



# **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

### **MINUTES AND VERBATIM REPORT**

---

**Published under the authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker**



**No. 4 — December 20, 2007**



BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Room 8 Legislative Building  
8:00 a.m., December 20, 2007

---

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

Hon. Don Toth, Speaker, Chair  
Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Ms. Doreen Eagles  
Hon. Donna Harpauer  
Mr. Glen Hart  
Mr. Len Taylor  
Mr. Kevin Yates

**Staff to the Board**

Ms. Linda Kaminski, Director, Human Resource and Payroll Services  
Mr. Gregory Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Ms. Margaret Tulloch, Secretary to the Board

**ITEM 1 Decision Item: Health Plan Premium Subsidy**

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

That Minute #1601 of Meeting #6/04 is revoked.

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

**Minute # 1680**

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

That effective February 1, 2003, the Retiree Health Plan for the Legislative Assembly Service employees applies to Members; and

That Members who resign, retire or are defeated may enrol in the Retiree Health Plan for Legislative Assembly Service employees on the same terms and conditions as Legislative Assembly Service employees.

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

**Minute # 1681**

The Board adjourned at 8:10 a.m.



[The board met at 08:00.]

**The Chair:** — I'd just like to call this meeting of the Board of Internal Economy to order and just acknowledge the fact that we're here discussing extended health benefits and the benefits for retired members in view of statements made — well be very frank, during an election campaign — where we've been asked to review where we are in regards to the benefits for retired members.

And I just want to first of all acknowledge the fact that, as Speaker, I took an oath to represent people fairly and honestly, and represent caucuses, and be very impartial. And I feel it's important that, at the end of the day, in how we address this issue, that there is fairness and equity in this question.

Having said that, however, I also acknowledge that leaders made commitments. So what I'm asking of the board today is that first of all we address some of those issues but, as well, we leave ourselves open to further discussion that would bring forward recommendations that are fair and equitable to all, not just to members as well but to Legislative Assembly staff.

And so having said that, I believe that over a period of time I've talked with Ms. Kaminski and with Clerk Greg, and I recognize that there's no quick and easy fix outside of the fact of ensuring that retired members know where they're at, and that we do take the time to move forward with some thorough discussion as we determine in the future where members and Assembly staff will be. So I'm opening the floor for any comments or motions that may come forward. I recognize Mr. D'Autremont.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you commented, this issue was raised during the election campaign. The leader of the official opposition and the premier at the time, now with reversed roles, both agreed to rescind minute 1601, which removes the subsidy to the retiree MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. That's where we wish to proceed to today.

But we also wish to recognize that there's a need to provide benefits to members, the same as is happening to other members of the legislative staff and indeed throughout government. So that's the direction we wish to proceed in today and continue to provide benefits to all of the people who work in this building as well as for the elected members. Therefore I would move:

That minute no. 1601 of meeting no. 6/04 be revoked.

Seconded by the member from Regina Dewdney.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the member from Cannington, seconded by the member from Regina Dewdney:

That minute 1601 of meeting 6/04 be revoked.

Are there any questions regarding the motion? Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is the committee in favour of the motion as presented?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — It's agreed. Carried. Do we have further discussion or further motions? Mr. D'Autremont.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I also have a motion to place members into the same benefit program that the rest of the staff in the Legislative Building have. As well we wish to proceed as expeditiously as possible to review the benefit package, to go to the same package that is currently utilized by executive government, all of the departments across government. And we will be doing our best to move in that direction, along with the support of the legislative staff to accomplish that. It's our goal to try and do this by the end of March of the coming year. So March 31, 2008 is our hope.

I would move:

That effective February 1, 2003 the retiree health plan for Legislative Assembly Service employees applies to members, and that members who resign, retire, or are defeated may enrol in the retiree health plan for Legislative Assembly Service employees on the same terms and conditions as Legislative Assembly Service employees.

I so move, seconded by the member from Regina Dewdney.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Mr. Yates:

That effective February 1, 2003 the retiree health plan for the Legislative Assembly Service employees applies to members, and that members who resign, retire, or are defeated may enrol in the retiree health plan for Legislative Assembly Service employees on the same terms and conditions as Legislative Assembly Service employees.

Is there any discussion on this motion? Seeing none, are the board members agreed with the motion presented?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — It's agreed. Carried. Is there further discussion to be raised at this time?

**Mr. Yates:** — No. I move we adjourn.

**The Chair:** — Before placing the adjournment motion, from what I understand, Mr. D'Autremont has indicated that, as I mentioned earlier, that we will enter into some serious, not just negotiations but research in regards to a fair and equitable health plan. And given the next couple of months and the time period, I would strongly recommend that we give our staff the opportunity to look at whatever's available that is fair and equitable to all; and that we're not just limited to executive government, but we do an extensive review and at the end of the day we find the most fair plan that would work not only for

members but for staff people.

Having said that, the motion for adjournment is certainly in order. Is the board agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The board adjourned at 08:10.]