



# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY**

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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

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Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, Deputy Chair  
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Mr. Larry Doke  
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Mr. Bill Hutchinson  
Regina South

Ms. Victoria Jurgens  
Prince Albert Northcote

Mr. Delbert Kirsch  
Batoche

Mr. Don Toth  
Moosomin

[The committee met at 15:01.]

**The Chair:** — Good afternoon, committee members. We are back with the Economy Committee considering estimates. All members are present with the exception being Ms. Sproule is substituting for Mr. Wotherspoon this afternoon. We are going to go past our regular time allotment by 20 minutes. So we started at 3 o'clock, just after 3, 3:01. We will go until 5:21, if that's okay with committee members and the minister. That was agreed upon by the House leaders.

**General Revenue Fund  
Economy  
Vote 23**

**Subvote (EC01)**

**The Chair:** — So we are here, as I mentioned, considering estimates for vote 23, Economy, central management and services, subvote (EC01); and vote 174, Economy, loans under *The Economic And Co-operative Development Act*, (EC01). I would invite the minister if he has any introductions he would like to make and any opening comments for this afternoon's proceedings.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Great. Well thank you very much, Mr. Chair. And thank you to committee members for being here today. I will introduce my officials. Firstly I have on my left Mr. Laurie Pushor, our deputy minister of the Economy; on my right, Mary Taylor-Ash who's our CEO [chief executive officer] of Tourism Saskatchewan. Behind me I have Alastair MacFadden, my assistant deputy minister in the Ministry of the Economy; Denise Haas, our chief financial officer, revenue and corporate services; Mr. Kirk Westgard, our exec director for immigration services branch at the Ministry of the Economy; Ms. Jan Kot, exec director, labour market services; Mr. Darcy Smycniuk, exec director, apprenticeship and workforce skills.

And as I mentioned, Mary Taylor-Ash from Tourism, and Veronica Gelowitz from Tourism Saskatchewan as well, exec director and chief financial officer. Mr. Jeff Ritter is here as well, who's the chief executive officer of Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.

If the committee would indulge a few minutes, I do have some opening remarks. Mr. Chair, the Saskatchewan of today is not the Saskatchewan of just a few years ago. For many years our youth and young families left for greener pastures in other provinces. We struggled to maintain a steady population. Business investment and growth in Saskatchewan were not used in the same sentence. Our resource economy was flat and career opportunities were not easy to find.

But that's not today's Saskatchewan. I'm pleased to be here today to talk about that. Since 2007 Saskatchewan has experienced positive change unlike any other time in our history. As of January 2015, Saskatchewan's population is at its highest level in our history, over 1.1 million people. Tens of thousands of people are moving here from across the country and around the world because they feel their futures are bright in our province.

We have the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for 26 of the past 27 months. Saskatchewan people's wages are amongst the highest in Canada and amongst the fastest growing. We are seeing a strong performance in key sectors of the economy. In 2014 we had our highest-ever annual manufacturing sales value recorded, \$16.5 billion.

Saskatchewan is leading the country in wholesale trade growth. In February 2015, wholesale trade was up 25.9 per cent from one year earlier, to 2.5 billion. And for the first time ever, in 2014 Saskatchewan's merchandise exports to countries other than the United States surpassed Alberta and set an all-time export record at \$35.1 billion.

We're proud to say Saskatchewan's economy is diverse and strong. Our government is going to capitalize on these strengths and ensure that we continue to move forward in a balanced and responsible way that benefits everyone. The Ministry of the Economy is focused on two core concepts: generating steady economic growth and sustainability and meeting the challenges that accompany this growth. The ministry's key tasks include encouraging continued prosperity across sectors and industries, attracting investment at every level of our communities, and helping to create and sustain the best possible environment for people to build careers, lives, and a home here in Saskatchewan.

The 2015-16 budget is focused on keeping Saskatchewan strong. Our government will accomplish this by keeping taxes low, helping to create jobs and opportunities within the economy by investing in people, focusing a significant part of that investment on training, all within a balanced budget.

We all know that growth comes with challenges. Those challenges include a tight and competitive labour market. Our government is addressing the need to grow a vibrant workforce through deliberate investments in Saskatchewan people and through collaboration with employers and industry.

The Ministry of the Economy's operating budget for '15-16 totals \$271.5 million. Within this budget our government is allocating \$173 million to skills training and development and attraction and retention of a skilled and productive workforce to meet the needs of a growing and innovative economy. Our government is committed to addressing labour needs and developing a skilled workforce through a strong collaboration with our CBO [community-based organization] sector. This work is helping to improve the employment rate for under-represented groups in our province. In 2014 our province had the highest employment rates in Canada for youth, persons with disabilities, and new permanent residents.

To do even better, our government is actively involved in partnership activities, including projects with First Nations and northern communities, as well as development of Saskatchewan's poverty reduction strategy and disability strategy, all with an aim to ensure that everyone in our province who has the capacity to work also has the skills and opportunity to work.

With respect to available jobs, our saskjobs.ca website receives more than 1 million hits per month from both inside and outside the province. Currently there are more than 10,500 job

vacancies posted. To help employers compete for workers and help workers compete for jobs, our government is taking deliberate steps to strengthen the relationship between employers and training providers to better prepare people for jobs.

Our labour market strategy is threefold. First and foremost, we will train and provide strategies and services for Saskatchewan people to find meaningful employment. Second, we will recruit workers from across Canada who recognize the many opportunities here. And third, we encourage immigration of skilled workers from outside of Canada who also want to be a part of our success story.

Our government is investing an additional \$1 million to create 300 new apprenticeship training seats through the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission. This investment brings total capacity to 7,000 seats, up 84 per cent since 2007-2008.

Our government is increasing our investment in adult basic education to 25.6 million, up 600,000 this year, so that 200 more ABE [adult basic education] seats can be created, increasing capacity by 49 per cent from '07-08. Our government is supporting individuals in apprenticeship and other training programs through a \$500,000 increase to the apprenticeship training allowance and a \$924,000 increase to the provincial training allowance. Our government has provided support for 100 new training seats at the new Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland College in Yorkton, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015.

In 2015-16 our government will invest \$30.8 million in labour market supports for essential skills training and employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in the province. This is an increase of just over \$1 million from last year's budget and provides support for programs and partnerships with training institutions and CBOs to increase Aboriginal participation and success in the labour market.

Our government will invest an additional \$2 million this year, bringing the total to \$4 million in the Canada-Saskatchewan job grant. This is a major initiative that links training providers and employers together to upskill unemployed and underemployed Canadians for available jobs and helps address skill mismatches between the labour force and job opportunities.

I'm also pleased to announce that we've entered into bilateral negotiations with the Government of Canada with an eye to the renewal of the Labour Market Development Agreement, and that just recently happened.

Our government has also increased our investment in the employment assistance program for persons with disabilities by \$200,000 to address disability-related obstacles to education and employment.

Finally, in the third stream of our labour market strategy for the province, we're pleased to note that Saskatchewan will nominate a record 5,500 immigrants under the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program this year. This includes 775 nominees that will come through a new provincial subcategory, linked with the federal express entry system announced in

January 2015.

Saskatchewan's population is growing and changing, and central to that growth is immigration. The newcomers we welcome to our province provide us with enhanced cultural learning and the chance to share and grow our prosperity. There are many businesses in Saskatchewan today that would not have experienced the growth they have without the benefit of skilled workers coming through this very important immigration stream.

As you can see, our government is making targeted investments that will benefit people, which in turn will help keep our economy strong.

Mr. Chair, this brings me to Tourism Saskatchewan and I understand, Ms. Sproule, you'll have some questions on that. Tourism Saskatchewan is tasked with supporting activities that promote the province as a tourism destination. As outlined in the plan for growth, tourism leads activities that promote Saskatchewan, has developed a new creative platform, a new provincial hosting strategy, and is working to strengthen tourism opportunities.

Within the ministry's allocation, the 2015-16 budget for tourism totals \$14.44 million. 2015-16 will see Tourism move forward with a fresh new marketing direction, and I think members have most likely seen the new television ads that Tourism launched in the last week and which we unveiled at the host conference last week.

I'd just like to actually acknowledge the great work that Mary has done on that advertising campaign. For members that don't know Mary's background, she came to us via Newfoundland and Labrador, and she had been very, very involved as a senior official with the Newfoundland and Labrador ad campaign, which I think we've all seen and appreciate.

Our government's very excited to see how this campaign will transform perceptions of Saskatchewan and how it will help to grow tourism in our province. This concludes my opening remarks, and I look forward to questions from committee members.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much, Minister Harrison. We'll turn over to the committee members, if there are any questions for the officials. I recognize Ms. Sproule.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. And thank you for those comments, Mr. Minister, and a big welcome as well from us to Mary. Thank you for all the work you've done so far, and we're looking forward to exciting things from Tourism Saskatchewan.

