

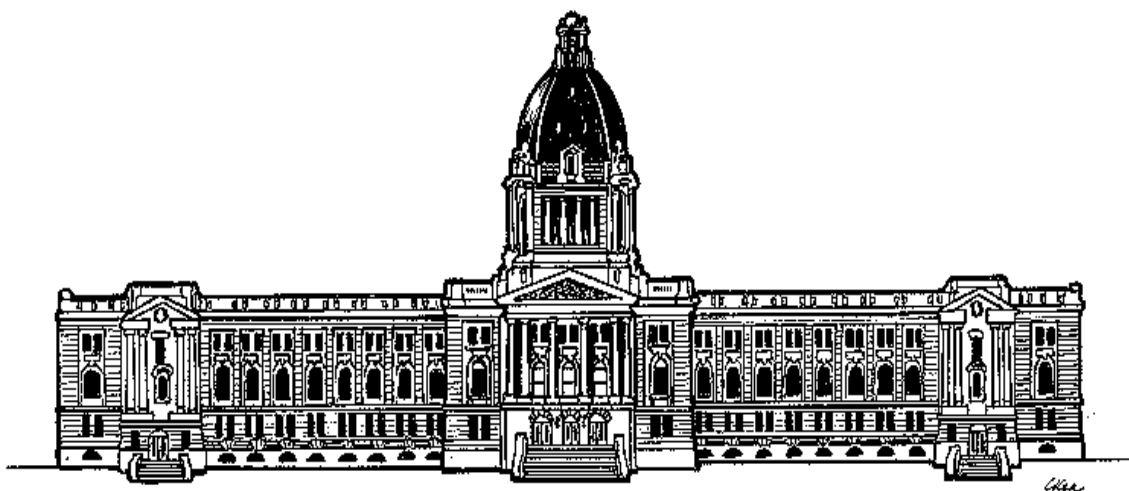


**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

**HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT**

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No. 6 — December 2, 2015

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair  
Cannington

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff  
Saskatoon Silver Springs

Ms. Doreen Eagles  
Estevan

Mr. David Forbes  
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Mr. Warren McCall  
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Hon. Jim Reiter  
Rosetown-Elrose

[The board met at 08:03.]

**The Chair:** — I'd like to call this meeting of the Board of Internal Economy to order for December the 2nd, 2015. This will be meeting 6/15.

I'd like to welcome everyone here, including those in our public galleries, because that's where you're all sitting. With us this morning is the Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Doreen Eagles, the Hon. Jim Reiter, MLA Warren McCall, and MLA David Forbes. So we have quorum.

First order of business is the approval of the proposed agenda. It was in your package. Unless there are questions, would someone move that we adopt the agenda? Mr. McCall. Second? Mr. Cheveldayoff. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Okay, the second item is the minutes of the previous meeting, 5/15. They as well are in your package. Are there any questions relating to the minutes of the previous meeting? If not, would someone move that we adopt the minutes as presented? Mr. Reiter. Second? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### Legislative Assembly Service

**The Chair:** — The first item of business is the tabling and decision item, approval of the Legislative Assembly Service first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 up to September the 30th, 2015. These quarterly reports, fiscal forecasts are now to be presented by all of the officers, the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service], and the statutory officer. So we'll see a number of them this morning.

Okay, so the LAS first and second quarter reports are item no. 1 in your binders. Are there any questions related to first and second quarter reports? If not, would someone move that we accept the reports? Ms. Eagles. Second? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Okay, item no. 2, tabling decision item, approval of the Legislative Assembly Service year-end report on progress for the year 2014-15. That as well is in your binder. This document was forwarded to the members on July 14th. Any questions related to the year-end report 2014-2015? If not, would someone move that we adopt the report as presented? Mr. Cheveldayoff. Second? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Okay, item no. 3, tabling and decision item, approval of the Legislative Assembly Service mid-year report on progress for the year 2015-2016. That as well is in your binders. Are there any questions related to that report? If not, would someone move?

That the mid-year report on progress of the Legislative Assembly Service 2014-2015 be approved.

Mr. Forbes. Second? Mr. Reiter. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

#### Elections Saskatchewan

**The Chair:** — Okay, item no. 4, tabling and decision item, approval of Elections Saskatchewan's quarterly fiscal forecast for the period of July 1st, 2015 to September 30th, 2015. Are there any questions related to this report? Mr. Cheveldayoff. Mr. Boda, would you like to come forward to the table please?

Thank you, Mr. Boda, for coming forward. If you could introduce your staff please.

