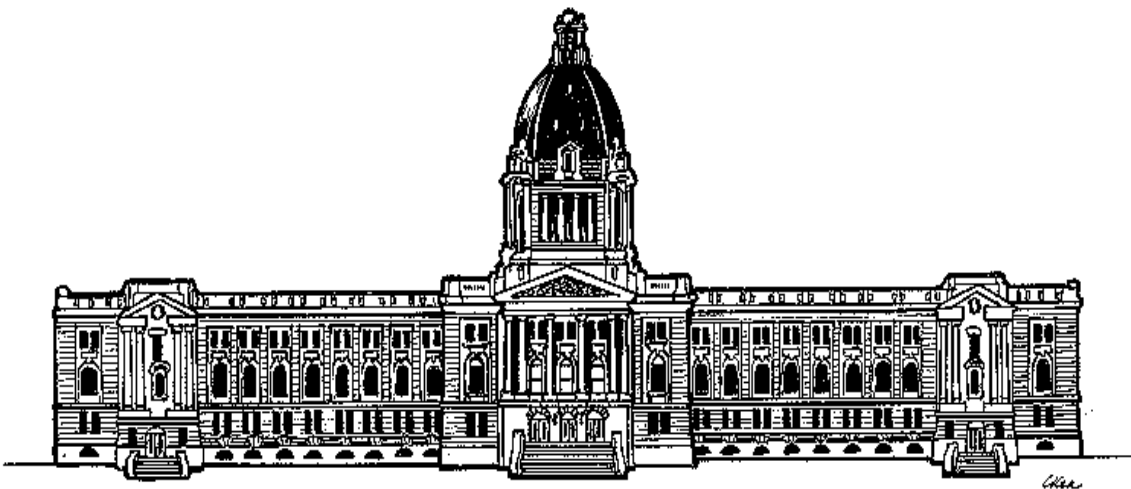




STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Mr. Greg Brkich, Chair
Arm River-Watrous

Ms. Cathy Sproule, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Nutana

Mr. Bob Bjornerud
Melville-Saltcoats

Mr. Darryl Hickie
Prince Albert Carlton

Mr. Gene Makowsky
Regina Dewdney

Mr. Scott Moe
Rosthern-Shellbrook

Mr. Roger Parent
Saskatoon Meewasin

[The committee met at 10:02.]

The Chair: — I want to welcome the members this morning to the Crown and Central Agencies meeting today. Members have a copy of today's agenda. If members are in agreement, we will proceed with the agenda.

We also have three documents to table today: CCA 83/27, the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation annual report and financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2012; also CCA 84/27, Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, SGC Holding Inc. financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2012; CCA 84/27, Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation, responses to questions raised at the March 25th, 2013 meeting of the committee, Innovation Place tenants for the years 2008-2011 inclusive, dated April 17th, 2013.

On today's agenda is the consideration of Saskatchewan Water Corporation 2008, 2009, 2010, and '11 annual reports; and Saskatchewan Water Corporation 2008, '09, '10, and '11 water quality reports; and also Saskatchewan Water Corporation retirement allowance plan.

I will introduce the minister, Mr. Ken Cheveldayoff, and then I will have him introduce his officials. And if Mr. Cheveldayoff has an opening statement, he can make it now before the questioning. Mr. Cheveldayoff.

Saskatchewan Water Corporation

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, committee members. Good morning. I look forward to a fruitful discussion regarding SaskWater this morning. It's my pleasure to introduce officials from SaskWater that are here with me today. Mr. Doug Matthies is the president of SaskWater. Marie Alexander is the vice-president, business development and corporate services. She's to my left in the back. And we have Jeff Mander, who is vice-president, operations and engineering, to my immediate right; and Danny Bollinger, manager, financial services, over to my right in the rear; and also Jason Wall, who is my chief of staff in my office. With that, Mr. Chair, I have a very brief opening statement.

Mr. Chair, this government is very proud of the progress SaskWater has made over the past four years from 2008 to 2011. The company has increased the volume of water it distributes by 65 per cent and gone from a company that lost \$905,000 in 2008 to generating a \$3.5 million surplus in 2011.

SaskWater traces its history back to 1966 when at that time it was known as the Saskatchewan Water Supply Board. One of the key reasons the board was established was to foster economic development in the province, especially in support of potash development within Saskatchewan. That focus on economic growth continues today and potash is still the major customer sector served by the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

During the years 2008 to 2011, SaskWater increased its involvement in the rapidly expanding potash industry in Saskatchewan. In 2009 SaskWater signed a new water supply agreement to support the expanding operations at the Mosaic

Belle Plaine potash mine. Construction of a new non-potable water supply system for that mine was completed and began operation in 2011.

