



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

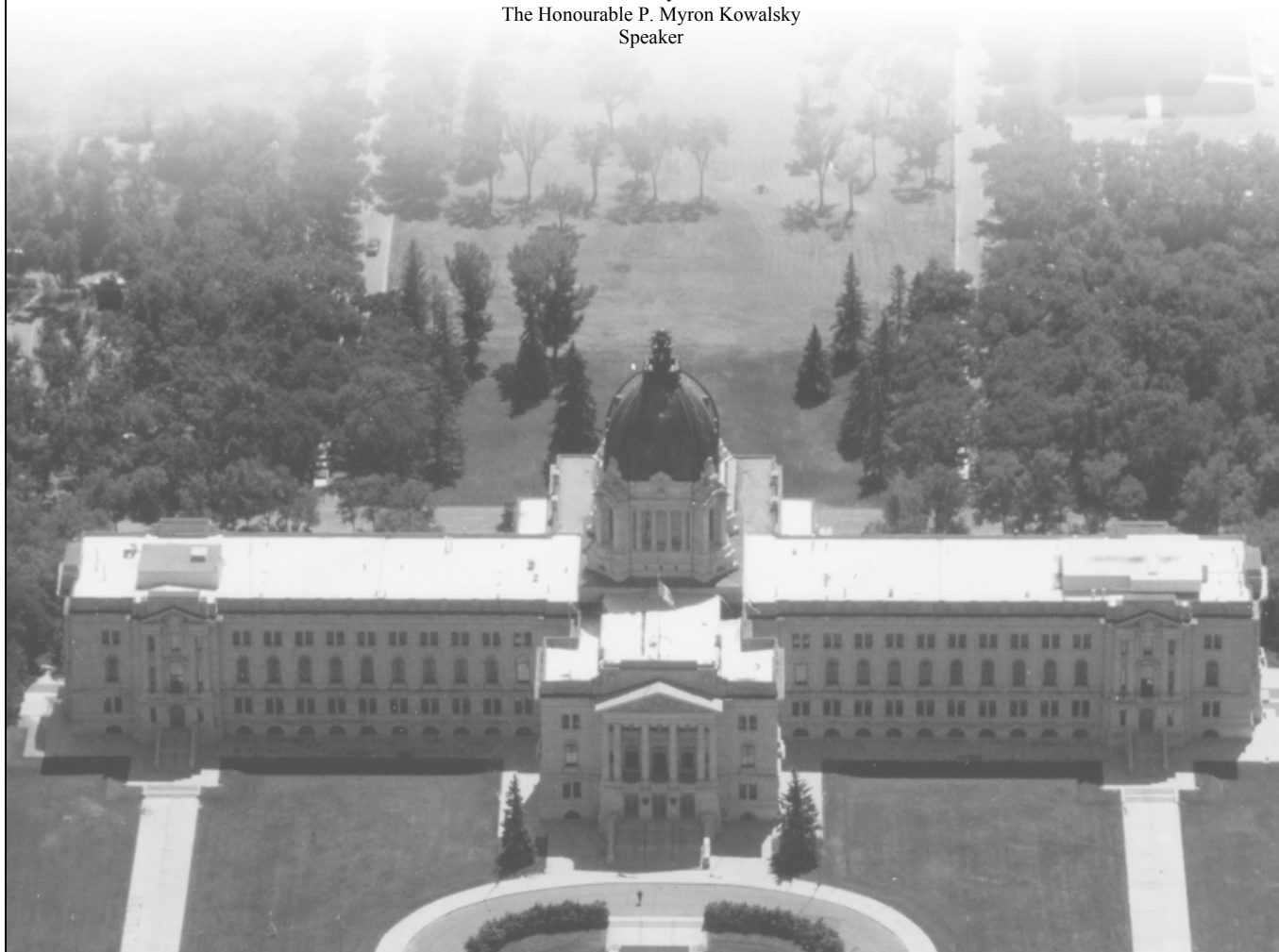
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



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EVENING SITTING
COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund
Learning
Vote 5

Subvote (LR01)

The Deputy Chair: — It being 7 o'clock and the business before the committee is being estimates for Learning. I recognize the member from Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to enter the proceedings and ask questions of the minister. I had a series of questions regarding capital needs and expenditures in SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology].