**Mr. Boda:** — Thank you. Good morning. I have with me Jennifer Colin, she is our deputy for corporate service and electoral finance; and Jeff Kress who is our deputy for electoral operations.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Mr. Cheveldayoff.

**Mr. Boda:** — I do have a few opening comments . . .

**The Chair:** — Okay, yes. Go ahead.

**Mr. Boda:** — If that would be okay.

**The Chair:** — Yes.

**Mr. Boda:** — That would be all right? Well good morning. As you might expect, our staff, both here in Regina and across our 61 constituencies in which our political parties will contest elections, are extremely busy preparing to conduct the upcoming general election. Our team has been very busy implementing a plan we established at the outset of the fiscal year in anticipation of a November 2nd election. With the federal writ being dropped early in August, we've since adjusted that plan and begun to prepare for a new election date on April the 4th. I want to assure you that we are very aware of the province's fiscal situation and that we have been and continue to do whatever is possible to minimize costs and to be cost effective in the work that we do in preparation for the coming general election.

We're also well aware of the responsibilities that we have been assigned through legislation, and recognize that at this point our plans are ready and the majority of the infrastructure required to deliver the April 4th election must be in place in advance of the March 31st fiscal year-end.

Going back to our original estimate for FY [fiscal year] '15-16, the Elections Saskatchewan event budget was set at \$20.3

million. And as you will know, in discussion with this board it was agreed that funding for two of the election's biggest expenditures — reimbursements for the political parties and candidates of 4.4 million and payments for election day workers of \$2.2 million, for a total of \$6.6 million — were ultimately excluded from that budget, but would have been placed back in the budget had the election taken place on November the 2nd.

Ultimately Elections Saskatchewan's event budget was reduced from 20.3 million to 13.7 million for the current fiscal year. Given the changed election date from November 2nd to April 4th, our September 30 forecast also described potential savings of \$1.05 million within the fiscal year that will be deferred to the coming fiscal year.

These deferrals were found in two ways. Some of the costs that would be incurred if the election was on November 2nd could simply be deferred to the next budget year. Other costs related to the November 2nd election date could instead be split between the '15-16 fiscal year and the '16-17 fiscal year once the election date was changed.

I want to be clear that the change of an election date from November 2nd to April 4th, just four days into the new budget year, has offered some real challenges for our organization. Many costs will be incurred or partially incurred in the current fiscal year, even in instances where payment will not be made until the next fiscal year. For example, returning officers and election clerks won't receive a payment until the end of April '16, but because 90 per cent of the election period work will be completed during the current fiscal year, that amount has to be charged to the current fiscal year, not the next one.

[08:15]

At the same time, I need to be clear that a number of additional expenses related to the fiscal year budget have and continue to put tremendous pressure on our budget. For example, the amounts set out in the '15-16 estimates were based on the 2011 schedule of fees. That's the document that outlines the level at which we are to pay all of our workers. A June 2015 change to the schedule of fees has led to an additional cost of approximately \$630,000 that was not in our original budget submission.

Since submitting our forecast to you, we have also found a number of other fiscal pressures that couldn't have been known until beginning to ramp up for the coming electoral event. We're now in a situation where returning officers are needing to establish returning offices, for example. We're doing everything we can to control costs, but rental costs for both locations and furniture are coming in at levels higher than anticipated.

The change in election date has also meant that a number of components of preparation that had already been completed will need to be completed again in anticipation of an April 4th election. For example, Elections Saskatchewan has completed significant steps in conducting a last enumeration in preparation for the November 2nd date. The move to April 4th will mean that further steps will have to be taken to ensure the quality of the list is at required levels.

The identification and selection of returning officers and poll

locations is another area where duplication is involved. Pre-writ efforts were taken to ensure that fully accessible polling locations were in place for the November 2nd election date. Given the date change, this is an effort that's being repeated.

After a good deal of thought last evening about what I would ultimately need to describe today, I determined that it was this. At the best of times, preparation for a general election is difficult due to the fact that an election management body must very quickly expand its capacity and presence in thousands of locations across the province, using what is basically a group of 10,000 volunteers to deliver its mandate. The change in election date from November 2nd to April 4th of next year, and not knowing that until the beginning of August, has introduced significantly more complexities to both implementation and to budgeting.