In terms of the estimates for Tourism, I just took a look at the last few years, and the amount that is being allocated this year is certainly quite a bit lower than previous years. And I'm just thinking that might be a good place for us to start today, if the minister could provide some information to the committee on that.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Okay. Yes. Thanks for that question, Ms. Sproule. The reduction was the result exclusively of a

reduction in funding because of the North American Indigenous Games which obviously have been concluded, and the *Corner Gas* movie which . . . We often in Tourism do unique funding for particular events, whether that be the North American Indigenous Games or other events. Tourism often will provide funding for those marquee events.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thanks very much. Could you provide for the committee the . . . I know we talked about it last year for the North American Indigenous Games. That was a planned spend for I think three years. So how much was spent last year on that?

And then of course, the *Corner Gas* movie was not part of our discussions at all last year, was a bit of a surprise to everyone that Tourism engaged in this particular project. So could you share with the committee the exact amount that was spent on the movie.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll actually turn it over to Mary for details.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — In terms of both events, the North American Indigenous Games will cost us about 2.95 and that was paid out over three years. And *Corner Gas*, we still have and the commitment was 1.1 million — one and a half million, sorry — but we still haven't received all the final numbers on that. It certainly won't go over that but it could be slightly less.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Again the minister of last year . . . We had a different minister here, and he didn't mention any sort of advance planning on that. So could you inform the committee when the decision was made to finance that movie, and how they came to the decision that 1.5 million was an appropriate figure for this type of one-off.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. In terms of the details, I can't speak to, you know, the previous minister with regard to that. What I can tell you is that the \$1.5 million came through our special tourism projects funding stream, which provides financial support to projects with the potential to create a tourism impact, and obviously we felt that this was a worthy project for that funding stream. But maybe, Mary, you can add a bit.

[15:15]

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — We did. In December 2013 we launched a new event strategy, and as part of that, it has a number of layers, a number of categories, but we did have this category, as the minister has mentioned, a special tourism projects category. And that enabled us to . . . these kinds of one-offs that really, they're much larger kinds of things that have more national appeal or possibly international appeal.

The people who are responsible for *Corner Gas: The Movie* did apply under that. That's an application process, and it was adjudicated as any other application would be adjudicated. The fact that *Corner Gas* is an extremely, one of the most successful television franchises in Canada was certainly an important determining factor for being involved in the movie.

**Ms. Sproule:** — When you say it was adjudicated, what sort of

process does Tourism Saskatchewan go through to adjudicate? Like who was on the jury, and how many other projects were in consideration at the time?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — The adjudication committee is an internal committee of Tourism Saskatchewan, so we have people from our marketing division, people from events that kind of . . . It is just an internal group. We did fund a couple of projects, film projects under this special projects category, but it wasn't that we had a number of projects all apply at that time. So it wasn't adjudicated against; it was adjudicated on its own merit as opposed to against other projects.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much. So in terms of the last fiscal year which would be '14-15, were there other special . . . I'm just interested in this category specifically. What other special tourism projects were offered funding? And then if you could tell us what's on the agenda for this year coming up, '15-16?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — The other projects, we did fund another film project called *Fish Camp*, which is a reality show featuring an outfitting camp in northern Saskatchewan. I think it's called *Fish Camp*, beyond the pavement if anybody has seen that. We provided 300,000 for that, 100,000 each year. We have also provided some funding to Ness Creek, and that would be 150,000, again 50,000 over three years. And those are the only projects we have currently funded.

There are other intakes. We have three intakes a year on projects, so we may have other applications. They just haven't been adjudicated and awarded yet.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much for that. Just taking notes here. One question I want to ask before my short time runs out is, in most annual reports, we receive a list of payees over \$50,000. I don't see that in your annual report, and I'm wondering if you could provide that for the committee.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. Thanks. That document is tabled in the Assembly with the annual report.

**Ms. Sproule:** — In that case, I'm looking at public accounts from '13-14. It's tabled with the annual report in the Assembly? Because it's not in the annual report.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — All right. It's tabled in the Assembly with the annual report, but it's not in the public accounts.

**Ms. Sproule:** — It wasn't provided. It's not on your website, and I guess I could go to the Journals to find that document, but I was just wondering if you could share with the committee today those payees and perhaps we could get a copy made, if that's possible.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Absolutely. We've tracked it down, and we will provide a copy. There's some notes on this one. I'm not sure if these are confidential or not, but we'll make sure that you get a copy here.

**Ms. Sproule:** — All right. If you could do that, that'd be great. I'll just keep asking questions on a couple other things.

In terms of public accounts, I noticed that in previous years when this was under the vote (TC13), there was a list of the allocation to Tourism Saskatchewan and then a description of tourism initiatives and the amounts of money that were provided. So that was, I'm looking at '10-11, '11-12, and in '12-13. But in '13-14, which is the most recent Public Accounts, on page 65, there's only the provision for the one amount to Tourism Saskatchewan. Can you explain why those other amounts are not being included?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — All right. So the advice to me is that it was because of the change in status from going from a special operating agency to a Crown, that as a Crown it's collected in a single line item.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Okay. So in the past, I think some of the things that were there were certain amounts to various events, special events. And so if I understand correctly, those would now be found then in the annual report of Tourism Saskatchewan. Okay. I just wanted to clarify that for the committee.

Last year in committee we talked with the minister. He was talking about the new tourism identity project. Could you bring us up to speed on what's happened there?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. I think you've seen some of the results already with the television ads, but Mary can maybe speak to that in a bit more detail.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — In 2013 we started research to look at how we could develop a new creative platform. I think our team felt very much that we needed, in order to get noticed in the marketplace or in order to grow, we had to make some changes. We did some significant research in terms of focus groups in our key markets, and our key markets are Saskatchewan, Alberta as the two key markets that we have. With that we determined a new sort of foundation to build our advertising and marketing efforts on.

We just launched that just a few weeks ago, and some of you no doubt would have seen it. We're doing advertising. Most of our advertising is being done via television in Alberta, but we are doing some advertising in Saskatchewan as well, and there's a little bit of an overlap. And we're also doing quite a bit of online activity as well. So far things have gone quite well, and we've had quite a good response in terms of what we're doing, pushing it out online, and the reaction to it.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. And I would add to that as well. We're going to be doing some additional work in the United States and targeted advertising into certain areas of the United States to attract new visitors to the province, and outfitter hunters and fishers and others.

Also I had a very positive discussion with Minister Bernier, federal Minister Bernier only a couple of days ago. We had talked about working together closely with the Canadian Tourism Commission and Tourism Saskatchewan in terms of additional outreach into the US [United States] market. And there was additional federal funding allocated in this budget for additional outreach into the US.

**Ms. Sproule:** — I was talking to a tourism operator today and said, what would you ask the minister if you were here today? And he said, basically, given the US dollar is where it is, what sort of additional efforts — I know you just outlined one that you've initiated — what additional efforts are you making this year in terms of tapping into the US market?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well like I said, we're going to be working closely with the Government of Canada and the Canadian Tourism Commission on additional outreach. Our US market activities, you know, we're going to be having a presence at a number of the important consumer shows largely around fishing and hunting, in the United States. We have media marketplaces and events. I have a list here. I can list them off. I won't bore you with all of it, but we're doing significant advertising, and it is targeted. It is targeted largely around hunting and fishing, which is near and dear to my heart as well.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Certainly. You're from Meadow Lake. I understand that. I was just looking at the schedule of expenses under your last two annual reports, and I think it's in '12-13 you spent on advertising it looks like about 2.6 million, and this year it's up to . . . or last year was 3.17. That was an increase of half a million dollars. I'm just wondering if that's a trend that you see continuing. Are you going to continue to spend more on advertising, and are you certainly advocating to the minister that that's a good place to spend more money? Or I'm not sure how the plea goes out to the minister, but what are you looking at this year for advertising?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Sometimes our budget will change a bit year over year. Actually it's quite interesting what's happening in advertising now, and sometimes you don't have to spend as much to get as much reach, and that's because of online. It's just so popular. In terms of one of our new ads, well both our new ads that we just released, they're playing on television, but we have over 160 Facebook visits with those ads, for each of them, since they've gone out. So I think it is about spending smarter and being very clever with marketing these days. We're using, a lot of our efforts are really going into social media online, paid posts. We're able to engage the visitor very well in that area.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I would add as well in terms of our advertising campaign, we're going to be doing some additional work this summer in terms of filming and production with an eye to . . . This is a multi-year campaign, and with an eye to next year having ads that are going to be featuring northern Saskatchewan and some of the natural beauty up in the North. So this year we did southern, and that had largely to do with the fact that was what we were able to finance in terms of the work that needed to be done, but next year will be northern Saskatchewan.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Certainly, and although I appreciate the minister's interest in hunting and fishing, certainly events are also another major attraction, I would say, to Saskatchewan, and that's where my heart lies. So I know we've seen a lot of that. And social media, obviously as a politician getting my face out there I've found it very useful as well, and relatively inexpensive compared to some other forms of conventional advertising.

