

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

Monday, May 14, 2007

MINUTE NO. 46

3:06 p.m. – Chamber

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

Substituting Members

Mr. Hart for Mr. Kirsch (from 8:00 p.m. – 9:53 p.m. only)

Other Members

Mr. Cheveldayoff

2. The committee considered the Estimates for the Department of Finance.

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

Witnesses

Hon. Andrew Thomson, Minister

Kirk McGregor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Taxation and Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance \$171,812,000

For Finance – Servicing the Government Debt (Statutory)

Fund Transfers

For Fiscal Stabilization Fund

For Saskatchewan Infrastructure Fund

Lending and Investing Activities

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)

4. The committee considered Bill No. 45 – The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act.
5. The following Department of Agriculture and Food Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. Mark Wartman, Minister

6. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 6, they were agreed to.
7. It was moved by Ms. Hamilton:

That the committee report Bill No. 45 – The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

8. The committee considered Bill No. 52 – The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007 / Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune.
9. The following Department of Environment Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. John Nilson, Minister

10. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 6, they were agreed to.
11. It was moved by the Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:

That the committee report Bill No. 52 – The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007 / Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

12. The committee considered Bill No. 53 – The Miscellaneous Environmental Statutes (Inspections and Investigations) Amendment Act, 2007.

13. The following Department of Environment Minister appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witness

Hon. John Nilson, Minister

14. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 5, they were agreed to.

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

That the committee report Bill No. 53 – The Miscellaneous Environmental Statutes (Inspections and Investigations) Amendment Act, 2007 – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

16. The committee considered Bill No. 46 – The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007.

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

Witness

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister

18. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 6, they were agreed to.

19. It was moved by Ms. Hamilton:

That the committee report Bill No. 46 – The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007 – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

20. The committee considered Bill No. 48 – The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007.

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

Witness

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister

22. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 3, they were agreed to.

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

That the committee report Bill No. 48 – The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007 – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

24. The committee considered the Estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Food.

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

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Agriculture and Food \$298,728,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Agriculture and Food \$400,000

26. The committee considered Estimates for the Department of Environment.

27. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Hamilton:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Environment \$202,892,000

28. The committee considered Estimates for the Forestry Secretariat.

29. On motion of Ms. Hamilton:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Forestry Secretariat \$2,000,000

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

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

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development \$12,086,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development \$5,600,000

32. The committee considered Estimates for the Saskatchewan Research Council.

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

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Saskatchewan Research Council..... \$8,992,000

34. The committee recessed from 4:41 p.m. until 7:01 p.m.

35. The committee resumed consideration of the 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

Glen Veikle, Associate Deputy Minister, Resource and Economic Policy

Trevor Dark, Assistant Deputy Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas

George Patterson, Executive Director, Exploration and Geological Services

36. On motion of the Hon. Ms. Hamilton:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Industry and Resources \$77,576,000

37. The committee considered Bill No. 66 – The Occupational Health and Safety (Harassment Prevention) Amendment Act, 2007.

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

Witnesses

Hon. David Forbes, Minister

Bill Craik, Deputy Minister

Glennis Bihun, Acting Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety

Mary Ellen Wellsch, Manager, Legal Policy and Legislative Services

39. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 11, they were agreed to.

40. It was moved by Ms. Hamilton:

That the committee report Bill No. 66 – The Occupational Health and Safety (Harassment Prevention) Amendment Act, 2007 – without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

41. The committee resumed consideration of 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

John Boyd, Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division

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

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2008 the following sum:

Executive Branch of Government

For Labour \$16,816,000

43. The committee considered its Eighth Report

44. It was moved by the Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:

That the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

45. The committee adjourned at 9:53 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Viktor Kaczkowski
Committee Clerk

Kevin Yates
Committee Chair