Last time we spoke in estimates, we talked about the needs at the Kelsey Campus. I believe the estimate at the time was around \$21 million for shop space, shop classes, new lecture theatre, and a new day care facility. I'm just wondering if the minister can let us know on the progress that has been made at Kelsey Campus and the funds that have been attributed from this budget towards Kelsey Campus itself.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — The numbers that the member has identified are the numbers that we have as well. The project is around \$22 million. There is still discussions ongoing about how we would undertake that project, and as such we were not in a position to fund it at this point in the budget.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — So has any money been allocated from this budget specifically towards capital at SIAST for Kelsey?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — No.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Okay, Mr. Minister, well let's talk about . . . I was under the impression that these were fairly serious needs last year, so I was expecting some progress to be made. Palliser Campus, Moose Jaw — I understand there is office, library, audiovisual, recreation, and classroom areas that needed addressing, also occupational health and safety concerns and National Building Code issues at Palliser Campus to the tune of \$4 million. Has any money been allocated from this year's budget towards Palliser Campus?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — SIAST is working through their capital plan, and part of what we will need to determine is what will be funded by government and what will be funded on its own by SIAST. As the member knows, this is a common practice with the universities, and it is a practice that SIAST has expressed interest in.

So we will need to sort through what the capital plan looks like, what the potential borrowing may be, what we would fund through provincial sources. And that set of discussions is still ongoing.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would that

then be the same answer, I guess, for Woodlands Campus in Prince Albert and Wascana Campus in Regina? I understand that the total bill on the capital needs from SIAST — and I obtained this information from talking to administrators at the different campuses — that we're talking about needs in the area of \$35 million here.

So maybe the minister could just expand upon the plans and where this rates in his priority list for capital expenditures within the whole department.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Those numbers sound about the same as what we would have, that the total capital project for the four campuses in terms of their wish list is somewhere around \$35 million. Part of what we're working through with SIAST is a prioritization exercise and then, as I had indicated, some determination as to what needs to come from provincial funds and what portion may be able to be self-financed by SIAST. And that issue has not yet been resolved.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. My understanding is that the SIAST Act calls for a formal five-year review to take place at some point. Could the minister just let me know when that review is due to take place?

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I anticipate that the review will be . . . we'll be in a position to launch the review, including the terms of reference, sometime in the next six weeks or so. We're just working through what the terms of reference would look like. It is also at this point that we are looking at doing the five-year review with the regional colleges, which are also up.

The thinking at this point on my part is that we would probably want to do a complete training sector review and take a look at combining both SIAST and the regional college review in with, possibly also apprenticeship and trade certification into that discussion so we can figure out what the overall training needs are. The only caveat I would put on to a review of that nature, if we go with the sector-wide review, is I would be reluctant for us to open up governance issues specifically in that if it's a sector-wide one.

That's not to say that we wouldn't necessarily welcome governance changes if SIAST wanted to pursue those or the regional colleges, but I wouldn't at this point contemplate putting them into a combined review if we ended up moving in that direction.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, moving towards the University of Saskatchewan and the academic health sciences facility, it's something that we've discussed many times, and I think all members of the House understand the needs and the importance of that facility. Again it's a capital need and have heard very little about it, so could the minister just bring the House up to date?

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Chair, notwithstanding the stated wishes of the opposition to continue with estimates this evening, it appears there's insufficient numbers of the

opposition to constitute a quorum. And therefore I ask that a quorum be called.

The Deputy Chair: — Lock the doors. Could I ask the officials to leave? I would ask the Clerk to do the count for the quorum.

An Hon. Member: — Point of order.

The Deputy Chair: — I'm sorry. We have to proceed with the count. Can we raise your point of order later?

An Hon. Member: — I'd like to raise a point of order before the count, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Chair: — No, I'm sorry. We will go ahead with the count.

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| Van Mulligen | Hamilton | Thomson |
| Elhard | Cheveldayoff | Stewart |
| Eagles | Morgan | Huyghebaert |

Clerk: — Mr. Chairman, including yourself, the count of members in the House is 10 members.

The Deputy Chair: — Unfortunately there being no quorum, the committee may rise and report progress. Open the doors.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of committees.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I would wish to report that there is no quorum.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Deputy Chair of committees has indicated there is no quorum, so please tile the doors. We'll do a quorum call.

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| Van Mulligen | Thomson | Hamilton |
| Iwanchuk | Elhard | Stewart |
| Eagles | Cheveldayoff | Huyghebaert |
| Morgan | | |

Clerk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the number of members in the count is 11, and Ms. Draude came in after the doors were tiled.

The Deputy Speaker: — There being not enough members for a quorum, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 19:13.]

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