In terms of the grants, I think you've already addressed this but we certainly saw a rather large increase from the last two years. Your two years ago budget was just under 1 million and now it's up to 3.3 million. I am assuming the *Corner Gas* project would be part of that. Were there any other large grants over \$500,000?

[15:30]

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — You were asking about '13-14?

**Ms. Sproule:** — The most recent budget.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Okay. The only payouts that we had were the North American Indigenous Games that would be over that. And we also did pay out a profit shortfall for the Memorial Cup.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Oh yes, I remember that being mentioned. All right. Thank you. Last year I had asked some questions about the process reviews that you were engaging in and using, utilizing the lean methodology. I had asked the minister then to tell me how much you planned to budget for those process review exercises, including staff time. He didn't really answer my question. And I'm looking back in committee. But I'm just wondering if you could share with that now how much you've actually spent last year on those process reviews. Are they ongoing, and how much are you planning to spend on them? And particularly are you engaging any lean specialists to provide that training or go through those reviews?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, for Tourism specifically we haven't formally participated in lean initiatives.

**Ms. Sproule:** — All right. I'm just looking at the strategic plan for '14 to '16. On page 12 you indicated that you engaged a group called Tourism Planning Group to lead your process for strategic planning. I'm just wondering where they're from and how much you paid them to do that work.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — The consultant was from Kelowna. She was from BC [British Columbia]. Excuse me for one second. Sorry, she was from Thompson Okanagan. I knew it was somewhere in British Columbia. And we paid her a little less than \$30,000 to help us do our strategic planning process.

**Ms. Sproule:** — All right, thank you. Mr. Chair, at this point that's the extent of my questions until such time that I can get a copy of that. So I'll actually maybe turn it over to my colleague. I don't know how we should do this because we'll have to switch officials but I do want to have an opportunity to look at it. I think that's what we'll do. I'll need a few minutes to look at this so perhaps I'll switch over to my colleague and then maybe we'll ask the officials to come back to the table.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Broten, you have the floor if you'd like to ask some questions.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be asking some questions now on immigration and so I thank the chance to be here this afternoon while Ms. Sproule may look through some of that. Is there a changing of the guard that's required there?

**The Chair:** — While we are changing officials, we will just

officially table ECO 19/27 for the members so that Tourism Saskatchewan payee details for '13-14 fiscal year is now tabled for the members. Mr. Broten, you have the floor.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Off the top on immigration, I'd like to start with an email that I was sent that posed some questions. And the email talked about "huge failings of the immigration department." And then it went on and posed ... presented some information and posed a question. It said, "Ask them what they did with the \$12 million in processing fees they took from 4,000 entrepreneur applicants. They reopened the entrepreneur program a couple of weeks ago and are still sitting on an inventory of 4,000 from 2010."

So my question to the minister is, what's the answer about the \$12 million in fees and backlog for the entrepreneur applicants, please?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well just by way of preface, I would say that our immigration services branch has done a great job. We've got our processing times down to some of the lowest in the country, if not the lowest in the country of any nominee program in Canada. I think we are generally recognized as having one of the best, if not the best nominee program in Canada, and that was recognized by the federal minister who gave us additional nominees this year, I believe the only province in Canada that was actually given additional nominees at the conclusion of the last fiscal year. Some of the nominations that hadn't been used that were allocated to other provinces, we got all of them. And it was because of the fact that we have a very tight labour market but also because of the fact that we could process them. And because of that as well, I would say that we have had no issues in terms of temporary foreign workers coming to the end of their four-year time frame in Canada. Other provinces had a huge issue with that. We had no issue with that and that was because of the fact that our processing times are as quick as they are.

In terms of the entrepreneurship category changes which we just announced, I think I've heard good commentary around the changes that were made. I might actually turn over to the officials in terms of, yes, the specific question about the fees. And what was, sorry, what was the other specific ...

**Mr. Broten:** — The question was, what's the minister's answer about the \$12 million in fees and the backlog of the entrepreneur applicants?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Right, right. Yes. And I think you said that there were 4,000 backlog. It's not that high. It's about, I think about 2,000, but we will have perhaps Alastair answer in detail in terms of the fees.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thanks.

**Mr. MacFadden:** — The application fees contribute to general revenue and cover some of the processing costs that are associated with processing the applications. The inventory right now is about 2,108, not 4,000. We've reopened the entrepreneur category to new applications but continue to process the existing inventory under the pre-existing rules.

**Mr. Broten:** — So for the fees that are charged, is it cost

recovery, or is there a profit that's made on those fees? Maybe give an example of what a typical fee would be and how that fits into the broader picture.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. It's cost recovery, is the intent.

**Mr. Broten:** — The backlog I think the official said was 2,100 or so. What would be the amount of fees associated with that number?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We're doing some calculations here, but the application fee is 2,500 after we've determined that the application is complete and will be processed. So I'm just working it out here: 5.37 million.

**Mr. Broten:** — Pardon me?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — 5.27 ... [inaudible interjection] ... Yes, 5.27 million.

**Mr. Broten:** — It's nice to see the old school calculator there too. So I enjoy that. So if the minister could just provide a bit more explanation. You just touched on it momentarily there. When the fee is paid and under ... I think you said only once there is a confirmation that the application will be processed. Is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, that's exactly right. The fee is only payable once the application will be processed, and it's, like I said, \$2,500.

**Mr. Broten:** — Once there's a decision made to process the application, is there certainty that the application will go ahead or is there some ... Like would those be guaranteed to be approved? And if they were not approved, what are the parameters around the fees that have been paid? Are they refundable, or is it is what it is if you've paid it? Please.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. The fee isn't refundable, but it depends on the stream as to the success rate. I'm just informed it's around 50 per cent or so.

**Mr. Broten:** — For the entrepreneur class? Or overall it's about 50 per cent?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — For the entrepreneur class, once it's to that stage, it's about 77 per cent are successful.

**Mr. Broten:** — And so there's no refund for the percentage that are not, for the applications that do not go ahead?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — No, and that's to cover the cost of the processing of the application.

**Mr. Broten:** — What's the fee? What are the different fees for the different categories?

**Mr. MacFadden:** — The fees are associated with the entrepreneur category itself, which includes a farmer stream and an entrepreneur stream.

**Mr. Broten:** — Okay. Has there been any feedback from applicants whose applications did not go all the way through to

completion with respect to wanting to recoup those fees or be reimbursed for them? Or has that not been a concern that's been raised with the ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — No. I mean applicants are aware upfront that this is ... It's laid out in the procedure manual, Kirk just told me, and we haven't had feedback on that.

**Mr. Broten:** — And so the fees that are paid, what fund do they go into?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — General revenues.

**Mr. Broten:** — Okay. Thank you for the information on that topic. I'm moving on to another topic with respect to temporary foreign worker complaints. Between 2008-2009 and 2013-2014, there was a 552 per cent increase in TFW [temporary foreign worker] complaints, so from 21 to 137. Could the minister please provide some explanation or some further information about what is behind this increase, please.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well I would just say, we're tracking down some of the specifics here, but by way of general observation I would say that, you know, we have more TFWs in the province, so there have been more complaints. But you know, we put in place the foreign worker protection Act which was proclaimed in October of 2013 and, you know, I think probably the most assertive piece of legislation you're going to see in the country from any province in terms of protection of foreign workers who have the exact same rights as any other worker would have in the province. You know, we take this very seriously. And I know there have been some incidents with regard to employers who perhaps haven't treated foreign workers as they should. And I take this very seriously; we investigate these occurrences and they are dealt with in the appropriate fashion.

Just in terms of the specifics, as I said, in a general sense there are more temporary foreign workers in the province. From 2011, 6,984 to 11,684 in 2013, which is the last year we have data for, which is about a 75 per cent increase. So I think in terms of the complaints you'd see a similar increase in that percentage. Maybe not exactly, but it would be fairly close.

[15:45]

**Mr. Broten:** — So for the complaints that have come forward, the increase, are there any general trends that you observed for things that you are on guard for or frequent types of problems?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — What I can do, Mr. Broten, is refer you to the 2014-15 numbers. There were 405 possible SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] program policy or foreign worker protection Act violations were investigated; 326 cases were completed. And in addition, there was an audit of 129 employers under the foreign worker protection Act.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. For TFW complaints, do you have how many were received in 2014-15 broken down by the categories that we've had for the other years?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We don't categorize by complaint. There's a different series of categories with regard to the



workers. It's broken down by employers, licensed consultants-recruiters, and the TFW applicant nominee SINP services. It's the third category. Of those, the investigations, 133 were into employers, 78 into consultants-recruiters, and 15 in that other category.

