



Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
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Lloyd Johnson, Chair
Shellbrook-Spiritwood

Buckley Belanger
Athabasca

Bill Boyd
Kindersley

June Draude
Kelvington-Wadena

Jack Langford
Saskatchewan Rivers

Suzanne Murray
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley

Sharon Murrell
Battleford-Cut Knife

Larry Ward
Estevan

Grant Whitmore
Saskatoon Northwest

The Chair: — I have a time some place here that indicates that . . . oh, there it is, okay . . . that June will want to take over the chair here in about 20 minutes for other business. So I want to call the meeting to order. And since we have guests here, I would ask those MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) that are being shadowed to perhaps introduce them to the committee.

Ms. Murrell: — Thank you. With me today is Representative John Dorso. He's a majority leader and he comes from Fargo, North Dakota. Would you please welcome him to Private Members'.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Chair: — And Lindy, if you want to come to a mike.

Mr. Kasperski: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's my pleasure as well to introduce Senator Keith Schraad, who is from Overland Park, Kansas, who is here. And Keith and I just linked up this morning. This is my second day I'd . . . We haven't had a chance to get together too much yet and chat. So this is our first visit of the day and it's just my pleasure to introduce Senator Schraad.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Bill No. 302 — The Fondation Fransaskoise Act, 1998/Loi de 1998 sur la Fondation Fransaskoise

The Chair: — Okay, in continuing my normal manner of running a meeting so that it's very relaxed, I'd like to point out that we are here today to resume consideration of Bill 302, which we didn't complete at the last meeting.

At the last meeting we had heard from witnesses both for and against the Bill. And at that time some members moved that they wanted an opportunity to digest the information that they had received and perhaps to seek other information, and so we put off the completion of the Bill to another day.

So today the committee will be looking at Bill 302, and I open the meeting for questions or direction from the committee members.

Mr. Whitmore: — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I certainly want to express my appreciation for the additional information that was provided to the members after last week; I think to provide a better understanding of Bill 302. And from my standpoint, I think we should move forward and move this legislation on to the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last meeting we listened to arguments by both the ACFC (association culturelle franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan) and the French radio foundation with their reasoning for and against Bill 302. And having the senior representatives from both organizations bring forward their recommendations that a merger would be in the best interests of both organizations as well as in the best interests of the French citizens of Saskatchewan . . . should give the members a clear conscience to pass the Bill quickly.

But I believe Dr. Morin and the other two members who have written with very strong objections should not be dismissed lightly. Mr. Ward said last week that change is not always bad, but I think I should add that change is not always necessary. Just because something is old, I don't think it's necessary it has to be changed.

I couldn't help but wonder why if both organizations had similar if not identical mandates, objectives, and purposes, and if discussions and negotiations had taken place for quite some time, why a compromise hadn't been reached.

Mr. Chair, the administrative body of the foundation decided to go to the legislature in 1975 and ask the elected people of this province to pass a Bill that would protect their special fund for future generations. They're putting their faith in our system of democracy and rights. They're asking that this building and this system preserve the past, protect the history, and embrace their vision for the future. And that is our job to respect the wishes of those people.

I stand to be corrected, Mr. Chair, but when the foundation was created it had the opportunity at that time to merge with the ACFC (association culturelle franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan) but it didn't. In fact one of the founding members said in 1972, he could not see in virtue of what divine or human law would oblige them to hand over the assets of the French language radio to the ACFC.

We have to consider the arguments about the organizational intent of the fund, the question of appropriate notice of the Bill, the independency of the study, and most importantly if it is our duty to make the final decisions to resolve conflicts within organizations that are not directly part of government. And, Mr. Chair, for that reason, I'll not be supporting this Bill.

The Chair: — Okay. At the . . . where we are with the Bill is that we would go, at the present time it would be that we'd move to clause by clause, and either agree or disagree with it, and I'm in the hands of the committee.

Mr. Boyd: — Question.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 16 inclusive agreed to.

Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows:

An Act to incorporate The Foundation Fransaskoise.

Is it agreed? Carried. Okay. We need a motion to adopt the preamble:

Whereas la Fondation de la Radio Francaise en Saskatchewan was incorporated by chapter 6 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1975-76*; and

Whereas La Fondation de la Radio Francaise en Saskatchewan and the Association Culturelle

Franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan have by petition prayed for an Act to incorporate the Fondation Fransaskoise and to transfer the assets of la Fondation de la Radio Francoise en Saskatchewan to the Fondation Fransaskoise and to transfer the assets of the Fonds Fransaskoise of the Association Culturelle Franco-Canadienne de la Saskatchewan to the Fondation Fransaskoise, with the purpose and objectives being to receive, invest and manage funds in order to (bring) offer bursaries and to distribute grants to promote the development of the francophone community in Saskatchewan:

Is there someone that would move the preamble? Jack Langford. Is everyone agreed? It's carried.

Do I have a motion to report the Bill without amendment?

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

Okay, we also need a motion regarding the costs and:

Be it resolved that the fees less the cost of printing be refunded with respect to Bill 302.

Is there someone to move that motion? Sharon. Is it agreed. Carried.

Motion agreed to.

And we are completed the business of this committee. You can have the Chair now, June.

The committee adjourned at 8:50 a.m.