



Legislative Assembly

**MINUTES OF MEETING #3/95
OF THE BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY HELD IN
ROOM 180, THE SPEAKER'S BOARDROOM
AT 4:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1995**

Present:

The Honourable Allan McLean, Chair
The Honourable David Johnson
The Honourable Robert Runciman
The Honourable Noble Villeneuve
Ms Isabel Bassett, MPP
Ms Elinor Caplan, MPP

Absent:

Mr. Dave Cooke, MPP

Secretariat:

Mr. William Ponick, Controller, Secretary
Ms Barbara Bishop, Executive Assistant, Assistant Secretary & Recording Secretary

Legislative Assembly Staff:

Mr. Claude DesRosiers, Clerk of the House
Ms Mary Dickerson, Executive Director, Legislative Library
Ms Barbara Speakman, Executive Director, Assembly Services
Mr. Ajit Deshmukh, Director of Finance
Ms Ellen Schoenberger, Director of Human Resources

Guests:

Mr. Tony Silipo, MPP, Deputy House Leader/NDP
Mr. Terry Mitchell, Assistant Director-Finance, Assembly and Commissions
Ms Judy French, Executive Assistant to the Speaker
Ms Zina Decker, Executive Assistant to the Clerk
Ms Barbara Cowieson, Director of Administration/PC Service Bureau
Mr. Peter Curtis, Executive Director/Liberal Caucus Services
Mr. Richard McLellan, Executive Director, Operations/NDP Caucus
Mr. Mac Penney, Executive Assistant to the Honourable David Johnson
Ms Lisette Leveille, Assistant to the Honourable Noble Villeneuve
Ms Dana Hines, Assistant to Isabel Bassett, MPP

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes of Meeting #2/95

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms Caplan, and agreed, that the Minutes of Meeting #2/95 be approved as circulated.

ITEM 2: Election Impact Costs

Moved by Mr. Silipo, seconded by Ms Caplan, and agreed, that the Office of the Legislative Assembly fund, outside of the caucus allocations, any expenditures due to the notice of termination period and severance payments paid to all Caucus staff terminated between June 9, 1995 and December 31, 1995 as a result of the 1995 general election, which may be required beyond the restated 1995-96 Caucus allocations.

It was further moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Silipo, and agreed, that the statutory election funding to be paid out by the Commission on Election Finances in the amount of \$4,000,000, be approved.

ITEM 3: 1995-96 Forecasts

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms Caplan, and agreed, that the Board of Internal Economy adopt the 1995-96 forecast reporting and underspending of \$3,382,300 as presented, subject to Assembly Services Division expenditures being made available to the Board at the next meeting to be held December 13, 1995, along with a summary of all unfinished projects, and further,

that the Members be informed that they are permitted only two [2] newsletters this fiscal year, which represents a reduction of \$1,000,000, and further,

that Members whose ridings fall within 50 km of Queen's Park, which include the following,

Brampton North
Brampton South
Burlington South
Durham Centre
Durham West
Halton Centre
Halton North
Markham
Mississauga East
Mississauga West
Mississauga North
Mississauga South
Oakville South
Oshawa
York Centre
York-Mackenzie,

not be allowed to claim Toronto accommodation on an annual basis. These Members may use the Toronto accommodation provision, if required, due to special or unusual circumstances only, on an overnight basis.

Discussion of the 1995-96 forecasts and 1996-97 budgets for all Commissions and Agencies was deferred to the next meeting.

ITEM 4: 1996-97 Estimates

Moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms Bassett, and agreed, that the Board direct the Estimates Review Committee to prepare the 1996-97 expenditure estimates of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, including Members Support, to achieve a minimum of 20% reduction relative to the 1995-96 base budget and, that as part of the effort to achieve that reduction, the Board is directing that:

- 1] The newspaper subscription service available to the Members, through the Assembly, be discontinued.
- 2] The plant service available to the Members be discontinued.
- 3] The perquisite of a free briefcase be eliminated.
- 4] The Members Toronto Accommodation benefit be redefined and the boundary be extended to 50km from Queen's Park.
- 5] With the exception of expenditures necessary to protect health and safety, the Assembly renovations budget be eliminated.
- 6] The reduction to the Members' Global Budget, associated with the Social Contract, be made permanent.
- 7] Ice water and bottled water services be eliminated.

The Board further directed the Estimates Review Committee to report back to the Board on savings to be achieved from the following measures:

- A. The creation of a block communication budget for Members which would cap the amount Members could spend on postage, newsletters, translation and video/data base services, with the aim of achieving a 25% reduction in average total spending on these items per Member.
- B. Reform of the Members' travel expenses, including a reduction in the number of free trips annually from the constituencies to Queen's Park, the number of free family trips, the establishment of a requirement that Members log their trips, and the introduction of a graduated mileage scale.
- C. The measures necessary to eliminate any subsidies for services in or through the Assembly, including the dining room and barber shop services.
- D. The conversion of the Broadcast and Recording service and the Committees Branch to sessional services.
- E. Cellphones.
- F. The flag and lapel pin budget be eliminated.

Moved by Ms Caplan, seconded by Mr. Runciman, and agreed, that the A list Expenditure Reduction Proposals for 1996-97, be accepted as submitted, and the B list be referred back to the Estimates Review Committee, with an additional column showing what Legislative change, if any, would be required to implement the change[s].

Discussion of the 1995-96 forecasts and 1996-97 budgets for all Commissions and Agencies was deferred to the next meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 1995 at 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.


Speaker