As we indicated in our most recent forecast, the extent and nature of the work has yet to be determined, so it is difficult to assess what impact this will have on our current year forecast. Without question, as the process unfolds we continue to be surprised, quite honestly, by some of the estimates that we're getting with respect to costs. But at the same time, I want to assure you that my staff and I are doing everything that we can to control costs in a manner that will allow us to deliver our mandate. Thank you. I'm happy to take questions.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Mr. Cheveldayoff.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just from your initial comments, you mentioned the \$630,000 figure in costs and you alluded to rent and others. Can you just explain other areas where you've had surprises as far as costs go?

**Mr. Boda:** — Sure. I think I'll allow Jennifer to respond to that question.

**Ms. Colin:** — Certainly. We based our budget on 2011 figures and factored in inflation and took into account some other economic factors. What we're discovering is that in some areas estimates are coming back far in excess of what we had considered to be reasonable inflationary pressures.

You know, an example, I'll just give you one example of the rent. We had estimated \$2,500 a month for a returning office across the province. We're getting estimates anywhere between, you know, 2,000 upwards to ... you know we had one yesterday of \$16,000 a month.

Furniture, for example, we budgeted \$500 a month to rent furniture for returning offices. We're getting estimates of \$4,000 a month for furniture rental. As Michael alluded to, we're doing everything we can. Where possible we are sourcing furniture for free from SaskSurplus, for example. We are also doing our best to find other locations so we can avoid those, what we consider to be exorbitant rent costs.

However at some point you do have to make a decision because the returning officer does need an office and it does need to be fully accessible to the public.

Other areas where we're finding increased costs are shipping

costs across the province, largely I think because of fuel costs. You know the decrease in oil hasn't quite hit the courier companies in terms of lower costs to consumers, so we're finding significantly increased costs in terms of courier.

Things like ballot paper for example have increased far in excess of, you know, a reasonable 5 to 8 per cent inflationary factor over the past four years.

**Mr. Boda:** — I would add one more item to that list, and that is that we have made a commitment to offer fully accessible returning offices across the province, and that has created some challenges because in the past that has not been a bar that we've had to meet. But we have determined that, going forward, that all returning offices will be fully accessible. So that is another challenge.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Well certainly that's a laudable goal. I can understand the challenges, I'm sure, that that presents in certain areas of the province. But I think that's an area where we want to go.

You know, as candidates ourselves, I know looking for office space, we've had some surprises as well as far as the rental rates. And yes, I know that that is an area . . . Have you thought of combining offices for some of your returning officers, because some of the urban ridings I know, would it make sense to double up if possible?

**Mr. Boda:** — Actually, yes we have. And I'll let Jeff describe one of those examples for you that we've been working on in northwest Regina. The challenge is that you really do want the returning office to be in the heart of the community. And if citizens are required to go well outside out of the constituency lines, it can be problematic, problematic for them. They don't know where to go. But if it's nearby, that is certainly an option and, Jeff, why don't you talk about the example.

**Mr. Kress:** — Sure. Thank you, Michael. Yes, it's a very good question. There are some constituencies, both for urban and rural, where we're looking at trying to combine them. You know, a good example would be something like Saskatchewan Rivers. That constituency goes all the way around Prince Albert, and Prince Albert is the most central point for voters. So when we look at what's the most accessible way for them to get to a returning office, ways to reduce costs, we're trying to put those in the same location in Prince Albert.

Now in Regina and Saskatoon, in some areas there's lots of space available and it's not a bigger problem. But you look at some of the other areas, certainly up in the northwest corner up there and on the east side of the city of Regina, space is very difficult to get. And so with the goal of trying to have as close to voters as possible, our goal is first and foremost to have a constituency office in each area. But if that isn't possible due to cost or due to accessibility or those factors, we are most certainly looking at combining them.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Great, that's good to hear. The period we're covering here is July 1st to September 30th. And on September 14th, I received a letter from Dr. Boda outlining the Lloydminster by-election and some costs, or all of the costs that were incurred in that by-election.

And in looking through the information, I draw your attention to appendix 5 of the letter. Do you have the information?

**Mr. Boda:** — No.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Well I'll just ask the question. It's, you know, fairly general in nature as far as administration goes. The budgeted expenditure for general contractual services indicated a budget of \$38,000, and the actual expenditure was \$75,000. So a variance of \$36,000. So you know, just under a 100 per cent increase. So just wanted to know what necessitated the increase in general contractual services for the Lloydminster by-election.

**Ms. Colin:** — So the category of general contractual services is really a catch-all, and it includes things like rent for the returning office. It also includes any services that would have been provided to the returning office, so for example janitorial, those types of things. Other contractual services would have been for rent and computers, any service technicians or technical support that would have been provided to the returning office itself.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — It just seems like a very, very high, you know, budget-to-actual, the variance.

