

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

### MINUTE NO. 7

3:00 p.m. - Room 8

1. **Present:** D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert in the Chair and Members Ron Harper, Jeremy Harrison, Laura Ross, and Nadine Wilson.

#### **Substituting Members**

Denis Allchurch for Warren Michelson

John Nilson (evening only)

Len Taylor for Darcy Furber (for consideration of Highways and Infrastructure Estimates)

Randy Weekes for Laura Ross (from 4:18 p.m. until adjournment)

#### **Other Members**

Pat Atkinson, David Forbes, Deb Higgins, Sandra Morin

2. The committee considered Estimates for the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.

The following Highways and Infrastructure Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

#### Witnesses

Hon. Wayne Elhard, Minister

John Law, Deputy Minister

Terry Schmidt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations

George Stamatinos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Programs

Ted Stobbs, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Support

Tim Kealey, Director, Corporate Support Branch

3. The following document was tabled:

**ECO 2/26 Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure:** Written submission entitled “Kilometres of Repaving.”

4. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.
5. The committee recessed from 5:07 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
6. The committee considered Estimates for the Ministry of Environment.

The following Environment Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

#### Witnesses

Hon. Nancy Heppner, Minister

Liz Quarshie, Deputy Minister

Bob Ruggles, Associate Deputy Minister

Dave Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister

Alan Parkinson, President, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Bob Carles, Vice President, Stewardship Division, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Finance & Administration  
Steve Roberts, Executive Director, Fire Management and Forest Protection  
Doug Johnson, Director, Basin Operations, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Ron Zukowsky, Director, Climate Change Program

7. The Chair made the following statement:

The Chair, traditionally, has exercised great latitude. It is not always possible to judge the relevance of a Member's remarks until he or she has made some progress in or completed his or her remarks.

Nonetheless this latitude is not limitless, as Marleau and Montpetit point out on page 872: "The questioning and discussion at this meeting is generally wide-ranging, although the rule of relevance does apply."

I will state that it is incumbent on the chair to facilitate debate, not to curtail it. It is my intention to continue to exercise the latitude that has been shown in times past; however, if necessary, I may call upon the Member to connect their line of questioning to the Estimates under consideration.

8. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Environment.
9. The committee recessed from 7:19 p.m. until 7:29 p.m.
10. The committee considered Estimates for the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

Witnesses

Hon. Bob Bjornerud, Minister  
Alanna Koch, Deputy Minister  
Dave Boehm, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister  
Stan Benjamin, General Manager, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation  
Laurier Donais, Director, Corporate Services Branch  
Tom Schwartz, Director, Financial Programs Branch

11. The following document was tabled:

**ECO 3/26 Ministry of Agriculture:** Written submission entitled "Subvote AG06 Research and Technology."

12. The committee adjourned consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Agriculture.

13. It was moved by Mr. Harrison:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

14. The committee adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Viktor Kaczowski  
Committee Clerk

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D. F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert  
Committee Chair