During the years under review, the corporation has also worked very closely with K+S Potash Canada, BHP Billiton, and Vale as those international mining companies began their studies into potential new potash mines in the province.

In addition to growth in its industrial customer base, the proportion of the population served by SaskWater has also grown from an estimated 49,000 individuals in 2008 to an estimated 60,300 in 2011.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening remarks. And both myself and my officials would be pleased to take any questions the members may have for us. Thank you, sir.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister. And I'll just ask the officials, when the very first time if they're asked a question that you can just state your name the once just for Hansard, and then they can follow from thereon in. Questions? Ms. Sproule.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. And thank you, Mr. Minister, and welcome to all the officials that are here this morning. Thank you for taking the time to come and answer questions.

As a new critic and just recently being assigned critic, I will have some very introductory questions today, sort of getting-to-know-you kind of stage. And hopefully I won't, you know, focus on each individual year at this point because there's so many. And so I think it's just a few general questions for today's purposes, and then as we move forward through the committee into the consideration of estimates for last year and this year, I think I will dive into details a little bit more.

So just some general questions today about SaskWater and the role it's filling here in the province. And the first question I had is, of all the citizens of Saskatchewan who use water, how many individual customers would you have, or how many people do you serve?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much to the member for the question. As indicated, our numbers in 2008 were approximately 49,000, and then moving through the period of discussion today, we have the most recent 2011 numbers as 60,300. So a substantial increase in that time, reflecting the growth in the province and the growth in the corporation as well, and the want to serve a need, a broader perspective and to be there to serve those that want our service.

Ms. Sproule: — And of those numbers, are those individuals or homes?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Again, the total number of persons served for 2011 was 60,300. That would entail about 400 customers and, of the 400, 200 individuals as well. So 400 would be the monthly billing, if you like, on a monthly basis. Those include communities as well.

Ms. Sproule: — All right. So the 60,000 then is basically

individuals that may be served through various arrangements.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Correct.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. When I was looking at the opening statements in the annual reports, your vision statement, if I may quote it, “. . . is to be Saskatchewan’s water and wastewater utility of choice.” So I guess my question is, when will you have reached that? Like are you trying to become 100 per cent for all communities in Saskatchewan? Or what’s your goal in terms of being Saskatchewan’s water and waste water utility of choice? Are there targets?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And indeed it is a broad vision and a mission statement for SaskWater to want to serve all that require the service. SaskWater is not a monopoly in the province. Communities, individuals do have a choice that they indeed can make. Many communities though want to outsource what they . . . their needs. And what SaskWater wants to do is to be there for communities, as giving them a choice in the province as well as, you know, responding to the demand. So we feel very comfortable where we’re at now.

We communicate across the province and invite communities to consider the services of SaskWater. And from municipal councillors, cities, towns, villages that I’ve talked to, they’re very appreciative of the fact that they do have that choice. And should they choose to find out more information or have a cost comparison done, we’re quite willing and able to do that.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. Thank you for that answer. I guess I’m just curious about then your marketing. How do you approach that when you go to a community? I mean many . . . well everybody already has their water system in place that is up and running. Do you approach communities that currently manage their own water and say, hey, you know, we’ve got a deal for you. Would you consider SaskWater? Are you actively marketing?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And certainly there are different means on how that interaction starts or takes place. And what we’re finding in the province of course is that communities — cities, towns, villages — have aging infrastructure. And usually when they’re making those forward-looking decisions and analyzing where their infrastructure is at . . . And you know, most recently in the last few years, taking into account the expected growth, it is a question that I would say all communities in the province are looking at from time to time. So that indeed is a trigger for us. It’s the aging infrastructure or the prospects of growth that cause communities to come to us for a discussion.

But we are proactive as well with SaskWater. And certainly going out to trade shows, making a very high and visible presence at conventions like SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] is something that is taken very, very serious. One-on-one meetings are set up and the availability of officials and the minister are offered to individual communities at conventions such as that. So it’s a combination of being proactive and being there when communities call as well.

Ms. Sproule: — I’m just going to follow along that line a little bit more. In terms of marketing the corporation, how many FTEs [full-time equivalent] are doing that work within the corporation, and how much was spent on marketing and promotion in the subject years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011?

