



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT



No. 5 — October 4, 2016

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Hon. Corey Tochor, Chair
Saskatoon Eastview

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Mr. David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Hon. Paul Merriman
Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland

Ms. Laura Ross
Regina Rochdale

[The board met at 13:03.]

The Chair: — All right. I call the meeting 5/16 to order. Welcome, new board members: the Hon. Dustin Duncan, the Hon. Paul Merriman, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Laura Ross. And also in attendance, Jeremy Harrison, David Forbes, and Warren McCall.

First thing up is look for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. I'm looking for a mover. Paul Merriman. Seconded? David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Next up is a motion. I'm looking for someone to move the motion that the minutes of meeting 3/16 and 4/16 be approved. Jeremy Harrison, seconded by Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Next seven items. We're going to start with the first one to be tabled, is a letter from the Provincial Auditor re: Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, to be tabled. Next is the tabling of the Advocate for Children and Youth financial and human resource policy manual. Next item to be tabled is the Ombudsman's financial and human resource policy manual. Then to be tabled is the Information and Privacy Commissioner financial and human resource policy manual.

The fifth item to be tabled is the Elections Saskatchewan financial and human resource policy manual. The sixth item is the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and lobby registry financial and human resource policy manual. The seventh item to be tabled is the MLA accountability disclosure report for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2016.

Then the Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2016. And finally, the last item to be tabled is the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2016.

Next are some motions. First motion that I will be looking for . . .

Mr. Forbes: — Were there two minutes that we had to approve?

Ms. Sterling: — Yes.

Mr. Forbes: — Two. Did we approve both of them?

Ms. Sterling: — Yes.

Mr. Forbes: — All in the same motion? We can do . . .

The Chair: — Which motion?

Mr. Forbes: — I'm okay . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, no. I'm just trying to make sure we approved both sets of motions.

Ms. Sterling: — Yes, that was what was in the motion.

Mr. Forbes: — Oh, okay.

The Chair: — Only motions we have . . .

Mr. Forbes: — That's okay. I wasn't . . . I guess typically we do them one at a time.

Ms. Sterling: — We have done them together.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you for the clarification.

The Chair: — Okay. All right. Now we're going to move into motions 8 to 19. I'm looking for someone to move:

That the fourth quarter financial report for the Legislative Assembly Service for 2015-2016 be approved.

I'm looking for a mover. Laura Ross. Seconded? Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

I'm looking for a mover:

That the year-end report on progress 2015-2016 for the Legislative Assembly Service be approved.

Mr. McCall: — So moved.

The Chair: — Warren McCall, seconded by Dustin Duncan. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Looking for a mover for the fourth quarter financial report for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth for 2015-2016 be approved.

Laura Ross, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Looking for a mover for the fourth quarter, the financial report for the Office of the Ombudsman for 2015-2016.

Moved by Laura Ross, seconded by Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Looking for a mover for the fourth quarter financial report for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for 2015-2016 be approved.

Laura Ross moved, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Looking for a mover for the fourth quarter financial report for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the office lobbyist register for the 2015-2016 be approved.

Paul Merriman has moved. Looking for a seconder. Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Next motion for the first quarter financial report for the Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth for 2016-17 be approved.

Moved by Dustin Duncan, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Next motion:

That the first quarter financial report for the Office of the Ombudsman for 2016-2017 be approved.

Laura Ross has moved, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Next motion:

That the first quarter financial report for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for 2016-2017 be approved.

Moved by Jeremy Harrison, seconded by Warren McCall. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Next motion:

That the first quarter financial report for the office of

Elections Saskatchewan for 2016-2017 be approved.

Moved by Laura Ross, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Next motion:

That the first quarter financial report for the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the office of the lobbyist registry for 2016-2017 be approved.

Moved by Laura Ross, seconded by David Forbes. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — All those opposed? Carried.

Next motion:

That the first quarter financial report for the Legislative Assembly Service 2016-2017 be approved.

Moved by Jeremy Harrison, seconded by Laura Ross. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Opposed? Carried.

Now on to discussion and decision items. I'm going to look for someone to move:

That directive 4.1, constituency service expenses, be amended by replacing clause 6(g) with the new clause 6(g) as follows:

(g) training, registration, and tuition fees for the members to be a maximum of \$7,000 in total per financial year. Training, registration, tuition fees of more than \$250 per conference or course must be approved by the Speaker. Tuition fees must be accredited to a Canadian post-secondary educational institution.

A member must seek preapproval by application in writing to the board in exceptional cases that are one or more of the following:

(i) Tuition fees beyond the \$7,000 maximum, individually or in total;

(ii) Training or education in non-accredited programs offered in Canada;

(iii) Tuition fees for education or training provided by accredited non-Canadian post-secondary educational institutions.

Request for pre-approval by the board must include the

rationale as to how the training or education is in support of the member's duties as an MLA.

