

Standing Committee on Human Services

Hansard Verbatim Report

No. 1 – April 6, 2004



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fifth Legislature

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES 2004

Judy Junor, Chair Saskatoon Eastview

Ken Cheveldayoff, Deputy Chair Saskatoon Silver Springs

> Brenda Bakken Weyburn-Big Muddy

Lon Borgerson Saskatchewan Rivers

Hon. Joanne Crofford Regina Rosemont

Glenn Hagel Moose Jaw North

Don Morgan Saskatoon Southeast The committee met at 08:30.

Mr. Putz: — Good morning, members. Welcome to the inaugural . . .

An Hon. Member: — Good morning, Mr. Putz.

Mr. Putz: — Good morning, Mr. Hagel. Welcome to the inaugural meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

As Clerk to the committee, serving today only — Iris Lang in future will be your Clerk — it is my duty to preside over the election of Chair, and the process is as follows. That I'll ask for nominations and at the conclusion of the nominations, then there'll be a motion to elect one of your numbers as Chair of this committee. And then this process then will be replicated with the Chair presiding over the Deputy Chair.

And there's one further item of business that you may want to consider, and that's the creation of a steering committee to help with sorting out your agenda, but the Chair will speak more to that once a Chair is elected.

If I might, there's just a couple of other quick things I'd like to mention before we get on with the election. The purpose of this meeting as outlined in the agenda was to elect a Chair and Deputy Chair. I just want to advise you that we are planning a standing committee orientation for either the 14th or 15th. The notice went out. That depends on the timing and when all of the various committees get started. There's been some question as to whether it should be on the 14th or 15th.

There will also be binders for each of you for each of the specific committees. And there'll be a committee manual outlining various committees' procedures and methods of operation that will help assist you. And we'll go through that in a little more detail in the orientation.

So with that, I'd just like to ask then if I could have a nomination for the position of Chair of the Standing Committee in Human Services. Mr. Cheveldayoff.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Chair, I'd like to nominate Judy Junor as Chair of the Human Services Committee.

Mr. Putz: — Ms. Junor's been nominated. Any further nominations?

No further nominations. Then I'd ask that a motion be moved that Ms. Junor be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I will move that motion.

Mr. Putz: — It has been moved by Mr. Cheveldayoff:

That Ms. Judy Junor be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee, Human Services.

Is the committee ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

Mr. Putz: — All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously. I invite Ms. Junor to take the Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you very much. Now we'll entertain motions for election of the Deputy Chair. Nominations are open.

I will nominate Ken Cheveldayoff. Are there any other nominations? Seeing none, nominations cease, and Ken Cheveldayoff has been elected Deputy Chair.

Mr. Hagel: — Madam Chair, do you want a motion to that effect? I'll move.

The Chair: — Now did we want to discuss appointing a steering committee which is, as Greg said, comprised normally of the Chair and the Deputy Chair to deal with the agenda and priority business, that sort of thing? So we can entertain a motion for that as well.

Mr. Morgan: — I'll move that motion.

The Chair: — Don.

Mr. Hagel: — Madam Chair, on the composition of the steering committee, is there a standard recommended composition that is going to be used throughout all of the committees?

The Chair: — I think Greg was saying the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

Mr. Putz: — And you could have a third member as well.

Mr. Hagel: — The House Services Committee used three, if I recall.

Mr. Putz: — It was . . . (inaudible) . . . it was the Chair being the Speaker and a government and an opposition member.

Mr. Hagel: — Right.

Mr. Putz: — So that's completely at the discretion of the committee.

The Chair: — So we have a motion on the floor to elect Ken Cheveldayoff as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Opposed? Seeing none, Ken is elected as Deputy Chair by majority. Then the other motion is still out there.

Ms. Bakken: — Just a question on the steering committee. What actually is the mandate of the steering committee, or what are their responsibilities?

Mr. Morgan: — Shall meet from time to time as directed by the committee or the call of the Chair. The presence of all members of the subcommittee is necessary to constitute a meeting, that substitutions from the membership be permitted on the steering committee. I presume it is to, yes, establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings.

The Chair: — So do we want a third person?

Mr. Morgan: — I'm quite prepared to leave it to the discretion of the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

Mr. Hagel: — I guess the only time that the third person would ... I would think under normal circumstances the Chair or the Deputy Chair would quite suffice. The only time it wouldn't is if there was a difference of view in which case there would be the ... it would create the inability to make a decision I suppose and therefore perhaps some wisdom in having a third member just so the committee is not ... it doesn't have the potential of becoming stranded.

If the purpose is to set the agenda and you're not able to set an agenda, then you've got a committee that becomes stranded. So therefore procedurally, it would probably be wise to have three.

The Chair: — Ms. Crofford?

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Well I haven't asked his permission, so we'll see what happens here. But myself, because of Glenn's experience as a Speaker and with committees generally and with having been involved in substantive discussion of the new process, I would be comfortable having Glenn because it will be a while before I understand how this whole thing is going to work.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I wouldn't have a problem with that. I think just generally most things should be worked out between the Deputy Chair and the Chair. That's why we're there, and, you know, if it takes a little bit longer to find an agreement between the two of us, so be it. But having Glenn as a resource I think would be beneficial to the committee, so I'd be prepared to support that.

The Chair: — Okay then, all in favour of that, to have the three — the Chair, the Deputy Chair, and Mr. Hagel. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — That's if you invite him.

The Chair: — We will have other things to discuss at our first meeting, such as we are . . . it is at our discretion whether our proceedings are televised. And we also have to discuss things like do we . . . is this formal that we are in suits and jackets, as we are in the House. We need to have that established before we start hearing . . . be having our hearings televised, if we do televise them. So give that some thought. The next time we meet we will want to have that established, how we appear.

So we have voted on this and this has been carried.

Mr. Putz: — You need to put the question.

The Chair: — I thought I did already. Okay I already asked, I think, if that was okay with everybody to have the Chair, Deputy Chair . . . and Vice-Chair and Mr. Hagel, and that was carried.

So a motion to adjourn, we'll entertain. Don Morgan. We will adjourn until the next call.

The committee adjourned at 08:41.