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — As far as marketing goes, the individuals that are specifically tasked with marketing within SaskWater from the period of 2008 to 2011, it is between three and four individuals. It varies back and forth, but a small but effective team of three to four individuals are tasked in that regard. The total budget . . . we’re just trying to find the exact numbers, but just to give you a ballpark is less than \$100,000 in each of the years. We can endeavour to give you the exact numbers.

Most of that is travel, for travel purposes. Some of it is conference registration, trade shows, for example, costs associated with those. There’s no specific, though, selling campaign or aggressive advertising campaign. There is some awareness signage in a community. A local rink would have an opportunity for SaskWater to put up a sign or a billboard in the community that they would do that. It’s often with a conservation message or with a message talking about the general services that SaskWater would offer.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that. I don’t need any more detail than that. So that’s a good figure for me to have, or that’s basically what I’m looking for.

So would it be fair to say that the vision to be Saskatchewan’s water and waste water utility of choice is not one that’s being — and I think this is a good thing — it’s not pursued aggressively? It’s one that’s there for the people of Saskatchewan as a choice and you just want them to know that that’s a choice that they have.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And the member is certainly correct that we don’t aggressively pursue. And you know, for reasons that we’ve already touched on, that most communities or all communities have a water supply now and we’re not aggressively wanting them to change for the sake of change or anything like that. But again we are there should they want to have that discussion.

Where we are more proactive is with industrial customers and in ensuring that they understand the services that can be offered and, quite frankly, the cost-effective services for those companies. And that’s why we’re very pleased with the relationships that we’ve been able to build with K+S, with Vale, with Mosaic, and others. So you know, we keep in close contact with the Ministry of Economy, for example, and understand what’s taking place in the province, and then go out and aggressively . . . at least make the introduction with those companies and educate them on what the services are that we could provide. And those have been very fruitful discussions.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, obviously you’ve done some very good work there. And that leads to a couple of questions on the industrial side and in particular with the potash industry. Are there any alternatives to SaskWater to service their needs? Or

would you be essentially the only choice?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks again for the question. It basically boils down to a decision that these companies, potash companies, have had to make over the last 40 years for some of them and, you know, they had to make a decision whether they want to provide their own capital and provide their own service and establish that, but it can be very, very capital-intensive.

But PCS Rocanville, for example, is one where they operate their own. Mosaic, the K1, K2, PCS Patience Lake have all decided over the course of the last 40 years, for whatever reason at that particular time, to establish their own operations. But again they're capital-intensive and I know very recently, or over the recent period of time, companies are making a very conscious decision on how to deploy that capital. And oftentimes if they can enter into an agreement with companies such as SaskWater and use that capital for the other purposes that they may have, that has been what they've wanted to do. So going forward we see the vast majority of those companies giving us strong consideration.

Ms. Sproule: — Obviously you have the engineering capacity as well to deliver in a way that, you know . . . You're familiar with the lay of the land, so I assume you offer more than just the capital, but also the expertise, I would think. That's just a comment.

Did you have additional comments that you want to make at this point?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well just . . . I was going to get into the point that you just made though. The management expertise is something that is of extremely high value, and that's acknowledged. And again that's one of the services that we highlight and provide.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. In terms of your industrial customers then, I would assume potash is one of the largest, if not the largest. Can you give me a breakdown of how much of your industrial services are provided to the potash industry? And then what are your second and third more prevalent industries that use your services?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — The total volume of water that we supply is some 35 million cubic metres, and approximately just under 60 per cent of that goes to the potash industry, about 20 million cubic metres. And the second largest customer base would be fertilizers, and that would be about 3.5 million cubic metres, so it would be about 10 per cent. So the vast majority, with potash; fertilizer, 10 per cent. And then we have several other companies that would be below that level.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that. In terms of fertilizers, could you explain to me why fertilizers would use water.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And there's a couple of main uses. The main one is the cooling process that takes place, and also a second area is in the nitrogen production itself. So they are somewhat water-intensive, but it is part of the natural process.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that. I'm learning as I go here.

Waste water treatment then, I'm interested to see that you have treated, I think in 2011, received and treated 1.1 billion litres of waste water. Can you just give me some detail around that, what waste water that is, and who's asking for that service in general.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much. The member was obviously doing some homework on the weekend. I don't know if that precluded her from taking in the Junos or not, but in fact it is about 1.1 million litres. And waste water is done with the town of Fort Qu'Appelle, the town of Nipawin, the RM [rural municipality] of North Qu'Appelle, the village — I'm sorry I'm going a little fast there — the village of Codette, village of Pierceland, and Bunge Canada. Now I think I mentioned gallons. It's actually litres that . . . 1.1 million cubic metres of water.

