

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

June 9, 2004

MINUTE NO. 9

3:00 p.m. - Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. Lautermilch in the Chair and Members Borgerson*, Chisholm, Hagel*, Hart*, Higgins, Stewart, Wakefield* and Yates.

Substituting Members

Mr. Borgerson for Ms. Hamilton

Mr. Hagel for Ms. Higgins (for consideration of Bill No. 15 and the Estimates for the Department of Labour)

Mr. Hart for Mr. Stewart (for consideration of Bill No. 15 and the Estimates for the Department of Labour)

Mr. Wakefield for Mr. Huyghebaert

Other Member

Mr. Merriman

2. The following document was tabled:

ECO 4/25 – Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: Responses to questions raised at the May 19, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 3, 2004.

3. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Saskatchewan Research Council.

The following Saskatchewan Research Council Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister

4. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005 the sum:

For Saskatchewan Research Council \$7,779,000.00

5. The committee considered Bill No. 13 - The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2004.

The following Department of Industry and Resources Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister

Denise Haas, Executive Director, Investment and Corporate Services

John Keeler, Director, Investment Programs

6. The questions being put on Clauses 1 to 17, they were agreed to.

7. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 13 - The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 - without amendment.

8. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Department of Industry and Resources.

The following Department of Industry and Resources Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister

9. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Industry and Resources \$56,551,000.00

Lending and Investing Activities

For Industry and Resources \$7,500,000.00

10. The committee considered Bill No. 15 - The Workers' Compensation Board Pension Implementation Act.

The following Department of Labour Minister and Workers' Compensation Board official appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister

Peter Federko, Chief Executive Officer, Workers' Compensation Board

11. The questions being put on Clauses 1 to 20, they were agreed to.

12. On motion of Mr. Yates:

Ordered, That the committee report Bill No. 15 - The Workers' Compensation Board Pension Implementation Act - without amendment.

13. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Department of Labour.

The following Department of Labour Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister
Bill Craik, Deputy Minister
Jim Nicol, Assistant Deputy Minister
Corinne Bokitch, Executive Director, Status of Women Office
Peter Ferderko, Chief Executive Officer, Workers' Compensation Board
Eric Greene, Executive Director, Labour Standards
Allan Walker, Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety Division
Melanie Baldwin, Registrar, Labour Relations Board
Marg Halifax, Director, Office of the Worker's Advocate
Kevin Kuntz, Manager, Budget and Operations

14. The following documents were tabled:

ECO 5/25 – Department of Labour: Supplementary Information in response to questions raised at the May 26, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 9, 2004, re: Out of Province MRIs – Health Care Expenditures.

ECO 6/25 – Department of Labour: Supplementary Information in response to questions raised at the May 26, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 9, 2004, re: Workers' Compensation Board Overpayments.

ECO 7/25 – Department of Labour: Supplementary Information in response to questions raised at the May 26, 2004 meeting of the committee, dated June 9, 2004, re: WCB Financial Statements Note 4 – Accounts Receivable – Health Districts.

15. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour.
16. The committee adjourned at 5:02 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Eldon Lautermilch
Committee Chair