

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

May 17, 2006

MINUTE NO. 31

3:00 p.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. McCall in the Chair and Members Bjornerud*, Borgerson*, Crofford*, Higgins, Iwanchuk*, Kirsch, Krawetz*, Lautermilch, Stewart and Weekes.

Substituting Members

Mr. Bjornerud for Mr. Kirsch (for consideration of Bill No. 28)

Mr. Borgerson for Ms. Hamilton (from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.)

Hon. Ms. Crofford for Ms. Hamilton (from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Iwanchuk for Hon. Ms. Higgins (from 3:00 p.m. until 3:25 p.m.)

Mr. Krawetz for Mr. Weekes (for consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour)

Other Members

Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Elhard, Mr. Wakefield

2. The following documents were tabled:

ECO 23/25 Department of Industry and Resources: Response to question raised at the April 26, 2006 meeting of the committee re: flare gas projects in southeast Saskatchewan, dated May 10, 2006.

ECO 24/25 Department of Labour: Responses to questions raised at the May 3, 2006 meeting of the committee, dated May 17, 2006, re:

- Report of the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review;
- Inter-jurisdictional comparison of Surviving Spouse Benefits;
- Breakdown of FTEs by division for the Department of Labour.

3. The committee 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. David Forbes, Minister

Hon. Joan Beatty, Minister of Northern Affairs

Bill Craik, Deputy Minister

Jim Nicol, Assistant Deputy Minister

Peter Federko, Chief Executive Officer, Workers' Compensation Board

Gail Kruger, Vice President, Prevention, Finance and Information Technology, Workers' Compensation Board

Melanie Baldwin, Board Registrar, Labour Relations Board

Glennis Bihun, Acting Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety Division

John Boyd, Executive Director, Planning and Policy Division

Doug Forseth, Executive Director, Labour Relations and Mediation Division

Eric Greene, Executive Director, Labour Standards Branch

Nadine Sisk, Acting Executive Director, Status of Women Office

Margaret Halifax, Director, Office of the Worker's Advocate

Kevin Kuntz, Director, Finance and Administration, Department of Labour

Leslie Neilsen, Senior Policy Analyst, Status of Women Office

4. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour.
5. The committee then considered the Estimates for the Fiscal Stabilization Fund and the Lending and Investing Activities of the Department of Finance.

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

Witness

Hon. Andrew Thomson, Minister

6. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Fiscal Stabilization Fund and the Lending and Investing Activities of the Department of Finance.
7. The committee resumed consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour.
8. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Executive Branch of Government

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007 the sum:

For Labour \$15,659,000

9. The committee began consideration of Bill No. 28 - The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005.

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

Witnesses

Hon. Mark Wartman, Minister

Hal Cushon, Assistant Deputy Minister

Rob Kerr, Provincial Veterinarian / Manager, Animal Health Unit

Roy White, Acting Director, Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch

10. The question being put on clauses 1 to 2, they were agreed to.
11. During consideration of clause 3, it was moved by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Strike out clauses 3(c) and (d) of the printed Bill.

The amendment was agreed to.

The question being put on clause 3 as amended, it was agreed to.

12. The question being put on clauses 4 to 6, they were agreed to.

13. During consideration of clause 7, it was moved by Ms. Higgins:

Strike out clause 7 of the printed Bill and substitute the following:

“Section 17 amended

7 The following subsection is added after subsection 17(4):

“(4.1) Clause (4)(a) does not prohibit a veterinary technologist from using the title veterinary technologist””.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

14. The question being put on clauses 8 to 23, they were agreed to.

15. It was moved by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

That the committee report Bill No. 28 - The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005 - with amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

16. The committee resumed consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Finance.

17. On motion of the Hon. Mr. Lautemilch:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance \$151,303,000

For Finance – Servicing the Government Debt (Statutory)

Fiscal Stabilization Fund Transfer

For Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Lending and Investing Activities

For Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)

For SaskEnergy Incorporated (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Finance – Debt Redemption (Statutory)

For Finance – Sinking Fund Payments – Government Share (Statutory)

For Finance – Interest on Gross Debt – Crown Enterprise Share (Statutory)

18. The committee considered the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development.

19. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development\$11,111,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development\$5,650,000

20. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development \$478,000

21. The committee considered the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Saskatchewan Research Council.

22. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Saskatchewan Research Council \$8,446,000

23. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Saskatchewan Research Council \$4,200,000

24. The committee recessed from 4:48 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
25. The committee considered the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Industry and Resources.

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

Witnesses

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister
Bruce Wilson, Deputy Minister
Glen Veikle, Associate Deputy Minister, Resource and Economic Policy
Trevor Dark, Assistant Deputy Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas Division
Debbie Wilkie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Development
Roy Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Saskatchewan
Dale Botting, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership
Gerry Adamson, Vice President, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership
George Patterson, Executive Director, Exploration and Geological Services
Hal Sanders, Executive Director, Corporate and Financial Services
Tony Baumgartner, Manager, Forestry, Strategic Sector Development, Industry Development

26. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Industry and Resources \$87,138,000

27. On motion of the Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Industry and Resources \$2,000,000

28. The committee considered its Fifth Report of the 25th Legislature. It was then moved by Mr. Borgerson:

That the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be adopted.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

29. The committee initiated its first review of regulations by receiving a brief introduction of the process from the Law Clerk.
30. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Bylaw (1977)**.

Concern:

Bylaw may be *ultra vires* the Association's jurisdiction.

The Law Clerk summarized the bylaw and the concern arising there from. The committee directed that the file be closed.

31. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Wildlife Amendment Regulations, 2002**.

Concern:

Lack of precision could lead to difficulty of prosecution.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed the Law Clerk to correspond with the Minister, monitor the regulations for amendments that address the concern and to report back as required.

32. A list was tabled identifying all regulations filed between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003 that were reviewed by the Law Clerk and for which no concern was detected:

ECO 25/25 Office of the Law Clerk: List of 2003 Regulations under the purview of the Economy Committee for which no concern was identified.

33. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Energy-Efficient Household Appliances (Provincial Sales Tax) Remission Regulations**.

Concern #1:

Sub-delegation of authority not authorized by the Act.

Concern #2:

Improper citation of authority to make regulations.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed the Law Clerk to correspond with the Minister.

34. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The New Crops Insurance Program Amendment Regulations, 2003.**

Concern:

Unclear authority to permit the transfer of funds between accounts.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed that the file be closed.

35. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Wildlife Amendment Regulations, 2003.**

Concern:

Unclear wording used in definition.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed that the file be closed.

36. A list was tabled identifying all regulations filed between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004 that were reviewed by the Law Clerk and for which no concern was detected:

ECO 26/25 Office of the Law Clerk: List of 2004 Regulations under the purview of the Economy Committee for which no concern was identified.

37. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Outfitter and Guide Regulations, 2004.**

Concern:

Regulation prohibits review by courts.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. No further action was directed.

38. A list was tabled identifying all regulations filed between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005 that were reviewed by the Law Clerk and for which no concern was detected:

ECO 27/25 Office of the Law Clerk: List of 2005 Regulations under the purview of the Economy Committee for which no concern was identified.

39. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Crown Minerals Transfer Regulations, 2005.**

Concern:

Inconsistent wording in regulations.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed the Law Clerk to correspond with the Minister.

40. The Law Clerk advised the committee regarding concerns he had identified in **The Wild Rice Regulations, 2005**.

Concern:

Unclear identification of “Minister”.

The Law Clerk summarized the regulation and the concern arising there from. The committee directed the Law Clerk to correspond with the Ministers.

41. It was moved by Mr. Stewart:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

42. The committee adjourned at 8:34 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Warren McCall
Committee Chair