . . . cost savings of approximately 100,000 can be implemented and that is if we transfer the Legislative Assembly, an administration assistant health plan to the public service health plan and have it all into a bigger group. And it just gives you the economy of savings. And associated with that I'm also . . . so I'm going to recommend that we do that.

Also I want to recommend that the Legislative Assembly pays health premiums on behalf of retired or defeated members, based on a formula that for every year of service of the MLA, 10 per cent of the premium would be paid. So if a member served up to 10 years, then the entire premium would be paid. The motion that's recommended for this would read as follows, and I'll put this into two motions. I would read the motion:

That the health plan benefits for Legislative Assembly employees and members be provided under the

out-of-scope public service health plan at the earliest possible opportunity;

That on behalf on the Board of Internal Economy, the Speaker communicate this decision to the ministers responsible for the . . . to the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission.

Is there a mover? Mr. Thomson and Mr. Heppner. Any discussion? Those in favour of the motion please raise your hand. Any opposed?

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, before we vote, I believe there is an omission for ministerial assistant . . . Oh, pardon me, that's an oversight on my part.

The Chair: — Once again we'll take the vote. Those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

The other part of my recommendation will be a motion:

That effective November 24, 2004, the health plan premiums be paid for members, including their spouse, that resign, retire, or are defeated, and that the premium cost provided be on the basis of 10 per cent for each year of service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. And then on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy, the Speaker communicate this decision to the Minister of Finance.

Is there a mover to the motion? Mr. Yates and Ms. Harpauer. Those in favour of the motion, indicate. Any opposed? None. Motion is carried unanimously.

One of the . . . being a member that's getting closer to retirement and looking for a recruiter . . . recruiting for a replacement in the not too perhaps distant future, but I find that one of the things, question that I often get asked is, how much do you get paid? And then the comparison is made and quite often the candidate that I might have in mind that would be a good candidate, looks at me and shakes his head, says it's not worth it.

And I also did a little comparison with the province, Alberta, and I notice that their monthly expenses allowance is several times higher than what — say — Saskatchewan members get. So I, in consideration of the pay and rations for members, I would recommend that the monthly allowance, expense allowance be increased, and I have a proposed motion:

That effective April 1, 2005, that directive 21, annual indemnity and allowances, be amended as follows:

Delete the amount of \$5,319 in clause (6) and replace with \$9,000. And that for the fiscal year 2005-2006, the indexing provisions of clause (8) not be applied to the amount of \$9,000.

Is there a mover to that motion? Mr. Thomson and Mr. Heppner. Are there any comments or questions? Mr. Thomson.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I think it's fair to say that we all hope

this change does not hasten your departure from the legislature, but indeed I find that your comments are quite accurate. There's one other additional set of issues that I think need to be addressed. They are also related to the changes that we made earlier in terms of allowing additional monies to be used from the allowances to pay for banquet tickets.

The simple fact is that the type of activities members are expected to do, in their constituencies now, they are often expected to do and expected to pay for. And I think about those members who are called upon regularly to attend public events within their ridings, where there is not a meal served, and as such they cannot claim under previous allowances — be it rodeos, be it sports events, be it attendance of community activities. The fact is in years gone by members were often provided complimentary tickets. This is increasingly an uncommon practice. As such members are increasingly called upon to provide out-of-pocket additional expenses to attend these events that frankly they are expected to attend as members. Additionally this often requires members to pick up additional meals as they are away from their homes and cannot otherwise be claimed.

So this is, I think, just a change that reflects the changing nature of the job and the changing nature of the expectations of the communities that we serve. And as such I would support the motion and encourage other members to do so.

The Chair: — Thank you. Is the committee ready for the question? Now those in favour of the motion, please indicate. Those opposed? None. The motion is carried unanimously.

Members now are authorized by directive 24 to purchase computers and computer material. They can also rent a photocopier under this allowance and upgrade their existing computer systems with whatever, these additions, as they come into being. And it's also used for equipment and furniture and technical computer support.

