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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**MINUTES OF MEETING #1/2007
OF THE BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY HELD IN
ROOM 180, THE SPEAKER'S BOARDROOM
AT 4:00 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007**

Present

The Honourable Michael Brown, MPP, Chair
The Honourable Jim Bradley, MPP
The Honourable David Caplan, MPP
Ms Monique Smith, MPP
Mr. Robert Runciman, MPP
Mr. Gilles Bisson, MPP



Secretariat

Ms Deborah Deller, Clerk of the House, BOIE Secretary
Ms Mary Edwards, Assistant Secretary and Recording Secretary

Legislative Assembly Staff

Mr. Todd Decker, Deputy Clerk and Executive Director, Legislative Services
Mr. Dennis Clark, Sergeant-at-Arms and Executive Director, Precinct Properties
Ms Sylvia Nemanic, Executive Director, Administrative Services
Ms Vicki Whitmell, Executive Director, Legislative Library

Guests

Ms Debbie Kemble, Director, Finance & Administration / Liberal Caucus Service Bureau
Ms Barbara Cowieson, Executive Director / PC Members' Services
Ms Val Fogarty, Director of Administration, NDP Caucus
Ms Zina Decker, Administrative Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the Clerk
Mr. Nick Viris, Director, Financial Services
Mr. Brian Brethour, Director, Precinct Properties
Mr. William Wrye, Senior Advisor to Honourable Jim Bradley
Hon. Coulter Osbourne, Integrity Commissioner
Ms Lynn Morrisson, Office of the Integrity Commissioner

Absent

The Honourable Rick Bartolucci, MPP

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

ITEM 1: Minutes of Meeting #3/2006

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bisson and agreed, that the Minutes of Meeting #3/2006 be approved as circulated.

ITEM 2: 2007/2008 Estimates of the Office of the Assembly

MEMBERS' SERVICES

Caucus Support Services Vote 0201-08

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Caucus Support Services be approved in the amended amount of \$11,702,700.

Members' Compensation and Travel Vote 0201-09

Moved by Mr. Runciman, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Members' Compensation and Travel be approved in the amended amount of \$21,791,000.

Members' Office Support Services Vote 0201-10

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Members' Office Support Services be approved in the amended amount of \$35,170,600.

Legislative Internship Program Vote 0201-11

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Caplan, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme be approved in the amount of \$202,000.

Staff to prepare a report for the BOIE on increasing the number of interns available through this program.

ASSEMBLY OFFICES

Office of the Speaker – Vote 0201-01

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Speaker be approved in the amount of \$452,400.

Office of the Clerk Vote 0201-02

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Clerk be approved in the amended amount of \$788,300.

Legislative Services Vote 0201-03

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Legislative Services be approved in the amended amount of \$11,970,400.

Mr. Runciman and Mr. Bisson opposed.

Legislative Library Vote 0201-04

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Legislative Library be approved in the amended amount of \$6,606,800.

Administrative Services Vote 0201-05

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Administrative Services be approved in the amended amount of \$5,718,600.

Sergeant-at-Arms and Precinct Properties Vote 0201-06

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Sergeant-at-Arms and Precinct Properties be approved in the amended amount of \$27,656,400.

Legislative Information Systems Vote 0201-07

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Caplan, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Legislative Information Systems be approved in amended the amount of \$4,029,500. Approval was given for an additional classified complement.

Lieutenant Governor's Suite Vote 0201-12

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Lieutenant Governor's Suite be approved in the amount of \$75,200.

COMMISSIONS

Office of the Environmental Commissioner Vote 0202-01

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Caplan, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Environmental Commissioner be approved in the amended amount of \$2,213,300.

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner Vote 0202-02

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner be approved in the amended amount of \$12,781,500.

Office of the Integrity Commissioner Vote 0202-03

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Integrity Commissioner be approved in the amount of \$1,643,600. Approval was given for an additional 3 classified complement positions.

AGENCIES

Ombudsman Ontario Vote 2301-01

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Ombudsman Ontario be approved in the amended amount of \$9,704,400.

Office of the Chief Election Officer Vote 0501-01

Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Chief Election Officer be approved in the amended amount of \$7,914,900.

Auditor General Vote 2501-01

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Office of the Auditor General be approved in the amount of \$15,307,600. Approval was given for an additional 2 classified complement positions.

Item 3: New Elevator – Centre Block

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed, that a new elevator be installed in the Centre Block from the basement level to the North Wing link level with the release of a tender and award of the construction contract during the fiscal 2007/2008. Construction to commence as soon as possible with the approval of \$420,000 in funding in the 2007/2008 Estimates.

