

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**Monday, May 5, 2008**

### **MINUTE NO. 12**

**2:47 p.m. - Room 8**

1. **Present:** Mr. Glen Hart in the Chair and Members Denis Allchurch, Cam Broten, Judy Junor, Serge LeClerc, and Greg Ottenbreit.

#### **Substituted Members:**

Darryl Hickie for Doreen Eagles

Andy Iwanchuk (from 3:45 p.m. until 4:57 p.m.)

Jim Reiter for Greg Ottenbreit (from 2:45 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

**Other Members:** Pat Atkinson, Deb Higgins, Bill Hutchinson, Len Taylor

2. The committee considered Estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

The following Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

#### Witnesses:

Hon. Rob Norris, Minister

Wynne Young, Deputy Minister

Mike Carr, Associate Deputy Minister, Labour, Employee and Employer Services

Raman Visvanathan, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Labour Market Services

Reg Urbanowski, Executive Director, University Services and Adult Learning

Trina Vicq Fallows, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services

Glennis Bihun, Executive Director, Occupational Health and Safety

Glen McRorie, Acting Executive Director, Labour Standards

Doug Forseth, Executive Director, Labour Relations and Mediation

Pat Faulconbridge, Executive Director, Status of Women Office

Mary Ellen Wellsch, Acting Executive Director, Labour Planning and Policy

Erin Brady, Director Strategic Initiatives Unit, Student Financial Assistance

Jan Morgan, Executive Director Career and Employment Services

Tammy Bloor Cavers, Acting Executive Director, Institutions and Programs Branch

3. The committee recessed from 2:53 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.
4. The committee resumed its consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.
5. The committee recessed from 3:54 p.m. until 4:04 p.m.
6. The committee resumed its consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.
7. The committee adjourned its consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

8. The committee recessed from 4:57 p.m. until 6:16 p.m.
9. The committee considered Estimates for the Ministry of Health.

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

Hon. Don McMorris, Minister  
Max Hendricks, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ted Warawa, Executive Director, Finance and Administration Branch  
Dr. Louise Greenberg, Associate Deputy Minister  
Lauren Donnelly, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Brad Havervold, Executive Director, Medical Services Branch  
Carol Chernick-Smith, Director, Capital and Regional Services Branch  
Deb Jordan, Executive Director, Acute and Emergency Services Branch  
Donna Magnusson, Executive Director, Primary Health Services Branch  
Morley Machin, Director, Business Unit, Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch  
Roger Carriere, Executive Director, Community Care Branch  
Ron Knaus, Executive Director, Workforce Planning Branch  
Scott Livingstone, Executive Director, Health Information Solutions Centre  
Kari Harvey, Executive Director, Capital and Regional Services  
Tyson Martin, Master's of Public Administration Intern  
Lauren Black, Assistant to the Deputy Minister

10. The committee recessed from 8:01 p.m. until 8:12 p.m.
11. The committee resumed its consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Health.
12. The committee adjourned its consideration of the Estimates for the Ministry of Health.
13. The committee recessed from 9:40 p.m. until 9:48 p.m.
14. The committee considered Bill No. 34 – The Graduate Retention Program Act.

The following Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Rob Norris, Minister  
Wynne Young, Deputy Minister  
Raman Visvanathan, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Support Services  
Brady Salloum, Executive Director, Student Financial Assistance  
Erin Brady, Director Strategic Initiatives Unit, Student Financial Assistance

16. The question being put on clauses 1 to 8, they were agreed to.

17. During consideration of clause 9, it was moved by Mr. Allchurch:

**Clause 9 of the printed Bill**

Amend Clause 9 of the printed Bill by adding the following subsection after subsection (3):

“(4) Notwithstanding the repeal of *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act*, that Act, as it existed on December 31, 2006, continues to apply to the following extent:

(a) if an individual graduated on or before December 31, 2006 from a program of post-secondary studies that qualifies as an eligible program pursuant to *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act*, and if the individual otherwise qualifies pursuant to that Act, the individual may apply for a tax credit pursuant to that Act for the taxation year in which the individual graduated from the qualifying program;

(b) on receipt of an application mentioned in clause (a), if the minister is satisfied that the individual graduated on or before December 31, 2006 from a program of post-secondary studies that qualifies as an eligible program pursuant to *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act*, and if the minister is satisfied that the individual otherwise qualifies pursuant to that Act, the minister may issue a form to the individual certifying the amount of the tax credit allowed, calculated in accordance with section 4 of *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act*, for the taxation year in which the individual graduated from the qualifying program; and (c) if an individual obtains a form or certificate from the minister pursuant to *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act* to which he or she was not entitled:

(i) section 6 of *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act* continues to apply to the recovery from the individual of the amount of any tax credit that the individual obtains based on the minister’s form or certificate; and

(ii) for the purposes of subclause (i), the interest rate prescribed in the regulations made pursuant to *The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Act* continues to apply”.

The question being put, the amendment was agreed to.

A debate arising, and the question being put on clause 9 as amended, it was agreed to.

18. During consideration of clause 10, it was moved by Mr. Allchurch:

**Clause 10 of the printed Bill**

Strike out Clause 10 of the printed Bill and substitute the following:

**“Coming into force**

**10(1)** Subject to subsection (2), this Act comes into force on assent but is retroactive and is deemed to have been in force on and from January 1, 2008.

(2) Subsection 9(4) of this Act comes into force on assent but is retroactive and is deemed to have been in force on and from January 1, 2007”.

The question being put, the amendment was agreed to.

The question being put on clause 10 as amended, it was agreed to.

19. It was moved by Mr. LeClerc:

That the committee report Bill No. 34 – The Graduate Retention Program Act – as amended.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

20. It was moved by Mr. Hickie:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

21. The committee adjourned at 10:56 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Viktor Kaczkowski  
Committee Clerk

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Glen Hart  
Committee Chair