Members have indicated to me that the current amounts would quite often leave them short, and so I'm proposing an increase in this amount from the current to the total maximum of \$10,000. And I'm proposing a motion, recommending a motion which would read as follows:

Effective April 1, 2005, that directive #24, constituency office equipment and furniture provision be amended as follows:

Delete subclauses (4)(b) and (4)(c) and replace with new subclause (4)(b) as follows:

At the direction of the MLA the purchase of a computer system or systems, an upgrade of an existing computer system or systems, technical computer support or other equipment and furniture to a maximum of \$10,000.

Is there a mover to the motion? Mr. Yates, Ms. Harpauer.

Those in favour of the motion please indicate. Any opposed? There being none, the motion is carried unanimously.

I have one more item. At a previous meeting a request was

made by Mr. Thomson respecting why is it that we make all purchases for directive #24 through SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation), and why is it that purchases that are made through the constituency service allowance directly by the staff can be purchased through local vendors? And I just want to table a response to those questions.

Margaret Tulloch also has made available copies of an analysis of some of the spending made by the Legislative Assembly officer, Shannon Ferguson. Members have received this before, but we are required to take a look at this directive and evaluate it periodically, and this is available now to members for this purpose. And I will also table this with the board.

That completes the agenda items that we have. Are there any other items that members may want to bring forward at this time? Well then I thank all members for their attendance, and I thank you for looking at all of these matters. There's considerable items that we've gone through.

Is there a motion to adjourn? Motion to adjourn, Ms. Harpauer. Those in favour of the motion? Any opposed? The meeting stands adjourned.

The board adjourned at 21:13.

The board met at 17:30.

The Chair: — First thing I want to do is thank everybody for getting on board here at this time, Friday afternoon. And I know that everybody's got Christmas season on top of that, so thank you very much for coming on.

First of all I think for purposes of *Hansard*, those of us that are on the phone should identify ourselves for attendance purposes.

It's Myron Kowalsky, Chair, here. Other people on telephones.

Ms. Harpauer: — Donna Harpauer.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Deb Higgins.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Andrew Thomson.

Mr. Hagel: — Glenn Hagel.

The Chair: — Glenn Hagel, good. And then for attendance purposes, are there any other MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in the committee room?

Ms. Ronyk: — No, there are not.

The Chair: — No. All right. So we do have a quorum. We'll proceed with the recommendation for item 1. Oh but I should mention that any time you wish to speak, just please mention your name, and I'll be keeping a list. And when you are speaking or starting to speak, please also identify your name. And also because this might require some shuffling of paper and asking for explanations, let's be patient with requests for explanations.

Now item 1, directive 21, annual indemnity and allowances and amendments to this. This item comes to us because of anticipation that there could be two sessions in one year, one calendar year. And because some of the special allowances have been authorized through The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and others, which means they can't be changed except with our recommendation, we want to see if we can recommend that all of the allowances be done on an annual basis rather than on a sessional basis.

So there is . . . the recommendation here then would be that all these people like — you may have a list in front of you — the Government House Leader, the Deputy Government House Leader, Opposition House Leader, Government Whip, Opposition Whip, Third Party Whip, Government Deputy Whip, Opposition Deputy Whip, Chair, Deputy Chair, that they from now on be paid according . . . on 12 monthly equal instalments on a . . . and not be paid on a sessional basis.

I can read the motion more specifically, the recommended motion, but I'll just pause for a minute in case somebody has a question on any of this stuff that I've talked about so far.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Myron, as I . . . it's Andrew. As I understand, the approach that we are looking at is simply to put into the directives our current practice.

The Chair: — Well our current practice . . . no, this would actually require amendments. It would require amendments to the Legislative Assembly and council Act which would change our practice to some extent. It would make sure that these people get paid an allowance only once a year regardless of the number of sessions we had in a year.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — But my understanding is is that committee Chairs are paid in 12 equal instalments anyway so . . .

The Chair: — Oh, okay. Yes, everybody's being paid in 12 equal instalments but at the end of the session anybody that would not have been paid the full indemnity, the full sessional indemnity, would get the end of, would get the whole bulk amount paid.

So for example if the session, if the whole legislature was prorogued today, these people would get the top-up of the amount for this session. This will convert it not from a sessional basis to an annual basis.

Does that make sense?