**Mr. Broten:** — So for the other years I have a breakdown per type for different categories for the totals: protection of foreign temporary workers; third party representative review; employer review; internal issue review; quality assurance; client services; fraud and misrepresentation issues; inadmissibility issues; criminality; health, etc.; information requests; other agencies. So do you have that breakdown for '14-15? And the information that we have here we obtained from you, so I would assume the . . .

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Kirk will give you the explanation.

**Mr. Westgard:** — Thank you for the question. We changed how we categorize complaints because of the legislation that was passed. Because of the Act that was passed in 2013 and moving forward on complaints, it changed how we're looking at them and how it's affected and who it's affecting when we see different outcomes.

**Mr. Broten:** — Could you just give sort of a tracking? For a comparative perspective between years, it's helpful to have the same categories. And so I realize there may be categorical changes required because of adjustments, but are you able to table that '14-15 information so we can sort of try to compare the two, please?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We'd be happy to table the document I was quoting from here right now. We'll get a copy of it for you right away.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you so much. Eighty-seven of the 137 complaints in 2013-14 year were regarding fraud and misrepresentation. So my question is, why were there so many complaints in this area?

**Mr. Westgard:** — I apologize. I missed the question.

**Mr. Broten:** — That's quite all right. I can happily restate. Eighty-seven out of 137 complaints in the 2013-14 year were regarding fraud and misrepresentation. So why were there so many complaints in this particular area?

**Mr. Westgard:** — I can't answer the question of why there were so many. I think it resulted from the internal auditing that we were doing. And we increased integrity measures within the program over the last couple of years, so we're seeing less fraud. We're catching more of that upfront right now and not putting it into the system.

**Mr. Broten:** — What are the measures that were added for different policies or approaches in order to catch more of that, please?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We increased the integrity measures on the employer side of it. So we are ensuring that the employer was genuine, a genuine employer, they were able to actually offer the positions they were offering to the foreign national before

we got the application in. So when you're looking at that, the employer provides a genuine, legitimate offer of employment. Then following up on the applicant side, we're working more closely and always continuing to build our relationship with our federal colleagues around the world to get a better understanding of what's happening at each visa post.

**Mr. Broten:** — Have there been additional staff added in order to beef up that integrity component?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We did transfer one individual from another unit within the immigration services branch into the program integrity unit, yes.

**Mr. Broten:** — What would be the number of FTEs [full-time equivalent] in the integrity unit at this time?

**Mr. Westgard:** — There is four FTEs in that unit right now.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you very much. How many fines have been issued in the last year for those found in violation of *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, there haven't been any fines issued in the last year on that.

**Mr. Broten:** — How many fines have been issued since it was enacted in October 2013?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, there haven't been any. I'm informed there haven't been any issued, but we are going through some processes that may result in fines.

**Mr. Broten:** — What is the explanation that fines have not been given in this area? Is it because the cases did not have merit or the charges or the concerns didn't have merit? Or what is the explanation there?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We have received complaints and dealt . . . through investigation we found employers were owing for individuals and worked with both our colleagues at labour standards and workplace safety, as well as sometimes it is just an unknowing on behalf of the employer, where we ask the employer to pay up to the owing wages and monetary value, and they do so. So it had to have no fines levied.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. One issue that was raised in the House were concerns of an individual who came forward who had been with Deveraux Developments, and he was a Canadian worker who expressed concerns about being displaced by TFWs. And I'm just wondering what follow-up the ministry did into those complaints, please.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We investigated that, working with ESDC [Employment and Social Development Canada], to ensure that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the employer. And that was what we found.

So in terms of that case, which I won't bring up all of the details that resulted in the Deputy Leader making an apology in the House after nearly being found in contempt of the legislature, what I would say is that we take these cases very seriously. Our objective is to have Saskatchewan residents take advantage of

available jobs, Canadian residents, and potentially those from outside of Canada.

But when we see . . . You know, in terms of talking about the temporary foreign worker program, we want there to be, at the end result, the end of the day, a permanent resident and a Canadian citizen that come from the temporary worker or somebody who's here on a temporary basis. In our SINP program, about half of our nominees, half of them — approximately every year half, or more than half even — started out on a temporary basis in this province. And our objective is to find permanent solutions.

We have a genuine labour market challenge on our hands. We have the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. We have for over two years, 26 of the last 27 months, we've had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. And this is a very real challenge. Our economy is creating jobs at a pace that's, you know, really quite, quite impressive, particularly in a historical context in this province.

And you know, we have a challenge. And there is a role for temporary workers to come to this province, whether it be through the seasonal agricultural worker program or whether it be through the temporary foreign worker process, to fill those jobs that our economy is creating that we just don't have the labour market to sustain. You know, we made record investments into training, adult basic education. We want to see more of our folks, with a real emphasis on First Nation and Métis, in this province have that opportunity to fill those jobs.

But I would be interested though. I think the position of the national NDP [New Democratic Party] is that the temporary foreign worker program should be shut down. I would be interested to know what the position of the Saskatchewan NDP is.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it was a specific question. What was the nature of the investigation for the complaints that were raised around Deveraux?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. That question was answered. We investigated. Kirk can give you additional detail. Maybe, Kirk, I'll ask you to give that.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you.

**Mr. Westgard:** — It was our understanding that the individual in question made a complaint that he was let go because of a hiring of a temporary foreign worker. And when we looked into it, the individual was let go on merit, and no temporary foreign worker was hired in his place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Sorry, I missed the last sentence.

**Mr. Westgard:** — There was no temporary foreign worker who was hired in his place. The temporary foreign worker was hired at the time. They were both working; and the individual was let go on merit.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — And I would just, if I could, I would just add to that. And you know, it's committee; I don't want to get overly political about this stuff. But I mean, the case that

was brought into the House was completely wrong. I mean, you did no research on it. You obviously didn't do any research on it because, if you had, you would've found out, like Kirk just said, that there was absolutely no merit to it. On the facts — the facts — there was no merit to it.

And the case was presented in the House as fact from — I think it was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that day — was completely baseless and included all kinds of other stuff, including somehow the Premier was in Mexico with somebody which resulted in a question of privilege, the first one this government has ever actually put before the Speaker and before the House, that very likely would have resulted in a finding of contempt of the Assembly. That's the background to this case that the member is raising.

**Mr. Broten:** — I realize this is a talking point, that government loves talking, but we know that the temporary foreign workers were kept on. My question was direct. What is the nature of the investigation that was done? Both of you have said, we did an investigation, it's done. What did that investigation look like? Who conducted it? What kind of calls were made? Who was spoken to?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We talked with the owner of the business, as well as our colleagues in Economic and Social Development Canada to understand the situation and determined who was employed at the time and if any of the rules were broken under the temporary foreign worker program.

**Mr. Broten:** — Was anyone spoken to beyond the owner of Deveraux?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The ESDC.

**Mr. Westgard:** — Economic and Social Development Canada was.

**Mr. Broten:** — So was there any discussion with any employees or individuals that had concerns or temporary foreign workers that were still working there? Were any of those discussions part of the investigation?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We discussed any concern that was brought to our attention. And I can't tell you who in our office talked to which employee at this point in time.

**Mr. Broten:** — Were any employees spoken to, or did the extent of the investigation simply include the owner and someone with the feds? Was that it?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well as Kirk said, I mean we reviewed the documentation and the facts of the case. We engaged with the employer. We engaged with the Government of Canada, with Employment and Social Development Canada, and the facts are, as Kirk just laid out, that there was no displacement by a temporary foreign worker of this particular individual, who was let go on merit.

**Mr. Broten:** — I just find it sort of a strange explanation. It doesn't sound like a very rigorous investigation if all it is is contacting the owner and . . .

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — And the Government of Canada as well.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well I think you'd want some more information then, and actually knowing those on the front lines. Was the investigation done by the integrity unit, or who within the ministry would have done that?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. It was done by our program integrity unit.

[16:00]

**Mr. Broten:** — Okay. What's the total number of people that were accessing SINP over the last three fiscal years?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — What I can give you right now, we're looking for the number that were in total processed, but in terms of the number of nominations issued, in 2010-11 there were 4,195, in 2011-12 there were 4,072, in '12-13 there were 4,000, in '13-14 there were 4,483, and last year there were 5,234.