Ms. Sproule: — The number I got came from page 2 of the 2011 annual report, and it was 1.1 billion litres so I assume 1 million cubic litres is a billion? Very good. Okay. Again I'm learning.

Is there a good market for waste water? Is that something you're also looking at in expanding your operations where possible? I see it's part of your vision statement as well, or mission statement. I just want to understand the business line on waste water.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. And it is indeed an area of growth and an area where we're getting more contacts from communities around the province regarding waste water. It's a growing area of interest. And I see both sides of it from SaskWater and also from the Water Security Agency side who have many interactions as well.

So the communities that I mentioned in the previous answer are communities where indeed we own the waste water facilities. But very recently we've been approached by several communities to operate their facilities where they would retain the ownership, but we would entertain the operation of it. So there is interest in that. We've not signed anything with those latter communities that I mentioned, but we are working with several of them and that may be an area going forward where we're more involved with.

[10:30]

Ms. Sproule: — I read in your annual report about a new certified operations and maintenance agreement that's with the northern village of Air Ronge that was signed in 2011. Is that the kind of agreement you're talking about when you're talking about operating their facilities?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Yes, exactly. That's exactly what we're talking about.

Ms. Sproule: — I see there's a reference to COMs as part of your business line, so COMs being certified operations and maintenance agreements. Just lost my line of thought here . . . Oh, yes.

Looking back at the numbers you gave me in terms of the

number of people you serve, I was trying to do some math, and let's say there is 1 million people and you're serving 50,000 people. That's about 5 per cent of the population. Is that a fair estimate of the number of people that receive the water services?

And then correspondingly I'd be interested in knowing . . . It looks like your waste water treatment would be a smaller portion of the population in terms of the communities you listed. So would it reach 1 per cent or do you have any figure in terms of how many citizens are receiving waste water treatment services, either through owning the facility or through the maintenance agreements?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. And yes, 60,300 is the number. Our population in Saskatchewan, approximately 1.090 million people. So we'd be in that 5 to 6 per cent range.

As far as waste water goes, the number would be much smaller, you know, probably less than 1 per cent. And that's largely because smaller communities have a lagoon-based system. And indeed it's less intensive to operate, and they've been able to do that for some time. But again this is an area where we may see some growth in the future.

Ms. Sproule: — I note also that some of your work is in relation to regional services. Including transmission, I think, would be part of that. Is there a goal within the corporation to provide more regional-type services for communities that are struggling to maintain their own individual systems?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And I could just point all members to the annual report of 2011. If you look on page 6 and 7, there is indeed a map outlining the regional operations of SaskWater in the province. And they are quite extensive. And you know, certainly when you look into the area like around Saskatoon and Melfort, Wakaw, Humboldt, Buffalo Pound, Regina east, and then other areas again around Saskatoon and Buffalo Pound, there is quite an extensive regional operation.

And these are very cost-effective for the corporation. And you know, the incremental costs of adding on to them are very reasonable. They help us entertain growth and adapt to growth. And I've had an opportunity to see some of these up close and personally, and indeed they're very well-run operations. And two of the waste water plants are a regional perspective as well. So it's something that we're wanting to do more of, and of course we'd be consulting with those around the regional operations to see if indeed they would like to become part of it.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. It certainly seems to be an opportunity for growth where you can have those efficiencies of scale and economies of scale.

I was interested to note that you also signed an agreement recently, a water supply agreement, with One Arrow First Nation. So I was, I'm interested to know how that worked out. I mean, I know the interjurisdictional issues because I used to work for the federal government and dealt with some of the water service issues on First Nations. I think it's a very positive move, and again one where you're well-suited to provide those

services and perhaps more so than the federal government in terms of their capacity to deliver those programs. Is that something again you're actively working on, or were you approached by the First Nation, or is there some . . . what's the story?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And indeed the premise of the question is correct. And this developed out of a partnership with SaskWater and the individual First Nation, One Arrow, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. It has worked very well. It was in close proximity to our Wakaw system and indeed, you know, can serve as a positive model for others. So it was a partnership that has worked very well.

Ms. Sproule: — So in that case the water's been provided from an off . . . You didn't actually construct a facility on the First Nation?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Correct.