**Ms. Colin:** — We can give you a detailed breakdown of what was in that category.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Okay. Yes, I would like to see that.

**Mr. Boda:** — Just to follow up on Lloydminster in general, the Lloydminster by-election was a tremendous learning opportunity for Elections Saskatchewan. Clearly Lloydminster has an economy that at the time was booming, and we found it very difficult to just find space for the returning office itself. So there were a lot of costs that came about that we learned through, and contractual services would have been one of the areas where we probably underestimated the cost.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Right. And travel and business is another category there that was budgeted at 10,600; it came in, actual, at 35,388. So again a wide, wide variance there. So maybe on those two areas, if you could give me a breakdown on things.

I understand it was a learning experience, but certainly when we budget and the actuals are way out of line, we have to, like you say, learn from it and, you know, change the actuals going forward. You know, I have to say though advertising for example was less, was 37,000 instead of 80,000. So it had a variance of negative 42,000. So you know, the total election expenses look very close, but within them some of the categories have wide variance, and I'd just like an explanation.

**Ms. Colin:** — We can certainly give you the detail for the travel and business. What I can tell you is that we had tremendous difficulty recruiting workers from within the constituency. And so there were a number of key positions that were actually recruited from outside the constituency. And of course then we pay for travel and accommodations when they're in Lloydminster working.

It was a very, very difficult time. You know, the economy in Lloyd was such that oil workers were large . . . You know jobs in the oil sector were paying four or five times what we were able to pay. Even hotel rooms were difficult to secure because they were largely booked for months in advance. But we'd be happy to give you the breakdown on that.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** — Okay, Ms. Eagles.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Yes, I just . . . Mr. Boda, you mentioned that some of the pressures were because of e-day [election day] being moved from November to April, and you also mentioned enumeration. Would it be possible just to have a revision in the spring? You know, I think some of the onus has to be on the electorate. And could you just do a revision in the spring or do you have to do an all-out enumeration again?

**Mr. Boda:** — We're in the midst of transitioning from completing an enumeration process to doing a permanent register. And so we're basically doing one last enumeration before we introduce the permanent register following the election. We won't need to do a complete enumeration in the spring, because we did, as you may know, we did a confirmation enumeration in the fall with mailing out to electors across the province. We've begun the process of improving the quality of the list. We were preparing for a November 2nd election of course, so that the list could be of the quality needed for that election.

We then shared data with Elections Canada, who took our data and essentially improved on it through the federal process. And they will, in turn, turn around and provide us with their data. And we will also go through a targeted process of improving that data as well so that it is ready for the political parties and for our workers on election day.

So that's a long answer. The short answer is we won't be doing a full enumeration in the spring.

And there were a lot of timing issues as we went through, of course. We were always uncertain when the federal election would be. Although it was planned, it had . . . Those dates had been changed in the past so we had to work very carefully with our federal counterparts to make sure that we both had access to lists that were accurate for our own purposes.

[08:30]

So of course doing a full enumeration in February would be very, very difficult in a Saskatchewan context unless the weather remains just as it is today. If it remains like this, we could certainly do one, but we would find it difficult to do a full enumeration in February.

**Ms. Eagles:** — When the election was scheduled to be held in November, had you rented any returning offices? Like prior to the call of the federal election, did you have dibs on returning offices that you were paying a retainer on or something?

**Mr. Boda:** — That's a very good question, and it was

something that we had to work through very, very carefully because there were some locations where, in the North for example, that we found it, we are finding it difficult to find a returning office location. In the end, I was able to hold off until the writ was dropped by the federal government and, as a result, we did not need to rent any returning offices in advance for the November 2nd date.

**Ms. Eagles:** — So are you paying rent for any returning offices right now?

**Mr. Boda:** — We are not.

**Ms. Eagles:** — No.

**Mr. Boda:** — No.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay, thank you.

**The Chair:** — Okay, any other questions? If not, would someone move that . . . Just make sure my questions were all answered. Yes. Okay, would someone move:

That the quarterly fiscal forecast of Elections Saskatchewan for the period of July 1st, 2015-September 30th, 2015 be approved.

Mr. McCall. Seconder? Mr. Cheveldayoff. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Thank you, Mr. Boda, and thank you to your staff.

#### **Ombudsman Saskatchewan and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner**

**The Chair:** — Item no. 5, tabling a decision item, approval of Ombudsman Saskatchewan and the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner's first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 as of September 30th, 2015. You will find that under item no. 5. Are there any questions? If not, would someone move:

That the first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 up to September 30th, 2015 for the Ombudsman Saskatchewan and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner be approved.