**Mr. Broten:** — Sorry, 5,234?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — That's right.

**Mr. Broten:** — So what was the third last one? It was 4,000?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Four thousand in '12-13.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. For each of these years, are there any figures on recipients who have left or who have chosen to leave the program? Is that sort of thing tracked?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — In what sense left the program do you mean, that left the province? Oh, that left. Well we have a very, very high retention rate of nominees that stay in the province. I believe it's 85 per cent. Yes, 85 per cent arrived to a job, but I think our retention rate is over 80 per cent as well, which is one of the highest in Canada, if not the highest in Canada.

So we again see that as being a very positive statistic, that folks that are coming here that are being nominated by the province of Saskatchewan are choosing to stay in Saskatchewan and making Saskatchewan their home and building their life and career here. And we're seeing that in overwhelming fashion in terms of this program.

**Mr. Broten:** — So what was the retention rate you mentioned, 80 something?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — It was over 80 per cent I think.

**Mr. Broten:** — Has that been fairly consistent over the past few years?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — It has been fairly consistent over the course of the last number of years.

**Mr. Broten:** — Okay. Are there hard numbers that can be tabled with respect to some of that tracking for the different years? Is that information available?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, absolutely. We're happy to table that. I think it's publicly available, but we're happy to table it.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. How much was spent last year on recruitment efforts overseas?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — All right. Last year we did five recruitment missions outside of Canada. We did two in Canada, Calgary and Toronto, and this year we're going to be doing five international recruitment missions as well.

**Mr. Broten:** — What are those five locations please?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. We are doing Brussels, Paris, Ireland, UK [United Kingdom], Ireland, Poland, and Mexico. And Calgary — that's not outside of Canada.

**Mr. Broten:** — Who are the individuals that go on these trips?

**Mr. Westgard:** — It's usually myself and my employer unit who is in charge of recruitment and planning.

**Mr. Broten:** — So two individuals generally? Are there any other . . . Are there elected officials that accompany on any of these trips?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I have not been on one.

**Mr. Broten:** — Have any MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] been on these trips?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — At different points we've had, I think the Premier went on one. I think we've had the minister attend. I don't have the details right in front of me, but previous ministers have attended. And I think we've had some MLAs as well or an MLA that may have attended as well.

**Mr. Broten:** — Who was the MLA that's attended?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. The only we're aware of is the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

**Mr. Broten:** — For the ones that are coming up — you said five outside of Canada, two within Canada — will any MLAs be attending those trips?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — No.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — But one question I would actually have though, would the Leader of the Opposition be opposed to the minister or an MLA accompanying officials on the labour recruitment trips? I know it was a great benefit having the Premier in Ireland in terms of attracting attention and attracting potential newcomers. I know he personally, you know, did a lot of work in attracting newcomers to the province including one who actually now works in my office as my admin assistant. So I guess I'd put that, whether you would see that as being a negative. I'm not planning on going on any, but whether that would be a thing to you.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well I get to ask the questions here, so I thank

the minister for his keen interest in my opinion here, but that's not actually how it works. What were the travel budgets over the last three fiscal years?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — For immigration services branch?

**Mr. Broten:** — Yes.

**The Chair:** — While the minister is conferring with officials, I'll maybe mention that we have tabled a document, ECO 20/27, requested by Mr. Broten, I believe. Ministry of Economy: immigration data, program integrity investigations 2014-2015 has been tabled before the committee.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. We do have those details. For '14-15, the Calgary mission was \$5,107.56. The Ireland-UK mission in September 2014 was just under \$35,000. The France-Belgium mission in November 2014 was just over 15,000. The Mexico mission in February 2015 was just over 16,000, and the Ireland-Poland mission in March 2015 was 46,000.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. Would the minister please be able to table the breakdown of those different expenses, please?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. In terms of the details, maybe I'll just turn it over to Kirk for a moment to go over, in a ballpark sense anyway, what the approximate breakdown is for these trips.

**Mr. Westgard:** — If you look at the trips to Europe, and specifically, as I talk about, it's Ireland and the UK, the majority, over 50 per cent of the cost is actually the cost of the booth to attend the trade fair where we're at. And then of course hotels, lodging, meals, and flight is a majority of the other expenses. If we get into the trip that happened to Mexico, the cost was room rentals to house the trade show. It was a trade show we put on ourselves, working with Agriculture, to recruit labour in the agriculture industry. So the majority of the smaller costs are mostly room costs, and then the bigger costs are the expenses of the booth overseas in Europe.

**Mr. Broten:** — Is the minister able to table the information of the breakdown?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, we can do that. I think there's a bit of sensitivity around which individual companies . . . I'm not totally sure about that. But we'll do some work on it, and I'll give you what we can that's not going to have a commercial impact or commercial sensitivity.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. It's public dollars so I think it's important information for the public to have that breakdown. I think that's important. Is it the minister's position that the figures that have been given with respect to the trips and how much they cost, is that the totality of the expenses associated with those trips?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — It is.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. I understand there's been a number of concerns regarding single-employer permits, and I'm wondering if this has been something that the minister has

heard, if the minister has looked into it, and if there have been any policy changes in regards to this.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We're not sure what you're referring to. What's a single-employer permit? What are you referring to?

**Mr. Broten:** — Well it's some feedback I've had from different people in the province. I want to know if this rang a bell to you or if it was not something . . .

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well I'm not sure if the terminology you're using is different than what we would use, but we aren't familiar with single-employer permits.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well people needing to work with a single employer. Like they're stuck with that employer. They're unable to move. Sorry if I have the wrong terminology.

**Mr. Westgard:** — Thank you for the question. I think what you're referring to is a closed work permit. It's a work permit that is issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada that allows a foreign national to work for one employer at one location at one job.

**Mr. Broten:** — Have any concerns been raised around this practice, and has the ministry made any changes with respect to feedback that they've received?

**Mr. Westgard:** — This is a federal program.

**Mr. Broten:** — So have concerns around this been raised at a provincial level, or is this something that's on the radar that's been communicated with the feds?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I haven't heard any complaints from anybody with regard to it. I'm not sure if officials have heard feedback. I mean as a general practice, when we do hear concerns, even when it is around a purely federal program, we have a very good working relationship directly at the ministerial level, and that translates down through our ministers' offices and through our officials as well who work very closely. So as a matter of practice when we do hear concerns, even with regard to purely federal areas or purely federal programs, we as a matter of course pass them along.

**Mr. Broten:** — Has any information been passed along on this topic to the feds?

**Mr. Westgard:** — From employers or the concern of an applicant?

**Mr. Broten:** — Either-or.

**Mr. Westgard:** — Yes, sometimes applicants are concerned that they are connected to one employer, but if they do have a complaint and it is covered under *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*, we work with the individual to alleviate any concerns he has.

**Mr. Broten:** — What sort of information has been . . . In a broader sense, with respect to the concerns that have been raised, have specific concerns been raised with the feds or communicated on this issue?

**Mr. Westgard:** — We work with the federal government to, like anyone else in immigration, to be able to change . . . And everyone has the ability to change the terms and conditions of their work permit in Canada.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. Are gateway and settlement support still entirely purchased services not delivered by the ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, that's right.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. Could the minister please provide an update on how many contracts are held with agencies for both gateway and settlement services, please.

[16:15]

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, we do have that breakdown. There are 11 contracts with gateways. Settlement advisers, there are nine contracts. Specialized language programs, there are 16 contracts. And under the innovation and knowledge category, there are four contracts.

**Mr. Broten:** — What's the nature of the innovation and knowledge contracts?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We don't have that detailed information, but we'll undertake to provide that for the committee and to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — But generally speaking, what are innovation and knowledge services?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Okay. Yes. I'm informed they could be pilot initiatives that we're, you know, attempting to innovate something for the first time. But like I said, I don't have the information right in front of me, and the officials don't have it either, but we'll get that for you.

**Mr. Broten:** — Which organizations have these four contracts that the minister identified?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. We just don't have the details here with respect to the individual contracts but, like I said, I'll undertake to provide that information.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well there's got to be some better explanation for what innovation services are, other than to innovate. Okay, let's back up a second. The four categories — gateway, settlement, language, and innovation — what are the dollar amounts being spent on those four categories with respect to contracts?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Right. Gateways, the 11 contracts, the budget is \$2.83 million; the settlement adviser, the nine contracts are \$600,000; the language programming, 16 contracts for \$2.947 million; and the innovation and knowledge, the four contracts for \$863,000.

**Mr. Broten:** — So we're spending \$863,000, nearly 1 million bucks on innovation contracts, and you can't tell me at all — this is estimates — about what that's for? There's got to be some better explanation than they're for innovation of pilots.

Like what are they?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Okay. We have here three of the four right in front of me. One project name is simpleCTS service delivery reporting Saskatchewan and settlement services. The agreement supports the data collection and report requirements for provincial gateways and settlement adviser providers. The tool is utilized by 11 gateway and 21 settlement adviser service-providing organizations.