Moved by Jeremy Harrison, seconded by Warren McCall.
Discussion? All those in favour?

[13:15]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Opposed? Carried.

Next item to be moved:

That directive 4.1, constituency services expenses, be amended by adding the following new clauses after clause (26):

Office accommodation:

(27) A lease entered into by a member for a constituency office is the member's personal responsibility. The Legislative Assembly is not a party to or in any way responsible for a lease entered into by a member for a constituency office and is not liable either directly or vicariously for any cost associated with a lease entered into by a member.

(28) A member may seek reimbursement or seek direct payment for the rental costs of the leased constituency office premises if the lease meets all of the requirements set out in the directive.

(29) A lease for a constituency office:

(a) Must contain the standard MLA escape clause provided by the Legislative Assembly. Escape clauses will only come into effect if an MLA resigns, retires, or if there is a general election or by-election in their constituency; and

(b) Must not contain a provision that allows for subletting of the premises.

(30) New leases or rental agreements entered into after October 4th, 2016 must be filed with the Legislative Assembly and must conform to all of the provisions of this directive.

(31) Notwithstanding the requirements of clause 30, existing leases or rental agreements that were renewed for the twenty-eighth legislature before October 4th, 2016 which contain subletting provisions or do not include an explicit escape clause, continue to be eligible for reimbursement or direct payment under the directives for the costs associated with the lease or rental agreement entered into by the member if the member undertakes, in writing by his signing the standard letter provided by the Legislative Assembly, to not sublet the leased premise or any part of the leased premises while the individual remains a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Copies of existing leases or rental agreements that meet the requirements in this clause must be filed with the

Legislative Assembly.

(32) Members wishing to relocate their constituency office during the term of the lease will be responsible for all moving costs and associated penalties for breaking the lease agreement if they do not want an escape clause in their lease agreement. The Board of Internal Economy will only consider, in exceptional circumstances, allowing a member to pay a penalty for breaking a lease. Such requests must be made to the Board of Internal Economy, and if the Board determines that there is sufficient rationale to allow the member to break the lease agreement, the member will be allowed to claim the costs of the penalty from his/her total allowance. The amount of the provision will be immediately reduced by the same amount. This reduction will remain in effect to the end of the fiscal year or the end of the following year until the entire amount is recovered.

(33) In the event a member resigns, retires, or is defeated at the polls, any penalty amount not fully reimbursed will be the personal responsibility of the member to repay. The payment of these penalties will be reported in the member's annual disclosure statement.

Looking for a mover of said motion.

Ms. Ross: — So moved.

The Chair: — Laura Ross moves. Seconded? Warren McCall.
All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Those opposed? Carried.

Next item, 21, for a mover that the following:

That additional funds in the amount of \$38,000 for vote 055, Information and Privacy Commissioner, for the 2016-2017 fiscal year be approved; and

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Board of Internal Economy, recommends the following to the Minister of Finance:

(1) That the said amount be presented by the Minister of Finance for consideration as a special warrant by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in accordance with 43.4 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; or

(2) That the said amount be presented by the Minister of Finance for consideration by the Legislative Assembly as a supplementary estimate during the fall 2016 sessional period of the first session of the twenty-eighth legislature.

Moved by Paul Merriman, seconded by Warren McCall.
Discussion? All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Opposed? Carried.

Next item. Next item to be discussed is the proposed date for the spring budget meeting of January 24th, 2017 starting at noon. Open that up for discussion.

Mr. Forbes: — I don't think I'm going to be here.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The only kind of . . . We talk about it every year, kind of doing it earlier if possible. I don't know. I haven't gone through the calendar, but I . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You're not here either? I think we're going to have to probably look for another date then if both Mr. Forbes and Ms. Ross aren't here.

The Chair: — If it'll be okay, we'll just . . . to the call of the Chair to find a date that's suitable for everybody.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes.

The Chair: — So look for that discussion between us in the coming days, or once session gets going.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Then I would offer, Mr. Speaker, I mean, just based on past experience that it's been very challenging, and we've never actually been able to have one of these budget meetings pre-Christmas, but we may wish to examine that possibility anyway.

The Chair: — I'm not sure if that would work because we're going to have to get, we would have to get the call out, we would have to put the call out sooner then, if that was the case. And then the calendar year is going to be difficult.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well I would just offer, I mean it does make it challenging in terms of the budgeting process of the executive government when there are timing issues with respect to getting budgets, particularly if we ask for additional information or we ask for additional work to be done on the part of the officers. There have been instances where we've had challenges because of that.

The Chair: — Okay. We'll discuss . . . I'll discuss with individuals about possible other dates.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — If you could, Mr. Speaker, that'd be appreciated.

The Chair: — Okay. Look for a call to adjourn the meeting. Paul Merriman. This meeting is now adjourned.

[The board adjourned at 13:23.]