Mr. Reiter. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### **Information and Privacy Commissioner**

**The Chair:** — Okay. Item no. 6, tabling and decision item approval of Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner's first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 as of September 30th, 2015. You will find that under tab no. 6 in your binders. Are there any questions? If not, would someone move:

That the first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 up to September 30th, 2015 for the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner be approved.

Would someone move that? Mr. Cheveldayoff. Seconder? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### **Advocate for Children and Youth**

**The Chair:** — Okay. Item no. 7, tabling and decision item approval of Saskatchewan's Advocate for Children and Youth first and second quarter financial forecast for the fiscal year 2015-2016 as of September 30th, 2015. That is found in your binders under item no. 7. Are there any questions? If not, would someone move:

That the first and second quarter financial forecasts for the fiscal year 2015-2016 up to September 30th, 2015 for the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth be approved.

Ms. Eagles. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### **Tabling Items**

**The Chair:** — Okay, item no. 8, tabling items:

- (a) MLA accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2015.
- (b) Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for year-end March 31st, 2015.
- (c) New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statements for the year-end March 31st, 2015.

We have a large grey book over here if anyone has any questions. Okay, if not, these items are tabled.

#### **Registrar of Lobbyists**

**The Chair:** — Item no. 9, tab no. 9 in your binders, discussion and decision item, request for supplementary funding for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar. I'd like to call Mr. Barclay and staff forward, please. Okay, I'd like to thank Mr. Barclay for coming, and if you would like to introduce your staff and any opening remarks you have.

**Mr. Barclay:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the board. I'm going to say just a few words about the Act, and then I will introduce my staff. But the purpose of the lobbyist legislation is to enhance the integrity and accountability of government by fostering openness and transparency about who is making and influencing decisions made by public office holders. But there's a natural corollary to that, to the accountability of government, and it's critical to me

to underscore that to lobby is also an integral part of our democratic process.

I can state that we, notwithstanding some of the press comments, were right on schedule to implement the lobbyist registry, and the timing is consistent with our experience in other jurisdictions including Manitoba, Alberta, and BC [British Columbia]. In BC it took them two years to implement the registry; in Alberta, two years and nine months; and in Manitoba, two years and seven months.

Now for the new members of the board, and before I speak to the reason why we're here today, I wish to introduce to you our deputy registrar of lobbyists, Sandra Arberry who's on my right. Sandra has had previous service with the government of the North. We've captured her from Yellowknife, from the Northwest Territories, Elections Northwest Territories, the city of Yellowknife, and more recently Elections Saskatchewan. She brings with her significant experience in planning, interpretation of legislation, and building relationships among a variety of stakeholders. Her academic qualifications include an executive M.B.A. [Master of Business Administration] and a Bachelor of Arts with majors in criminology and political science. In Sandra's new role as deputy, she will be focusing on the designing, implementing, and operating the provincial lobbyist registry; promoting and educating the general public, stakeholders, and the lobbyist community under *The Lobbyists Act*; and ensuring compliance and conformity of lobbyists to the lobbyists legislation.

And it's also a privilege to introduce Paul Borchardt who is on my left. As a result of an RFP [request for proposal] that we conducted, Paul was hired as our business analyst to assist us to choose a suitable registry system. And if the board has any technical questions, Paul will assist me in providing answers.

When I made my submission to the board last January in respect to the lobbyist budget, this is what I stated in part, and I'm quoting. As to my budget for the lobbyist registry, we have not included an item for the cost of the system, as this would be premature. At this time the costs could run anywhere from 350,000 to \$1 million, based on the experience in other jurisdictions. Once our consultant has made a recommendation as to a suitable system, I will then return to the board for approval of the expenditures. I think when I previously appeared before the board I have a propensity to refer to my Scottish heritage. And the figure we're coming in is \$141,659, so I think we've done our homework.

As you can observe from our written submission, we have selected a vendor to design, develop, and implement the registry, and I'm quoting from page 9 of the written presentation and pages thereafter. I said, in accordance with the RFP, pending approval of the board, we intend to negotiate a contract with Engineered Code Consulting, a Regina-based company, for a commercial off-the-shelf system made in Saskatchewan. Application for the registry database: ECC [Engineered Code Consulting Inc.] proposes to partner with another Regina-based company, Amplify Digital Marketing Corporation, and they're going to look after servicing and developing the website.

