

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

June 2, 2004

MINUTE NO. 8

3:00 p.m. - Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. Lautermilch in the Chair and Members Hamilton, Huyghebaert, Morin*, Krawetz*, Wakefield* and Yates.

Substituting Members

Ms. Morin for Ms. Higgins

Mr. Krawetz for Mr. Stewart

Mr. Wakefield for Mr. Chisholm

Other Members

Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Stewart

2. The following document was tabled:

ECO 2/25 – Department of Industry and Resources: Response to question raised at the May 19, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated May 28, 2004.

ECO 3/25 – Department of Industry and Resources: Responses to questions raised at the May 19, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 1, 2004.

3. The committee considered Bill No. 37 - The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions.

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister

Ron Styles, Deputy Minister

Len Rog, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue Division

Mal Bruce, Manager, Fuel and Tobacco Taxes, Revenue Programs Branch, Revenue Division

4. The questions being put on Clauses 1 to 3, they were agreed to.
5. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 37 - The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

6. The committee considered Bill No. 1 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions.

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister

Ron Styles, Deputy Minister

Witnesses (continued)

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch, Provincial Comptroller's Division

Lori Taylor, Manager, Financial Management Branch, Provincial Comptroller's Division

7. The questions being put on Clauses 1 to 6, they were agreed to.

8. During consideration of Clause 7, it was moved by Mr. Krawetz:

Amend section 15 of *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*, as being enacted by Clause 7 of the printed Bill by striking out "in accordance with the accounting policies established by the board" and substituting "in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles".

A debate arising and the question being put, it was negatived.

The question being put on clause 7, it was agreed to.

9. During consideration of Clause 8, it was moved by Mr. Krawetz:

Amend section 16 of *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*, as being enacted by Clause 8 of the printed Bill by striking out "in accordance with the accounting policies established by the board" and substituting "in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles".

A debate arising and the question being put, it was negatived.

The question being put on clause 8, it was agreed to.

10. The questions being put on Clauses 9 to 21, they were agreed to.

11. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 1 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

12. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Department of Finance.

The following Department of Finance Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions.

Witnesses

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister

Ron Styles, Deputy Minister

Kirk McGregor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Taxation and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch

Glen Veikle, Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Branch

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Joanne Brockman, Executive Director, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch

Brian Smith, Executive Director, Public Employees Benefits Agency

Bill Van Sickle, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division

13. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Finance.
14. The committee adjourned at 5:03 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Eldon Lautermilch
Committee Chair