Ms. Harpauer: — This is Donna. Myron, what happens if someone is changed from their position and a different person is put in place in June?

The Chair: — They will be paid on a monthly basis according to this. So that would be simply transferred to the next person, whoever gets that assignment.

So that amount would be distributed. If one person served for four months and the next person served for eight months, each person would get their proportionate amount of the pay, of the extra pay.

Mr. Heppner: — Apologies. Heppner's here and he's late and he knows it.

The Chair: — Oh hello there. Well we just got started on this. Just to speed things up here, Mr. Heppner, it's Kowalsky, Thomson, Higgins, Harpauer, and Heppner, and Hagel on now.

Mr. Heppner: — Okay.

The Chair: — So the only board member that's missing is Yates. And we're looking at directive 21 and then we're going to go into camera for a while.

Mr. Heppner: — Sure.

The Chair: — And we're just getting an interpretation on directive 1. Is there any other clarification . . . I'm going to read the motion, the recommended motion and then I'll open it up to questions again.

But the proposed motion is this:

That effective upon the coming into force of the applicable amendments to The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, directive 21, annual indemnity and

allowances, be amended as follows:

(1) Delete clause (7)(b), and add the following to clause (7)(a) with any adjustments to the amounts that may occur as a result of applying the indexing provision in clause (8):

Government House Leader	\$11,742
Deputy Government House Leader	\$ 5,871
Opposition House Leader	\$11,742
Deputy Opposition House Leader	\$ 5,871
Third Party House Leader	\$ 5,871
Government Whip	\$11,742
Opposition Whip	\$11,742
Third Party Whip	\$ 5,871
Government Deputy Whip	\$ 5,871
Opposition Deputy Whip	\$ 5,871
Chair, standing or special committee	\$11,742
Deputy Chair, standing or special committee	\$ 5,871

(2) Add the following new clause (7)(b):

Annual allowances for extra duties shall be payable in 12 equal instalments, in arrears, on the first day of each month for the previous month;

(3) Add the following new clause (7)(c):

A member may assume any number of the extra duties enumerated above; however, no member shall claim more than one annual allowance for extra duties pursuant to this clause; and

(4) Delete clause (7.2).

Mr. Heppner: — What is 7.2?

The Chair: — What is 7.2? Could somebody answer that?

Ms. Borowski: — It's Marilyn speaking. Yes, 7.2 was the provision that explained how the sessional allowances would be paid and basically it said that sessional allowances shall be paid in 12 . . . or in monthly instalments with any balance owing in the case that session ends, the balance owing would be paid.

If these are going to be annual, then we wouldn't need that provision.

Mr. Heppner: — Good. Thank you very much.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — So I would so move that, Myron.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Thomson.

Ms. Harpauer: — I'll second it.

The Chair: — Seconded by Ms. Harpauer. Are you ready for the question? Those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Chair: — Those opposed say no.

I hear no nos, therefore I declare the motion carried.

And I believe there was a request then that we at this stage go into camera so I would ask that *Hansard* be closed and that the room be vacated for a moment here.

Now I need somebody remaining in room 8. Who is there? Is there an MLA there?

Ms. Ronyk: — No, there's no MLA here.

The Chair: — Okay. I need a way of getting back to you folks. I guess what I'll do is I've got my cellphone.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I think it's fine if Margaret wanted to stay.

The Chair: — Okay, let's leave Margaret in there. Is that fine with you, Ben?

Mr. Heppner: — Sure.

The Chair: — All right. Then Margaret, if you would just remain, please.

Ms. Tulloch: — Okay.

The board continued in camera.

The Chair: — Okay. I want to thank the Legislative Assembly staff for being patient and waiting patiently until we finished the in camera portion of the meeting. As a result of the in camera portion of the meeting, I do believe somebody may have a motion.

Ms. Harpauer: — I move the motion that we adjourn.

The Chair: — It has been moved by Ms. Harpauer that this meeting do now adjourn. Is there a seconder for the motion?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I'll second it.

The Chair: — Seconded by Ms. Higgins. Those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Chair: — Any opposed, say nay.

Motion is therefore carried, being there is nobody that said nay.

Thank you all very much for your participation in the meeting, and the next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

The board adjourned at 18:53.