Their proposed solution leverages Microsoft Dynamics CRM

Online as the database and staff interface while using Adx to create a content-managed website and portal for the public external access to the registry. Both of these software tools are off-the-shelf applications that are easily configured to fit into the business requirements that we want. The advantages of customizing an off-the-shelf application such as Microsoft Dynamics is the ability to leverage the reliability and resources Microsoft offers while owning the licence for the applications. So we will own the licence.

ECC and Amplify have worked together on similar sized projects using the Microsoft software. They have created, and they have done a lot of work in Saskatchewan, they have created similar applications for Crown corporations, government entities, and private enterprise in Saskatchewan. Their proposals meet all our business requirements, and their references were exemplary. We are confident ECC and Amplify can meet the requirements of the project.

[08:45]

When we were making this decision, I had quite a team. I had Paul of course there, and Darcy Hislop from the LAS, and Sandra. Then we had representatives from the Alberta office because their system is not satisfactory and they are looking at a new system. So we had quite a team to make the decision, and particularly with the help of Paul.

Now the heart of our application is a specific financial request, and this is set out in page 11 of our written presentation. And it states as follows; now we're coming to the money aspects of our application. The request we are making today recognizes the fiscal climate of the province — and I think we're all deeply concerned with that — and seeks to find the middle ground in both cost and efficiency. ECC and Amplify have provided a price quote which is lower . . . We had 16 submissions, and they were at the lower end. The total project quote is \$156,095, and that's considerably lower than other jurisdictions who have recently implemented a lobbyist system. And of course, we're not asking for the whole 156,000 this year.

In 2008 Alberta spent 163,000 to license and modify the system Ontario implemented in 1999. Ontario has since totally overhauled that initial system at a current cost of 500,000 and climbing. More recent lobbyist registry developments and modifications of the cost from 250,000, that's just for the city of Ottawa, and the federal system was \$1 million. Although Manitoba only paid 33,000 for a licence for the BC registry system, the total cost to get that system modified for the legislative requirements was 353,000. So we're certainly more than competitive when we're making this request for funding.

We are asking the Board of Internal Economy to approve and authorize a total project fund of \$191,095. That's spread over two fiscal years, the current fiscal and next year. Work completed in the current fiscal year, and that's what we're asking for today, is the sum of \$141,659, and the balance of 49,436 will be required in April to complete the project.

The request for \$141,659 funding is for work that will be completed by March the 31st, 2016. Completion of the registry database, targeted communications, and promotion of the registry for lobbyists and other stakeholders will not occur until

after March the 31st of next year.

The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists will submit a budget request through the regular process for the remainder of the project cost — and I gather that date has been set for late January — plus ongoing operational and administrative costs associated with the implementation of the database. While this amount will be included in the formal budget request next year, it is important that the board understands that the project cannot be completed without confirmation at this point that the balance of the total funding request will be approved in May, next budget.

Now the registry and website development, based on approving the recommendation outlined above, the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists will award and manage the contract to develop the registry database and the website to access the registry. So if the funding is approved, we'll start negotiations immediately with the ECC. And you look at the total money that we're asking for for the project development, that's \$106,659. We'll need some funding for legal services to prepare the contract and do the negotiation with the company.

And so what we say is, based on the recommendations in the communication strategy, the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists will develop the tools and materials needed to promote and educate stakeholders of the registry in the legislation. Although much of the material will be developed prior to March 31st, 2016, the public messaging, face-to-face meetings, and distribution of material will occur primarily next year. This will be after the election. So there's a further small expenditure of \$10,000. So you look at the total, we're asking for \$106,659 for ECC, legal fees of 25,000, communications of 10,000, for a total of \$141,659.

Now as per the RFP, all vendors submitted bids using November the 2nd as a start-up date. The seven- to eight-month project time frame was the minimum amount of time all vendors indicated would be required for the scope of this project, so it's going to take them several months to put the system together.

Using this projected time span, it is anticipated that the registry would be up and running no later than June of 2016, 18 months since the Office of the Registry of Lobbyists was established. Funding received by December the 15th, 2015 allows our office to immediately begin the negotiating process with the selected vendor with the intent that a fully signed contract is in place and we're ready to commence immediately after Christmas.

But I would like to reiterate a point that we made in the written submission: without the funding, we can't go ahead. So it's pretty critical to our operations that the budget's approved. And I appreciate your concerns with your fiscal responsibility in the economic climate, but we think we've really done our homework. And we're really asking for a very small amount, and we're hopeful that the board will approve the funding as requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**The Chair:** — Thank you, Mr. Barclay. Any questions? Mr. Forbes.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Yes. Hi. Yes, I think you have done your



homework, and I appreciate all the work in here. And I may be skating on danger or thin ice when I ask about the legal fees, the \$25,000 for . . .

