

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

MINUTE NO. 43

6:58 p.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. Yates in the Chair and Members Hamilton, Hart*, Higgins, Kirsch, Lautermilch, Sonntag*, and Weekes.

Substituting Members

Mr. Hart for Mr. Stewart

Hon. Mr. Sonntag for Hon. Mr. Lautermilch (for consideration of Estimates for Forestry Secretariat)

Other Members

Ms. Draude

2. The following documents were tabled:

ECO 39/25 Department of Environment: Response to questions raised at the Committee meeting of April 4, 2007 dated April 13, 2007.

ECO 40/25 Department of Labour: Response to questions raised at the Committee meeting of April 18, 2007 dated April 26, 2007.

3. The committee considered a request from the Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister of Government Relations, that the committee undertake an enquiry into the state of internal trade in Saskatchewan.
4. It was moved by Ms. Hamilton:

That at the request of the Hon. Harry Van Mulligen, Minister of Government Relations, dated April 25, 2007, and pursuant to Rule 146(2), the committee enquire into the state of internal trade in Saskatchewan, including trade/investment/labour mobility barriers and the impacts or potential impacts of the Agreement on Internal Trade and the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement.

The question being put on the motion, it was agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

5. The committee considered the Estimates for the Forestry Secretariat.

The following Forestry Secretariat Minister and official appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Eldon Lautermilch, Minister

Kent Campbell, Chief Executive Officer

6. The committee adjourned its consideration of the Estimates for the Forestry Secretariat.
7. The committee recessed from 8:00 p.m. until 8:04 p.m.

8. The committee considered the Estimates for the Department of Labour and the Status of Women.

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

Witnesses

Hon. Joan Beatty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Forbes, Minister of Labour

Bill Craik, Deputy Minister, Labour

Peter Federko, Chief Executive Officer, Workers' Compensation Board

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

Pat Faulconbridge, Executive Director, Status of Women Office

9. The committee recessed from 8:30 p.m. until 8:32 p.m.
10. The committee resumed consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour and the Status of Women.
11. The committee adjourned its consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Labour and the Status of Women.
12. The committee received the report of the Steering Committee which reads as follows:

Your Steering Committee met on Thursday, April 26, 2007, to consider the method of proceeding with this matter and recommends the following:

1. That the Committee meet for the purpose of public hearings according to the following schedule:

Regina:

Monday, June 4, 2007: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 6, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 7, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 8, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Saskatoon:

Monday, June 11, 2007: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 14, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 15, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

In order to accommodate all those who may wish to appear, evening sessions may be scheduled. Preference will be given to individuals who may be unable to appear during the regular business day.

2. That officials from the Department of Government Relations will make the first presentation on June 4, 2007, at which time they will provide an overview of the subject matter.

3. That the Clerk will arrange to have an advertisement placed once in the Saturday editions of each Saskatchewan daily newspaper and once in each Saskatchewan weekly newspaper, with the ad to appear as soon as possible. The advertisement will also be placed on the Saskatchewan Legislative Network and on the Legislative Assembly's website.
4. That the Clerk send notice of the hearings to key stakeholder groups as identified by the Steering Committee. To facilitate this process, a list of stakeholders is to be forward by the Department of Government Relations as soon as possible. Additions to this list may be made to it as each caucus, through their corresponding Steering Committee member, and the Committee Researcher sees fit.
5. That the deadline for witnesses to request an appearance before the Committee is Thursday, May 17, 2007. Those calling to appear after that date may not be guaranteed a time slot.
6. That the deadline for receipt of written submissions via letter, fax, or email is Friday June 8, 2007.
7. That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, be given the authority to schedule witnesses. The amount of time allocated for each witness will be determined once the final list of requests to appear is received. Should the number of requests to appear be greater than the available number of time slots, the Clerk will ask the Steering Committee for direction.
8. That expert witnesses from British Columbia and Alberta involved in the negotiation of the TILMA agreement be invited to appear before the Committee on June 20, 2007. Representatives from the Province of Manitoba are also to be invited. Department of Government Relations officials will also be asked to attend so that the Committee has an opportunity to ask any outstanding questions.
9. That the Committee decline any requests by any witnesses for the reimbursement of travel expenses.
10. Upon the completion of public hearings, the committee will meet for the purpose of report writing as follows:

Wednesday, June 20, 2007: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (including presentation by B.C. and Alberta expert witnesses)
Thursday, June 21, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, June 22, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

and for the purpose of finalizing the committee's report:
Monday, June 25, 2007: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 26, 2007: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon & 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
11. That the Committee Researcher distribute a binder of background material to committee members and substitutions as soon as possible.
12. That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, is authorized to make any other decisions that relate to the logistics of the Committee's hearings as may be necessary.

13. That the Clerk has the authority to begin implementing the decisions made by the Steering Committee immediately.

13. It was moved by Ms. Hamilton:

That the report of the Steering Committee be adopted.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

14. The committee adjourned at 9:33 p.m. until Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Viktor Kaczowski
Committee Clerk

Kevin Yates
Committee Chair