Another is, the project name is LanguageLine. And this agreement provides over-the-phone interpretation for clients who are unable to communicate effectively in English to obtain services.

Another with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council, translation and interpretation services. This agreement helps connect clients with the resources to translate documents and gain access to interpretation services where needed. So those are three of them that I have in front of me right now.

**Mr. Broten:** — Three of the category of four? So the names of those organizations . . . You said the UCC [Ukrainian Canadian Congress].

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — UCC. LanguageLine services is one of the providers, and the other provider, the first I listed was simpleCTS.

**Mr. Broten:** — So UCC is a non-profit. Are the other two non-profits, or are those for-profit companies?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. I'm told they are for-profit companies.

**Mr. Broten:** — And so what's the fourth? It's sort of peculiar that three would be listed and there's no fourth, even though you said there were four contracts. Why is there that lack of information?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — All right. We're working on getting the fourth. Officials are working on it right now. I'm obviously not, kind of . . . We have, you know, hundreds of contracts, so I'm obviously not conversant with every single one of them, but we're looking into it.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well for nearly \$1 million price tag in that category, I think the taxpayers deserve a bit more clarity. So if we need to return to estimates to find or have that information, we can certainly do so and would expect that.

In terms of FTEs within the Ministry of the Economy, how many are allocated to immigration?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, there's 51 FTEs for immigration services.

**Mr. Broten:** — How has that number fluctuated over the past few fiscal years?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — That number has been relatively consistent, although when ISB [immigration services branch]

and the Ministry of the Economy came together, the settlement component was spun into the other part of the Ministry of the Economy, so it went from about 72 to 51 when settlement was taken out. But it's been right around there for the last couple of years.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you. As we wrap up here, I'm near the end of my questions but I have outstanding questions for that issue of that contract. Would the minister be willing to come back for 30 minutes in estimates to do that?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We are scheduled to conclude at 5:20, so if the Leader of the Opposition wants to be here prior to 5:20, I'd be happy to answer if we track down that information by that point.

**Mr. Broten:** — Well I'd certainly welcome that information. So I may have more questions momentarily, but I will hand it back to Ms. Sproule who has some questions coming out of the information that was tabled earlier.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, I have a number of payees and goods and services for Tourism Sask I'd like to ask about and I can do them all in one list maybe and then get the answers, so I would welcome Mary on back up to the front. Thank you.

So I'll just list them all. First of all, under salaries there was a very large salary for a gentleman named Daryl Demoskoff, over \$208,000, which is much higher than your CEO. So I'm wondering if you can explain what work that individual did and whether or not that includes salary, or was there a severance package associated with that.

Secondly, under goods and services, there is a few questions I have. First is, what goods and services did Craven Country Jamboree provide for \$50,000? Secondly, what services did R. Anderson & Associates provide for \$54,000? I understand that's the former CEO of Tourism. What goods and services did Research Resolutions & Consulting provide for \$50,000? And then finally, what goods and services did the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club provide for \$347,000?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you for the question. The CEO I think is in a position to address. We may have to ask you again for the whole list.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Oh I'm sorry.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — But we've got the first few anyway ready to go, I think. So go ahead, Mary.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — I may have to ask you to repeat a few of them but that's good. The first question you had regarding a salary of over 200,000, that was actually a result of an arbitration that turned over what was deemed to be a wrongful dismissal. And so that was the settlement from that. So it was somebody dismissed from Tourism Saskatchewan, went to arbitration, and they were rehired with a settlement.

**Ms. Sproule:** — What year was the arbitration? And is that individual still working at Tourism?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — The individual is still working. I will have to confer because it was prior to my time, so just a moment please.

I'm not certain of the time of the wrongful dismissal because it was prior to any official that's here today, but the ruling was in 2013.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — I think the next question you might have had was around Craven Country Jamboree. Under this list it is our sponsorships. So you will see, you saw Craven Country Jamboree. You also referenced the Roughriders. These are organizations that we have sponsorships with and we get things back. You know, there are a return on those sponsorships so they fall under that category.

**Ms. Sproule:** — It looks like there's only two sponsors then in your list. And is there any reason why you're limiting it to Craven and the Roughriders?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Because of the nature of these agreements they actually give us enough value that it falls under sponsorship. Typically, you know, if we're giving out grants for things, often it wouldn't have that kind of value. So that's just the, I guess, the definition that we use.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Could you provide the committee with a description of the value that you get in relation to these payments? I mean, you don't have to do it today, but I think that the committee should get that information.

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Absolutely we could provide that information.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Is there an application form that you have for people to get these sponsorships? Or how do other agencies demonstrate that they also can provide that kind of value?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — These would also fall under our events strategy. So people could apply, and sometimes we seek them out ourselves.

**Ms. Sproule:** — For these two events, do you know, did you seek this out or was this, did the Riders and Craven apply?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Both. Craven did apply for sponsorship and the Roughriders also had approached us regarding sponsorship.

**Ms. Sproule:** — And are these annual agreements?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — We have, with Craven it is an annual agreement. With the Roughriders we are in a three-year, a multi-year agreement.

[16:30]

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you. Just the last two then was R. Anderson & Associates and Research Resolutions & Consulting?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — R. Anderson & Associates has done some consulting work for us through our education and training division, STEC [Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council], and he's done some work around Serve It Right, some reviewing of programs we have. And he's also been engaged with our quality assurance program and helping put some of those materials together.

**Ms. Sproule:** — And this is not something that your staff can do?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — It's working with our staff. I don't have all of the details in front of me, but my understanding was some of the work with STEC is auditing, and that would be, you'd want somebody external to do that.

And the quality assurance piece, we don't have a large staff engaged in that, so sometimes we have to seek additional help.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Okay. And Research Resolutions & Consulting, which I think is a division of Hill Strategies?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Actually I'm not exactly sure where they are out of, but they . . . I can check on that. But they do the analysis on our Stats Canada data. There are very few people that really have the person, and her first name is Judy and her surname eludes me, but she's one of the experts in the country in terms of analyzing Stats Canada data especially for smaller jurisdictions like ourselves. So she analyzes the data so we can get more — what? — more information out of it for our purposes.

**Ms. Sproule:** — You don't have any plan to get that kind of capacity within your organization? You would continue to hire that out?

**Ms. Taylor-Ash:** — Actually I think we have done some analysis on that, and it tends to be actually a better — what? — it would cost us a lot sometimes to get that kind of expertise. So it actually works out that getting somebody to do this . . . And it's a very highly, highly specialized kind of expertise, so we feel it's better to actually contract this.

**Ms. Sproule:** — In relation to salaries and benefits, can you tell the committee whether or not Pat Fiacco received a severance package, or is that \$170,000 all salary and benefits?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. No, he resigned, so he didn't get a severance package.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Okay. Sometimes when you resign you get a severance. I guess he didn't. Okay, I think in terms of tourism then, I wish to thank Mary Taylor-Ash very much for those responses, and welcome to the CEO seat. And we'll see you next year. Thanks.

**The Chair:** — Any other questions? I recognize Mr. Broten.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does the minister yet have that basic information that was requested?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — We're still endeavouring to put that information together. You know, I would, by way of

observation, one observation I would make. And I'm not minimizing the importance of some of the contracts that we have with our partners in delivering some of these services, but I made a significant announcement in my introduction which was that I announced that we were entering bilateral negotiations with the Government of Canada with the eye to the renewal of the Labour Market Development Agreement. And this is a big deal. This is a \$42 million agreement with the Government of Canada.

And I would just note by way of observation, not to minimize the importance of the contract that we're endeavouring to track down, not one question from the Leader of the Opposition about that which is important, significant, and will have very real long-term implications for this province. So I would offer that out. We'll track down this contract and provide the information. But on what was a very significant announcement, not one question.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon the minister, Mr. Chair, for the minister to be able to provide basic information about where dollars are being spent. And you know, to have an explanation that Innovation contracts are to innovate is incredibly weak, and to not have the information and to be briefed up about where he is spending money of a considerable amount shows real shortcomings in the information to the minister . . . to provide content and information here. So, Mr. Chair, I'm unable to stay in committee because of an appointment upstairs, and I look forward to an opportunity in estimates to get this information that the minister very easily should have been able to provide.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well, Mr. Chair, if I could, we will provide that information. You want to talk about shortcomings though, Mr. Chair? We make a \$42 million announcement in committee, and the Leader of the Opposition can't even be bothered to ask about it or even to acknowledge it — or even to notice it, I think probably more honestly, Mr. Chair. And he talks about, you know, taxpayers' dollars. We announced a \$42 million commitment just now, an hour ago, to renegotiate an agreement with the Government of Canada, which I think is going to be very advantageous for the province of Saskatchewan, and not one question on that. Not one. Not even an acknowledgment.