Item 4: Group Benefits Survey of Former MPPs

This item was tabled for discussion and has been deferred to next Board.

Item 5: Funding for Members' Constituency Office Accommodation

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Runciman, and agreed, that effective April 1, 2007 the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) be applied annually against the Total Global Budget excluding the Support Staff Salaries amount. The amount approved for the 2007/2008 Estimates is \$178,300 under Members' Support Services and accordingly, the Members' Global budget is increased by \$1,700 effective April 1, 2007.

Item 6: Shortening of the Waiting Period for Benefits (Basic Life, Health, Dental, Vision & Hearing, Dependent and Supplementary Life)

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Runicman, and agreed, that the waiting period for benefits (basic life, health, dental, vision & hearing, dependent and supplementary life) for Members (MPPs), be eliminated and that coverage start the date of election.

Item 7: Members' Staff Salary Ceilings

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms Smith, and agreed, that on-going funding be approved in the amount of \$1,171,500 under Members' Support Services and accordingly, the Members' Global Budget is increased by \$9,300 effective April 1, 2007.

The funding impact for the April 1, 2008 salary increase will be submitted as part of the 2008/2009 Proposed Estimates for the BOIE's approval.

Item 8: Impact of Bill 173 on the Severance Calculation for MPPs that Leave Office

Moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Runciman, and agreed, that a communication be sent to all Members clearly outlining how severance is determined under Bill 173. Further moved that for the purposes of calculating severance the best consecutive 36 months of pay be used instead of service.

Item 9: Authority to Transfer Funds

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that under the provisions of Section 91 of the Legislative Assembly Act, the Director, Financial Services is authorized to transfer monies from one item of the Estimates of the Office of the Assembly to another item, within the same vote, to facilitate the payment of accounts each fiscal year.

It is understood that itemized accounts within votes would continue to be provided to the Board.

Item 10: Funding Request for the Estimates Election Related Costs for 2007/2008 for the Office of the Assembly.

Moved by Ms Smith, seconded by Mr. Bisson and agreed, that one time funding in the amount of \$5,800,000 be approved in 2007/2008 to fund election related costs for the Office of the Assembly.

Other Business:

Assembly Travel, Accommodation Expense

Moved by Mr. Runciman, seconded by Mr. Bisson, and agreed, that the night accommodation for Assembly Travel be increased to 10 nights per year from 8, effective April 1, 2007.

Caucus Staff Salaries

Moved by Mr. Runciman, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the salary adjustments to the Caucus Staff Salaries be tied to the AMACPEO salary negotiated settlements consistent with the Members' Support Staff Salaries.

Further moved by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Runciman, and agreed, that the salary adjustments approved for the Members' Support Salaries be applied to the funding formula for Caucus Staff Salaries and that funding of \$488,800 be approved effective April 1, 2007. Note: these increases would not be given to NDP caucus staff, as increases are negotiated through their own collective agreement.

The funding impact for the April 1, 2008 salary increase will be submitted as part of the 2008/2009 Proposed Estimates for the BOIE's approval.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Speaker

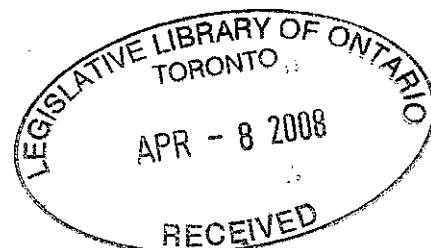


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Moved by Mr. Caplan, seconded by Mr. Bradley, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for the Sergeant-at-Arms and Precinct Properties be approved in the amended amount of \$27,656,400.

A discussion took place concerning the report, A Plan to Renew the Legislative Building, submitted by Precinct Properties. It was agreed, in principal, to carry out the North Wing Masonry and Building Foundation Drainage System Project in the amount of \$20.4M over the next four years. One-time funding for 2007/2008 in the amount of \$1,025,500 for year one was approved as part of Vote 0201-06.

Legislative Information Systems Vote 0201-07

Moved by Mr. Bisson, seconded by Mr. Caplan, and agreed, that the 2007/2008 Estimates for Legislative Information Systems be approved in amended the amount of \$4,029,500. Approval was given for an additional classified complement.

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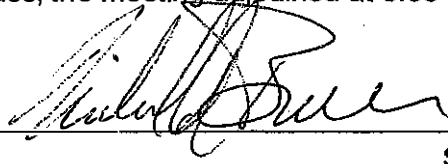
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MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Buer", is written over a horizontal line.

Speaker