



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-sixth Legislature

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
2007

Mr. Glen Hart, Chair
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Ms. Judy Junor, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Eastview

Mr. Denis Allchurch
Rosthern-Shellbrook

Mr. Cam Broten
Saskatoon Massey Place

Ms. Doreen Eagles
Estevan

Mr. Serge LeClerc
Saskatoon Northwest

Mr. Greg Ottenbreit
Yorkton

[The committee met at 09:31.]

Mr. Kaczowski: — Good morning. I would like to bring this meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Services to order. As committee Clerk to this committee, it is my duty to preside over the election of the Chair, and I will call for nominations for that position now. Ms. Junor.

Ms. Junor: — I nominate Mr. Hart.

Mr. Kaczowski: — Ms. Junor has nominated Mr. Hart for the position of Chair. Any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I would invite one of the members to move a motion:

That Mr. Hart be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Ms. Junor. Ms. Junor has moved:

That Mr. Hart be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? I declare the motion is carried and invite Mr. Hart to take the Chair.

The Chair: — Members, thank you very much for electing me as Chair of the Human Services Committee. We have a number of items on our agenda today that we must deal with. The first thing that we must do is elect a Deputy Chair, and I would entertain nominations. Mr. Allchurch.

Mr. Allchurch: — I nominate Ms. Junor.

The Chair: — Mr. Allchurch nominates Ms. Junor. Are there any other nominations? If not, would someone move:

That Ms. Junor be the Deputy Chair of this committee.

Mr. Allchurch. Mr. Allchurch has moved:

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

All those members agreed? Opposed? Motion is carried.

Our next item of business is we require a motion to appoint a steering committee for this committee. I'd entertain motions to that effect. Ms. Junor.

Ms. Junor: — I move that the Chair and the Vice-Chair comprise the steering committee.

The Chair: — Okay.

Ms. Junor: — I move:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings and that the membership be comprised of the Chair and the Deputy Chair; and further,

That the steering committee shall meet time to time as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair, that the presence of all members of the steering committee is necessary to constitute a meeting, and that substitutions from the membership of the Standing Committee on Human Services be permitted on the steering committee.

The Chair: — Is there any discussion on Ms. Junor's motion? If not, all those in favour of the steering committee consisting of the Chair and the Deputy Chair? Opposed? I declare that motion carried.

We require a motion to authorize the broadcast of committee proceedings. The motion would read:

That pursuant to rule 133(2), that the committee authorize the broadcast of its public proceedings.

Would a member care to move that motion? Mr. Allchurch. Mr. Allchurch has moved the motion to authorize the broadcast of committee proceedings. All those in favour? Opposed? That's carried.

Committee members, we have a number of supplementary estimates that we must deal with this morning. The first supplementary estimate is with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, vote 37. I would ask the minister to come forward with his officials.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Vote 37**

Subvotes (AE02) and (AE08)

The Chair: — Welcome Minister. Would you introduce your officials? And if you have any opening comments, you can make those at this time.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Indeed I'm delighted to introduce Wynne Young, deputy minister within our ministry. And it gives me great pleasure to be here today to address the supplementals.

The Chair: — Do you have an opening statement or any comments, Minister?

Hon. Mr. Norris: — My brief comments will stand.

The Chair: — Okay thank you. Committee members, are there any questions for the minister or his officials? Seeing none, we will proceed. The first vote is vote (AE02) for an amount of \$11,470,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Capital asset acquisition (AE08) for an amount of \$4,800,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Then we have vote 37 for the total of

16,270,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Committee members we need to move a resolution:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sums: Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, a total sum of \$16,270,000.

Do we have a mover for that? Mr. Allchurch. All those in favour? Opposed? That motion is carried. Thank you.

[Vote 37 agreed to.]

Mr. Minister, I believe that concludes our consideration of your supplementary estimates. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Corrections, Public Safety and Policing
Vote 73**

Subvotes (CP01), (CP04), (CP06), (CP10), (CP03), and (CP09)

The Chair: — The next item on the agenda is supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, vote 73.

Welcome, Mr. Minister. Would you care to introduce your officials? And if you have any comments, I'd invite you to make them at this time.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well it gives me great pleasure to introduce my deputy minister, Mr. Terry Coleman. And at the present time, I have no comments.

The Chair: — Committee members, are there any questions for the minister and his officials? Seeing none, we'll move forward with the estimates. Supplementary estimates (CP01) central management and services, the sum of \$813,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Adult corrections (CP04), \$6, 277,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Public safety (CP06) for a sum of \$23,255,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Policing (CP10), \$2,750,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — (CP03) Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, \$1,398,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — (CP09) major capital projects, the sum of \$13,785,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Vote 73 for a total of \$48, 278,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — We will require a motion:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Corrections and Public Safety and Policing, a total of \$48,278,000.

Do we have a mover for that? Mr. LeClerc. All committee members in favour? Opposed? That's carried. Thank you, Minister.