**Mr. Barclay:** — Well that's a fair question and we've . . . Before we put that amount in, we did talk to other jurisdictions, particularly in Manitoba where they had negotiated the contract. We did talk to Greg Sykes, who is the lawyer at the Ombudsman's office. And prior to his taking that position, he was at SPC [Saskatchewan Power Corporation] and had been at city hall, and he's done a lot of work with tendering and the importance of having a contract drawn. And that's the figure that he thinks is reasonable, and he's dealt with quite a number of law firms dealing with it. Unfortunately, it's not mine. I was a trial lawyer, so it would be a disaster if I drew the contract. So we need some help.

But I appreciate the comments, but I think under all the circumstances and our homework and research that it's reasonable. If we can get somebody to do it for less, then we'll save some money.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you. I appreciate that.

**The Chair:** — Any other questions? If not, I have one. Under your request, you have \$10,000 for communications, and yet you indicated that the communications would not take place until next year.

**Mr. Barclay:** — That's true, and that's a very good question. And I raised it with Sandra the other day, and I'm going to let her answer that.

**Ms. Arberry:** — Thank you. We did hire a communications firm to create a communications strategy for us when we first opened up the office, and they have created a strategy which speaks to things like education and information pamphlets, meetings, presentations, things like that. This money doesn't go totally towards that. It does go towards the creation of those sorts of things which we want to have ready in this fiscal year so that, when the project is launched in June or May, we can just get them out ready for distribution. They'll be ready for distribution.

Part of that 10,000 . . . So she has created a budget for us and the cost of printing and designing the pamphlets and the materials that we want to have available ready for distribution. Part of that cost is also to pay for the website content and the website design. Again she has provided us with a budget based on ongoing market costs, and that is the dollar figure that she arrived at for us.

**The Chair:** — So while these products will not be used until next year, you will take possession of them this year.

**Ms. Arberry:** — That is the plan, yes.

**The Chair:** — Okay, one other comment. You're looking for a further \$49,000 for next year. At this meeting today, we could not confirm that, although we certainly would encourage you to come forward in your budget submissions for '16-17 and include those numbers in there, and that's where that approval process would take place.

**Mr. Barclay:** — We understand that, Mr. Chairman. That's a reasonable comment, and we'll certainly do that for the . . . what is it, January 26 or 27th?

**The Chair:** — Yes.

**Mr. Barclay:** — And it'll be in our budget.

**The Chair:** — Okay, thank you. Any other questions? I do have one last comment though for the commissioner. Do you have a date in mind when your office for the conflict of interest and the lobbyist will be tabling your fiscal quarterly reports?

**Mr. Barclay:** — Mr. Chairman, I have to apologize. We got so involved in our application for the special warrant. We're doing it right now. It'll be in very, very shortly, and my apologies.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much.

**Mr. Barclay:** — We were focusing on our warrant application.

**The Chair:** — We look forward to receiving them, and we'll be debating them at our next meeting.

**Mr. Barclay:** — They're very modest.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Would someone move:

That pursuant to section 24.5(1) of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, additional funding in the amount of \$141,659 for vote 057, Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Registrar of Lobbyists for 2015-16 fiscal year be approved; and,

That pursuant to s.24.5(4) of said Act, the Minister of Finance shall recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that a special warrant be issued in accordance with this recommendation; and further,

That the Minister of Finance is requested to arrange for the amounts recommended to be ordered as special warrant expenses by December 15, 2015.

Would someone care to move that? Mr. Forbes. Seconder? Ms. Eagles. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**Mr. Barclay:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the board.

### Dissolution Guidelines and Manual

**The Chair:** — Okay. Item no. 10, discussion item: amendments to the members' dissolution guidelines 2010-2016 manual. We will be discussing personnel items here, so would someone move we go in camera. Mr. Cheveldayoff, seconded by Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. This committee now moves in camera with the LAS staff to answer questions.

[The board continued in camera from 08:59 until 09:11.]

**The Chair:** — Okay. The meeting of the Board of Internal Economy will resume. I'd like to thank the members for their participation. I would ask that someone move the following motion:

That the board approve the recommendations in the decision item no. 10, amendments to the dissolution manual 2015-16, as presented; and further

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan dissolution guidelines 2015-16 be adopted as amended.