Ms. Sproule: — I think that's definitely a positive thing to see and hope to see more of those as we go along because I know First Nations have had no end of difficulties with their water management systems. And I've seen that through my experience with the land management things I've done over the years. So a good thing to see.

I think at this point I would like to turn to page . . . it's page 26, I believe, the financial statements for 2011 in the 2011 annual report. I don't have a lot of questions in relation to this. Where would I find your staff complement? I'm sorry, I don't know where . . . I don't think that's anywhere near page 26, so I'm . . . I guess that's in relation to salaries and benefits.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. The financial statements themselves do not report on the number of FTEs, but I can tell the member that we have approximately 101 FTEs in the 2011 year. And numbers may indicate variance between 100 and 105, but that would be, 101 would be the FTE equivalents in 2011.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. In the, I guess, the makeup of the staff, how many would be administrative? How many would be engineering, technical support?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. A rough breakdown of those FTEs would be, field services would be about 60 per cent; engineering services about 25 per cent; and administration and sales, etc., would be 15 per cent.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much for that. I'm looking back on page 26 now, and I'm just curious about bulk water purchases. If you could explain what those are, and I guess why they're going up? Although I know your demand is going up, so I assume that's the answer to that. But what are the bulk water purchases?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And indeed SaskWater does purchase water from different facilities. Certainly they do purchase water from Saskatoon and Regina and the Buffalo Pound Administration

Board as well. So SaskWater sometimes purchases treated water, sometimes purchases non-treated water and does the treatment themselves, and then passes that on to customers.

So indeed there is an increase in the price of the purchases for bulk water. And that would be a combination of rate increases in some instances and certainly the growth in the volume, the increased volume of water that is needed to satisfy our customers and flow through the pipes operated by SaskWater.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. So I assume a lot of those regional maps that you were referring to earlier, the source of the water then would be these bulk water purchases because it seems they kind of cluster around the urban areas, so Regina, Saskatoon.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Yes, the member is correct. And you know, in referring to page 6 again, the map in the top left-hand corner, the Saskatoon area, that is somewhere where we purchase. In the bottom right-hand corner, the Buffalo Pound area, again an area where we purchase. And the other two quadrants, the Melfort area and the Wakaw-Humboldt area, we provide ourselves. So the member is correct.

Ms. Sproule: — I'm curious to note that you purchase non-potable water. Isn't that easy to get?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And indeed there's only a very small portion that actually has to be purchased, and that's in the Saskatoon southeast non-potable water supply system. The vast majority of the non-potable is just taken and used and then treated for our purposes.

Ms. Sproule: — So who would you purchase that water from in the Saskatoon southeast non-potable water supply system?

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — That purchase price is a fee to cover pumping services, and it's paid to Sask Agriculture.

Ms. Sproule: — And that's the Gardiner dam station?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. The water is pumped out of Lake Diefenbaker on the east side pumping station, and it's pumped into the M1 canal and then on to the SSEWS [Saskatoon south east water supply] canal.

Ms. Sproule: — Now into the . . . What was the second canal you referred to?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — SSEWSS is really the name of the second one. It's an acronym, the Saskatoon southeast water supply system, so it's S-S-E-W-S-S. Not sure what my English teacher would say about that but that's the word.

Ms. Sproule: — Dr. Seuss, right? Lots of S's. Okay, thank you. So the Saskatoon southeast water supply system. Okay, thank you.

Back to the finances. On 26, I note that . . . I just want to look overall at the net income or losses for the years in question. And

if I have it correctly, 2011 there was a profit of 3.5 million; in 2010 about 420,000; looks like 2009 was 454,000; and then a loss of 905,000 in 2008. Is there any explanation for the significant changes in revenues or I guess net income?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. It's a good observation by the member because I know from having previous responsibility back in 2007, 2008, 2009 of being Minister Responsible for SaskWater, it's been a goal of management and of board members to ensure that the corporation moves to profitability, and indeed that has happened.

A large event that happened was the . . . Taking on Mosaic as the single largest customer in 2011 has certainly enhanced the stability of the financial picture and the balance sheet, and also project management services. And you know, just to give members an indication of where we were and where we've come from and where we are today, project management services were about \$50,000 back in the '08-09 period. And today, or in 2011, they're \$4.5 million. So again leveraging on that expertise has helped the corporation and certainly helped the bottom line.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that response. I just would like some comment at this point on a bit of a, I guess, a dichotomy that the corporation faces because, as we know, water is a precious resource and needs to be preserved and conserved as much as possible, and yet in terms of a bottom line, you know, the goal of the company is to sell more water. What is the company's approach for conservation, or is that anything that they feel is part of their mandate? Or is that something more left to the water supply agency . . . Water Security Agency? I'm sorry.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. And indeed the member is correct that it is a balance that has to be struck. We are in the business of selling water, but you know, environmental sustainability is paramount with this corporation, as it is indeed with the entire Government of Saskatchewan.