[Vote 73 agreed to.]

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Education
Vote 5**

Subvotes (ED03), (ED08), (ED15), (ED09), and (ED04)

The Chair: — I see the Minister of Health has arrived with his . . . Education, sorry, sorry. Welcome Minister. I invite you to introduce your official. And if you have any opening comments, I would invite you to make them at this time.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Great. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I'm very pleased to be able to come to this meeting today. It's a busy meeting with another meeting underway as well at this time, so we've just taken a little recess. My official sitting on my right is the new deputy minister of Education, Audrey Roadhouse. And seated behind me to the left is Dave Tulloch. And Mr. Tulloch is the director of finance for the ministry.

Mr. Chair, just a quick comment about the request. The additional expenditure required in Education is listed as \$33.705 million, and these funds are divided into a number of categories.

Some of them, some of the areas where the money will be spent are for the pre-K to 12 [pre-kindergarten to grade 12] incremental funding for the teachers' salary and benefits. A contract was signed recently that took effect, I believe, on September 1. And that will be \$8.475 million. The early learning and child care will require an additional \$8.23 million. And the community access program for libraries requires

\$420,000 for additional funding there. The increase in the education property tax credit from 8 per cent to 10 per cent that was committed by the former government requires an additional expenditure of \$11.75 million. And the new contract also described additional expenses required for the extended health care plan, as was signed in the contract, and that is \$5.486 million. So those totals are 33.705, as I indicated.

And of course there are commitments that are referred to as statutory, and those are commitments for the funding of the pension plan, the teachers' pension plan, and that expenditure is \$46.706 million. And that's the statutory requirement. This is a bit of a number that changes, and it's dependent upon the number of teachers that choose to retire in a given year. And this year there were less teachers that chose retirement. And as a result, the estimation that was in the budget is out significantly, and therefore there is an additional \$46.7 million required.

So those are the brief notes or brief comments that I make regarding the amount of money that has to be voted, and the comments on the statutory requirements as well.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister, for those comments. I'd invite ask if the committee members have any questions of the minister and his officials. If not, I guess we're ready to proceed with voting the supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Education.

Pre-K education (ED03) for a sum of \$8,475,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Early learning and child care (ED08) for a sum of \$73,000 and also a sum of \$7,500,000, is that agreed? We have two numbers in that vote.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Provincial Library (ED15) for a sum of \$421,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Education property tax relief (ED09) for a sum of \$11,750,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Teachers' pension and benefits (ED04) for a sum of \$5,486,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Education, vote 5, for a total sum of \$33,705,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I'd ask a committee member to move that the resolution:

Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12

months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Education, \$33,705,000.

Ms. Eagles. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Vote 5 agreed to.]

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister, and we thank you for your comments, and we were pleased to be able to vote these supplementary estimates.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and a thank you to my officials, Ms. Roadhouse and Mr. Tulloch for ensuring that the numbers presented to you are accurate. Thank you.

General Revenue Fund Supplementary Estimates — December Health Vote 32

Subvotes (HE04) and (HE03)

The Chair: — We now have the Minister of Health and his officials. Once everyone is seated, I would ask the Minister of Health to introduce his officials and make any comments that he might have at this time.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will introduce to my right the deputy minister, acting deputy minister of Health, Gren Smith-Windsor. I have other officials, and I guess if they're called on, I'll introduce them at that time.

I just will give you a brief overview of what the money is being allotted for. It's for investment funds from the federal patient wait-time guarantees. Other money will be going towards the health sector recruitment and retention initiatives. And the final area is for training and equipment to increase compliance with new sector occupational health and safety regulations. So that's the ask for the money.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister. Committee members, are there any questions for the Minister and his officials? I see no questions.

So we'll proceed with the vote. Provincial health services (HE04) for a sum of \$4,200,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Regional health services (HE03) for a sum of \$23,936,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Health, vote 32, for a total sum of \$28,136,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Members, I'd invite a member of the committee

to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sums for Health, \$28,136,000.

Is there a member that would like . . . Mr. Broten. Mr. Broten has moved that motion. All those members in favour of the motion? Opposed? That's carried.

[Vote 32 agreed to.]

Thank you, Minister. Committee members, we need to deal with our first report reporting back to the House the work that we have done this morning. I believe the report is being distributed, and you will have it in a couple of seconds. I believe now you all have a copy of the report.

Is there any discussions or comments with regards to the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services, the report that you have now in front of you? There are no questions or comments? Members, a member needs to move the following motion:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Do I have a mover for that motion? Mr. Ottenbreit. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? That motion is carried.

Members, I thank you for your diligent work this morning. I believe we have completed our agenda, and I would entertain . . . The Clerk informs me that we have passed the time, so we do not have time for further business, so I would adjourn this committee meeting this morning. Thank you, members.

[The committee adjourned at 09:52.]