Instead what we get from the Leader of the Opposition is a grandstanding about particular contracts, which officials are endeavouring to track down, you know, in the piles of books that we have that were . . . not, again, to minimize the importance of this particular contract. That's what he chooses to spend half an hour on, asking about that rather than asking about the Canada Job Grant, another incredibly important program that we're spending . . . significantly increasing our budget on this year that's going to directly create jobs for the people in this province — not one question about that from the Leader of the Opposition.

All we get is we get half an hour on process from that individual when we're making incredible investments into adult basic education, record investment into adult basic education, record investment into apprenticeship training, record investment into a whole manner of different areas, a major announcement about LMDA [Labour Market Development

Agreement] renegotiation — not one question on any of that. Instead he chooses to spend half an hour on an individual contract which, as I said, officials are endeavouring to provide the details on, and we will. Those details will be provided.

But in comparison to the work that we're doing on those files that I just mentioned on immigration levels into this province, which are at a historic high . . . Literally, of the 120,000 newcomers to this province over the course of the last eight years, half have come from outside of Saskatchewan. Half have come from outside Canada. The face of this province is very literally changing, and it's a change that we haven't seen here for 70 or 80 years. No questions about that. Instead we get half an hour on process around one particular contract.

So I would colour myself disappointed with the Leader of the Opposition. I think it shows that he doesn't understand the file. I think it shows that he doesn't have a grasp of the file. I think it shows that he has neglected to learn the file. So I'll just point that out, Mr. Chair, and I look forward to questions from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who I think knows the file a little better than the Leader of the Opposition.

**The Chair:** — Well thank you very much, Minister Harrison, for committing to get that information to the committee. I believe they'll do that earnestly, and thank you for that commitment. I would ask, are there any other members that wish to have questions of the officials? Mr. Wotherspoon.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you. I don't want to engage into that whole filibuster and response. I want to get into the questions here. But certainly the Leader of the Opposition was asking important questions and we'll look forward to the information coming forward.

I'd like to get a sense of some of the other aspects within the ministry at this point in time. And as far as the adult basic education, certainly this is a critically important area for our province and for the families and the people that connect with it. And I see a marginal increase there, and that's . . . an increase is a good thing. I just would like to hear about what this funding change means for ABE in Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I thank the deputy leader for that question. That's a good question and I appreciate that. With the increase in funding for ABE, we're going to be able to provide 200 additional adult basic education positions this year. And as I said in my opening statement as well, we've seen significant investment. We realize this is such an important area, particularly for a lot of First Nations and Métis learners, to get those individuals job ready. And I think we're unique in Canada in actually spending about 20 per cent of our ABE budget on-reserve to, you know, access and provide that training for First Nations, particularly young people, but of any age who look to bring their skills to the point where they're able to either enter the workforce or have an opportunity to upskill and take different opportunities. So, you know, we see it as being really, really important.

I think this year it was about a \$600,000 increase in adult basic. I think that's an 85 per cent increase over the last seven years that we've made into adult basic, so we're going to continue to invest there. I see this as being critically important for, you

know, making sure that our Saskatchewan people who haven't participated in the labour market are able to going forward.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — It is a critically important area. What's the current wait-list for AB [adult basic] in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — As of February 2015, we have 594 on the wait-list.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Could you give us a bit of the trend line on how that . . . I guess if we can look maybe at what's gone on over the last two years, if you could market a couple times, and then what your projections based on this investment, what you're projecting moving forward.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Right. Well I mean our objective is to eliminate the wait-list. When the *Plan for Growth* was released, the wait-list was over 2,000. I think it was nearly 2,200. The wait-list in October 2014 was just over 1,400 — I think 1,419 or something is the exact number — and as I said, by February 2015 the wait-list is down to 594. So you know, we're making progress and we're going to continue to make investments, because we want to make sure that we have a wait-list of zero so that anybody who, you know, wants that opportunity to participate in the adult basic education program can.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Yes, the wait-list certainly should be zero. I certainly note progress on this front. Certainly I'm on the record over the past number of years saying that this should be a wait-list of zero. What are some of the barriers to making that zero?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, I mean one of the things Alastair just pointed out to me, and it is a challenge, I mean wait-lists are dynamic over the course of the year, right? You have, you know, more demand in the capacity typically at the start of the year. You know, as the year goes on and if folks, you know, choose not to continue with the program, it's a bit of a moving target depending on where you measure it at any given point in the year. But you know, we do want to . . . our intention is to continue to make investments and improvements in the programming as well such that we can eliminate that wait-list.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Sure. The actual barriers to addressing, and of course there's a cost factor that would be there, and then there's the capacity with those that can deliver the programming and the location of those that are wanting to be served. Can you speak a bit more to some of the barriers that . . . [inaudible].

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. No, that's a good point. Sorry I forgot your question when I answered the last round. But yes those, I think, would be fair points in terms of capacity, in terms of where that capacity is available. So those would be the fair points. And you know, I think we've done good work in the ministry on addressing those, and we're continuing to do more work on this because, you know, we are committed to getting rid of the wait-list.

And you know, I really genuinely see this as being so important for the future of the province so that we can take advantage, particularly . . . I'm from, as you know, I'm from Meadow Lake. I mean, my constituency is about 25 per cent of Aboriginal descent, and I want to see Aboriginals represented in



our workforce. And we have one of the lowest Aboriginal unemployment rates going, but you know, we can do better, and this is a big part of doing better.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So just speaking of the capacity itself then, are the partners in place in the communities and regions where they need to be? Are they able to deal with this backlog or the wait-list if the funding was available? Or what other barriers are in place?

And maybe speak specifically as well as to what the cost of addressing a seat is. And I suspect it might be different in different parts of the province as well or depending on which partner you're working with.

[16:45]

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. I mean, we've got some great partners that we are working with that do great work in this regard. You know, up in Meadow we have North West College that does some great work. I was just at an AB graduation actually not that long ago, and we'll be doing more. But yes, you know, we put significant funding in place. It costs money to add these seats, and we've done that. The average cost per seat is about \$3,000, so that's the average cost.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So when you're looking at the wait-list that exists, what's the cost that you . . . the financial cost of eliminating that wait-list?

**Mr. Pushor:** — Laurie Pushor. I just would say we've been working diligently with our partners, and there's a number of factors that influence how fast we can respond. Some of it's capacity amongst those organizations. Some of it's simple matters like logistics and where the people are and where we're able to deliver services. So it's been an evolutionary process over the last couple of years as we've worked with them.

As we better understand the methodologies and the outcomes we are seeking, our partners are moving aggressively to walk alongside us and put us in a place in the very near term to eliminate this wait-list.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Where do the wait-lists persist? In which parts of the province?

**Mr. Pushor:** — Well one of the early parts of the project was to really start to come and develop common methodologies across all of the various providers and then deal with whether or not there's any double-counting in some of those things. So that was a part of it, and I believe we have the specific information by region.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. One thing I can add for the Deputy Leader is that in terms of where the investments went this budget year, we tried to make those and we did make those investments into areas where we did have pressures in terms of the wait-lists. So I would point to Carlton Trail where we increased by 6.9 per cent; Cumberland College, 3.6 per cent; North West College, 5.8 per cent; Northlands College, 2 per cent; and South East College, 3.8 per cent.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — And do you have information as to where the wait-lists persist right now?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. I think there would be a similar list to that, and that's why we made the investment into those particular areas.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I guess what I would request then, because it is more detailed information, but are you able to commit to having officials endeavour to get that information provided back to us as committee members in the coming days or weeks here?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Absolutely. In terms of where the specific pressure points are?

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Sure.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, we can track that down. We might even have it here. Well yes, what I gave you is kind of what we have right now. We'll endeavour to provide that though.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — And with that, maybe if you can note what the barrier is to addressing it as well, if it's a capacity issue with the partner who's delivering this, and what that barrier is. If it's physical space, if it's sheer funding on an operational side, or if there's not a partner in place in the region that it's required, I'd appreciate that analysis to come back.

I'd like to get a sense of the skills training benefit, and there's a significant change to that funding allocation, a cut of close to 40 per cent, I believe, down two and a half million. I just want to get a sense of what that impact is and what that's all about.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — No, a good question, and I hope we can provide some enlightenment on that. In terms of the way the skills training benefit program works, I mean it's targeted at EI [employment insurance] recipients. What we've seen over the course of the last number of years, seven or eight years or so, is a significant decrease in EI claimants. So we've seen a commensurate decrease in the skills training benefit demands on the program.