Specifically on SaskWater, awareness campaigns are undertaken throughout the year as a course of business — advertising campaigns, tips for consumers on how to reduce their water consumption. This is often also done through inserts that are enclosed with the billing operations of the corporation. We find that that's a way to ensure that people are getting the message. We also work closely with companies, and companies understand that it's in their best interest to conserve the amount of water that they use for their purposes. It's better for the environment. It's better for their bottom line. So we use our expertise to work with them to identify those areas. And we also work in more broader perspective as well and you know, trying to for instance use less power wherever possible to lessen power consumption and looking at things from a green aspect is something that we do in all operations within the corporation.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much. Looking a little farther ahead then in terms of, you know, increasing the use of potable and non-potable water and concerns about long-term supply, you know, I'm thinking of our river systems and the potential and the future of them, the ice pack for example in the Rocky

Mountains melting and whether . . . Is there any discussions with the company and your ministry in terms of long-term planning? If use continues to go up and the supply will drop eventually is what we're being told, and I don't know if you would agree with that or not, I'd be interested in reviews on that. What sort of long-term visioning is there in terms of the potential decline in the actual supply?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much. And the member asks a very good question and one certainly that, you know, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Security Agency, SaskWater, we always look towards. And most of this question would be answered through the Water Security Agency. And I know from being minister of that agency as well that that is something that they undertake.

But just to give you, you know, a general answer, it is something that we're aware of, that we consult with other ministries, but the Water Security Agency would have that. And you know, we can have a fuller discussion because at that time I would like to get into the whole operation of Lake Diefenbaker and Buffalo Pound and share some of the things that I've learned since being minister. But if we can defer to that time, if that would be all right, that would probably be better for the purposes of this committee.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes I agree, and thank you for that answer. One final question I have this morning and that's in terms of your workforce. Can you tell me what percentage of your workforce is female and what percentage is Aboriginal?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. As far as Aboriginal employees or those of Aboriginal descent, it's just under 5 per cent. And in the female category it's broken into women in under-represented groups, so that would be in senior management groups and all of that, and that would be 15 per cent. So you know, two areas where there certainly needs to be some work done. The straight male to female comparison would be quite different than that. We don't have those numbers right now. But again these are two areas that are highlighted as areas where we would like to improve upon.

Ms. Sproule: — Well then I certainly would hope that they are improved upon. Thank you.

I do have one final question. On the 2008, I believe, water quality — sorry, what's this called — the water quality report, there was a reference to the town of Gravelbourg and the water treatment plant there, and they weren't meeting the water quality standard for trihalomethanes. And I'm just wondering if the new treatment plant is going to deal with that issue, if that's been taken care of.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Absolutely. That was an area of concern at that time and work was aggressively done to ensure that the new plant would take care of that concern, and I'm told by officials that that certainly is the case. And again that's one of the purposes and certainly one of the top concerns that we have to ensure that that takes place.

Ms. Sproule: — All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's the extent of the questions I wanted to ask this morning. I don't

know if other committee members had questions but I think that's it for me.

The Chair: — Well thank you. Seeing that there are no other questions, I would ask that a member make a motion we conclude consideration of Saskatchewan Water Corporation 2008, '09, '10, and '11 annual reports.

Mr. Parent has made that motion. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Motion carried.

We also need a motion:

That this committee conclude its consideration of Saskatchewan Water Corporation 2008, 2009, '10, '11 water quality report of the Saskatchewan Water . . . of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation retirement allowance plan.

Mr. Moe has so moved. All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Before we conclude, does the minister have any final remarks?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Just very generally to thank all members of the committee and to especially thank the critic for her research and for what I think was a very good exchange and good questions. Thank you very much.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, one final comment. Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for being here this morning and their forthright answers, and I look forward to being here again on the next report.

The Chair: — Seeing that the business is concluded, can I have a member make a motion of adjournment? Mr. Bjornerud has moved that this committee now adjourn until the call of the Chair. Is that motion agreed to?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Thank you, and thanks.

[The committee adjourned at 11:00.]