Would someone move that motion, please. Mr. Cheveldayoff. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### Tabling Policies

**The Chair:** — Okay, item no. 11 discussion and decision item, setting the deadline for officers to table with the Board of Internal Economy a copy of their human resource and financial management policies.

This is as a result of the legislation that was passed last spring that all of the officers present, they table their human resource and financial management policies. We're requesting that we set a timeline of June 30th, 2016 for them to prepare and present those policies. And we're further asking them that where the policies of each of the officers deviates from either Public Service Commission or the LAS service that they outline and explain specifically those deviations. The LAS will present their policies for HR [human resources] and financial management to us as well, and then we will look at the variances if the officers are using LAS but may vary them, so that the board is aware of what the statutory officers are doing when it comes to human resource and financial management.

Okay, the motion that I would like to present to you:

That June 30, 2016 is established as the final date for the tabling of copies of the human resource and financial management policies with the Board of Internal Economy pursuant to the provisions of *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2015* and *The Officers of the Legislative Assembly Standardization Amendment Act, 2015*; and

That an explanatory note shall be provided for each policy that differs from the standard human resource and financial management policies of the Government of Saskatchewan with an explanation and rationale for the differences, and if applicable;

That an explanatory note shall be provided for each policy that differs from the approved policies of the Legislative Assembly Service if those policies have been used as a

model; and further

That 10 copies of each policy shall be provided to the Speaker for tabling and distribution to the members of the board and for deposits as part of the Board of Internal Economy records.

[09:15]

So I would ask that someone move this and then we can have discussion if you wish. Mr. McCall.

**Mr. McCall:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Seconder? Mr. Cheveldayoff. Okay. Any discussion on this? David.

**Mr. Forbes:** — I'm just curious whether there's been any conversation with the officers. Is this a doable date for them? And I'm thinking of two in particular, with Elections Saskatchewan and the lobbyist folks because they're tied up in . . .

**The Chair:** — Actually we already have the report from the Chief Electoral Officer.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Oh, okay.

**The Chair:** — But we don't have . . . He hasn't included the variances in there, the explanation of the variances because he wasn't aware of that.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Okay.

**The Chair:** — But we have his policies already.

**Mr. Forbes:** — So it sounds like it's a doable.

**The Chair:** — Yes.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Yes. For sure, and that's all I just was curious about.

**The Chair:** — Yes. Any other questions? If not, all in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

#### Advocate for Children and Youth

**The Chair:** — Okay, item no. 12 is a discussion and decision item. It's a personnel matter, so I would ask that we move . . . Oh, we have to do this first? Okay. Before item no. 12, related to item no. 12, I have a letter here from the Advocate for Children and Youth. And it reads:

Dear Mr. Speaker and members of the Board of Internal Economy,

I hereby resign from the position of Advocate for Children and Youth effective November 30th, 2015.

So to discuss this item, I would move that we move in camera for dealing with this personnel matter. Mr. Cheveldayoff. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour? [The board adjourned at 09:26.]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. This committee now moves in camera.

[The board continued in camera from 09:18 until 09:23.]

**The Chair:** — Okay. I'd like to call the meeting of the Board of Internal Economy back into session. After some discussion, I would ask that the following motion be moved:

That in accordance with section 3(6) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, the Board of Internal Economy accepts the resignation of Mr. Bob Pringle as Advocate for Children and Youth, effective November the 30th, 2015; and

That the board appoints Mr. Bob Pringle to the position of Acting Advocate for Children and Youth pursuant to subsection 5(3) of the said Act; and

That the appointment shall be effective December 1st, 2015 to October 31st, 2016, and the transition from advocate to acting advocate shall not constitute a break in service with respect to existing employment benefits; and further

That remuneration shall remain in accordance with the provisions of *The Officers of the Legislative Assembly Standardization Amendment Act, 2015*.

Would someone move that motion, please. Mr. Reiter. Seconder? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. If there is no other business, I do have one item to remind members of. The budgets for the LAS and the statutory officers before the Board of Internal Economy will be on January 26. I think we're starting at 6:30 a.m. because it's a long meeting. No, I don't think so. No, I think it's actually scheduled for noon, so it will allow you time to drive in.

**A Member:** — We'll send a reminder out.

**The Chair:** — Yes. But put it on your calendars now. Well I just want to remind everyone that we need one cabinet minister, one government backbencher, and one opposition member to have quorum. Okay, if there's no other business, would someone move that we adjourn?

**Mr. McCall:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — Mr. McCall. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. This meeting stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.