



# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES**

**Hansard Verbatim Report**

**No. 23 – December 5, 2017**



**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**Twenty-Eighth Legislature**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Ms. Colleen Young, Chair  
Lloydminster

Mr. Ryan Meili, Deputy Chair  
Saskatoon Meewasin

Mr. Fred Bradshaw  
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Ken Cheveldayoff  
Saskatoon Willowgrove

Mr. Kevin Doherty  
Regina Northeast

Mr. Glen Hart  
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Mr. Scott Moe  
Rosthern-Shellbrook

[The committee met at 17:12.]

**The Chair:** — All right. Welcome members to committee: myself as Chair, Colleen Young. Sitting in for Ryan Meili this evening is Warren McCall. We have here committee members Fred Bradshaw; in for Ken Cheveldayoff is Warren Michelson; sitting in for Kevin Doherty is David Buckingham; and sitting in for Scott Moe is Doug Steele.

I wish to advise the committee that pursuant to rule 148(1) the following November supplementary estimates were committed to the committee on November 29th, 2017: vote 154, Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation; vote 176, sinking fund payments — government share. Tonight we will be considering those supplementary estimates.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — November  
Lending and Investing Activities  
Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation  
Vote 154**

**Subvote (SO01)**

**The Chair:** — Mr. Hargrave is here with Mr. Isman. And do you have any opening comments that you would like to make?

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — No, we don't, Madam Chair.

**The Chair:** — I will then open the floor to questions from any committee members. Mr. McCall.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Mr. Minister, Mr. Isman, thank you very much for joining us tonight for the consideration of the supplementary estimates here for consideration. It's not an extensive line of questioning that we have, but part of doing our job of holding the government to account, we'd like to get on the record the reasoning for these dollars under consideration tonight. We also realize they're statutory and as such there will be no vote at the end of the proceedings here. But if the minister or Mr. Isman could describe for the committee the cause for the dollars here under consideration in these two votes.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Isman will provide the answer to that question.

**Mr. Isman:** — Thank you. Good afternoon. We are in the midst of preparing new facilities for the Saskatchewan Research Council for the environmental analytical laboratories, and these are extensive facilities. The total budget on this particular project is \$23.7 million. From the time of when we initiated construction after tendering the general contract was in August of 2016. And we had anticipated that we were actually going to be making progress payments in the approximate amount of \$7 million in 2016-17 and \$16 million in the subsequent year, in the current year that we're in. So that's a total of \$23 million.

As it turned out, based on the actual progress on the project to date, in the year that ended March 31st of 2017 we only expended \$6 million. So we were underspent by \$1 million on the project in the previous fiscal year, but the total project is

still on target as far as the budget is concerned. But there was a need to shift an additional million dollars into 2017-18. Thus the movement from 16 million to 17 million.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you for that, Mr. Isman. Can you describe the facility that's being built, for the committee's edification?

**Mr. Isman:** — Certainly. They are high-end laboratories. There's actually the east end of the Atrium building in Saskatoon, if you're familiar with it, which was constructed as a separate addition in 1997. It was constructed to very high standards for actually high-level laboratories.

We're actually getting that ready for the SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council] for the environmental analytical lab. They need, amongst other things, a private dedicated elevator on the exterior of the building because of the noxious substance of some of the samples that come into the lab. So that's a big portion of what's going on, as well as the fume hoods and the scrubbers and all of the pollution abatement equipment that has to go into the building. And so that's one of the reasons why it's a costly endeavour. It is about 66,000 square feet that we are renovating for them, but it will be top-notch, first-class labs.

**Mr. McCall:** — Is it fully subscribed . . . Are you anticipating full tenancy right off the bat when you open up?

**Mr. Isman:** — One hundred per cent as of April 1st.

**Mr. McCall:** — I think that's about it for questions we might have on this matter. Good to know that it's a matter of shifting between the years in terms of the overall expenditure, but again, I know this is a long way to come for not a very long time. But these things, we want to get the explanation on the record. It's part of our job.

So again, thank you to the minister and to Mr. Isman and to committee members for this consideration.

**The Chair:** — Do you have any further questions on vote 176?

**Mr. McCall:** — I do not.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Vote 154, Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, statutory loans, subvote (SO01) in the amount of \$1,000,000. There is no vote as this is statutory.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — November  
Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments  
Sinking Fund Payments — Government Share  
Vote 176**

**The Chair:** — Vote 176, sinking fund payments — government share, statutory. Sinking fund payments — government share, vote 176 in the amount of \$4,701,000. There is no vote as this is statutory.

Committee members, you have before you a draft of the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. We require a member to move the following motion:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — I will so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Bradshaw so moves. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Seeing that we have no further business this evening, I will also ask a member to move a motion of adjournment.

**Mr. Michelson:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Michelson has moved a motion to adjourn. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. This committee stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.

[The committee adjourned at 17:20.]