So what we did was we reallocated this year because we weren't getting the uptake on STB [skills training benefit], which is a good thing. It means there are less people that are on EI and seeking benefits through the training benefit. What we did was reallocate to the apprenticeship training allowance and to Job Grant, so it was an internal reallocation. It wasn't, I wouldn't really characterize it as a cut. I mean, that money's still in the system for job training, but it was just that STB wasn't being fully subscribed. The transfer went to apprenticeship training allowance, and that's why we had an increase in the investment into apprenticeship as well. And ATA [apprenticeship training allowance] kind of goes in concert with that, and into Job Grant, which we're increasing our commitment to this year.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So will this reduction mean a program or a service or a support won't be extended to somebody who would require it, or if individuals who would be eligible for the host of programs available, they'd be eligible?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — No, there'll be no service reduction. What you'll see is anybody who is applicable to STB will be able to. But Alastair just showed me, in terms of the reduction from 2010-11, there were 3,133 clients with regard to skills training benefit, and last year there was 1,130. So you can see why there would be significantly less demand in terms of the pressure on the program.

**Mr. Witherspoon:** — So we know that the lower price environment for oil casts a host of challenges onto our province, certainly from a fiscal perspective. I've chatted with the Minister of Finance. It has challenges as well of course for our economy and many businesses and many workers in Saskatchewan, and I know there's been significant impacts in through regions such as Weyburn and in Estevan. And I know there's also been impacts, significant impacts of course in through Regina and a host of other parts of the province.

What I wouldn't mind hearing is what your analysis is to date on the number of jobs that have been impacted based on the oil price. Of course it's not directly the industry itself down in Weyburn and in Estevan and in other parts of the province, but it's those related industries as well. And certainly I'm troubled to hear, I guess, the outcome for certain businesses of late that have had to close up or have significant layoffs as well. So just speak to the impact to date and what you're forecasting in this lower price oil environment.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, again a good question and a relevant question. We have seen impacts in the patch directly and with regard to the service industries that are built around that.

What we have seen though — and we're very, you know, our empathy is with those that are directly impacted, without question — but what we've seen is a remarkably resilient labour market. It's, you know, I said in a scum the other day, it's actually even surprised me as the Minister Responsible for Jobs, Skills, and Training. We have seen, despite the price of oil going down to less than \$45 a barrel at one point — we're back up around, I think 58 today — but despite that, and the fact that there have been real impacts on real people and we know that, we still continue to see job growth in the province.

And you know, we had the CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce] deputy chief economist out in the province a couple of months ago now, and his hypothesis was essentially that there was so much pent-up demand in our labour market that, despite the drop in the price of oil, that we would see very little impact in terms of our actual job numbers. And I have to tell you, I have to tell the committee, I was skeptical of that hypothesis, but it's actually, it's been proving out.

You know, our last jobs report showed our unemployment rate dropping from 5 per cent to 4.4 per cent in the province, and an increase in about nearly 7,000 jobs — all full-time positions as well — which honestly, it even surprised me how strong it was.

So in terms of the impact in the labour market, we know there is one. We know that. But I think what we're seeing is, you know, the impacts that are happening in that particular sector are being either offset or, you know, folks that are in that sector are going to another sector, particularly those who are skilled trades folks

and have those sort of skills that are transferrable into other sectors. So you know, the labour market continues to be remarkably resilient and continues to show . . . I mean, a reflection of this is the real diversity of the economy and the fact that we aren't kind of in the position of our neighbour to the west with, you know, 30 per cent of our revenues dependent on a single industry.

So we have a very diversified economy. Manufacturing has been a genuine success story over the course of the last decade or so in this province and, I think, almost an untold success story. Our increase in manufacturing and exports coming out of that manufacturing has been remarkable, really genuinely remarkable.

And it's a testament . . . You know, we're not going to take credit. I mean it's a testament to the outstanding entrepreneurs and business folks that we have here in the province and the wonderful people that work at those companies that have really driven this. And it's, you know, it's reflected in the fact that we are dealing with a really challenging scenario in the oil sector, yet we're continuing to see job creation.

**Mr. Witherspoon:** — Okay. I'm looking for more specific than that though, to be fair. And I know the statistics that are tracking, they're sort of after the fact and always a little bit out of date, may not always portray the reality in some of the communities and families.

And without a doubt, there's been significant job loss in through Estevan and Weyburn, for an example, and in Regina as well. And we had, you know, announcements recently of Advance Engineered, that has been impacted in a major way, and a bunch of folks as well, businesses, good businesses that are impacted that are part of that supply chain as well. So are you able to speak in a more specific way to the numbers that are occurring right now and some of these job losses that have occurred?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well you cited a couple of examples. And we've seen those examples, you know, announced publicly, and we know that there have been particular companies that have been impacted and made some tough decisions, in terms of their path going forward, that's impacted employment. So I mean those specifics are out there.

But in terms of the overall picture though, I know the member asked for the specifics, and we can kind of get those. I mean they have been publicly announced, a lot of them, and they're out there.

But we're continuing to see job creation though. I mean that's the Statistics Canada figures. Actually last month it showed year-over-year employment in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas — that's how StatsCan tracks it all; that's their categories — so you know, there was a slight decrease, but it was more than offset by the gains in a host of other sectors.

So we know there are going to continue to be impacts too. I mean as we get into the spring here, some of the work that would be done in terms of capital expenditure and whatnot isn't happening. And we know that we've heard announcements from a number of the oil and gas companies that operate in the

province that there are going to be a reduction in their capex expenditures, which is going to have an impact in terms of jobs, at least in that particular sector.

But I would again go back to the CIBC hypothesis, which is that there is so much pent-up demand in our labour market that we would see, despite an impact in those particular areas, continued strength in the rest of the labour market because of the diversification of the economy. And you know, like I said, so far the Statistics Canada figures and the labour force figures that have come out over the last couple of months have borne that hypothesis of CIBC's out.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Yes. I just think that there needs to be more micro-tracking as well. You're speaking on the macro side of this and statistical side, but there are real examples. I've certainly sat down with workers and their families that have been impacted. I could count off a whole bunch of real examples.

The statistics you share and the analysis, the report hasn't allowed many of those families, in fact most of the families that I know that have been impacted, to simply relocate to some other part of the economy. So I would caution the minister to not get too caught up in some of the reports that will come from outside because I think there is some concerning job loss that impacts certainly the families that are impacted, the communities that are impacted here in the province.

Are you breaking down any analysis around oil price itself? And have you looked at certain scenarios as to if this pricing environment or this current price environment persists for such-and-such period of time, what that may mean for workers and for industry as well?

Certainly you speak of the capital investments. I know certainly the oil companies and all the industry connected to it have, you know, thresholds by way of price that significantly impact the capital they're able to put into Saskatchewan. So I'm wondering if you're running any numbers on if there's a particular problem, if this persists for a certain period of time, are you running numbers based on is there a certain price? Of course this is a challenged environment where it's at right now, but is there a certain price threshold for oil that would be particularly problematic for a certain reason? Have you taken on some of that economic analysis?

[17:00]

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — In terms of the particular price of oil and where it's going to be at and predicting, I mean it's a challenge. I mean I think if any of us sitting at this table were in a position to very accurately forecast the price of oil, we'd be sitting at a commodities desk in New York, not around here probably. So there are real challenges in terms of the forecasting but, you know, we've seen a recovery. I think we're at 58 today, and I mean there's all kinds of analysts that have different predictions going forward.

What I can speak to, and just in terms of the preamble to your comments, I mean absolutely there are impacts on individuals. I know of some as well that have had their jobs impacted and, you know, my heart goes out to them. It really does.

We're going to continue to work with companies and individuals impacted. We immediately, in the case of an employment . . . In terms of a mass layoff or something of that nature, we immediately deploy from the Ministry of the Economy our rapid reaction teams that work with those impacted to try and get them back into the labour market and find other employment. You know, we do know there are impacts.

In terms of the kind of later, more specific question you asked, maybe I'll ask my deputy minister to speak to that. Some of this is kind of more on the Energy and Resources side, which is with Minister Boyd, but Laurie can speak to that.

**Mr. Pushor:** — Well certainly there is a number of factors that we can examine that predict what's happening in the oil industry, and I would start by saying that in 2014 we saw about \$6 billion in capital expenditures in the oil sector in Saskatchewan this year. That is up from 3 billion, maybe 4 billion only five or six years ago, so we've seen really strong increased investment.

We can contemplate by looking at what has happened in other downturns and other oil price slumps, and we've seen in this province maybe as much as, depending on the price and the duration, maybe as much as a third drop in capital expenditures. So given that, that gives you some sense that we'd be going back to sort of capital investment and activity levels that aren't that long ago in terms of two or three or four years ago in terms of activity.

In addition to that, we have the ability to examine a number of things. We certainly understand the cost of producing oil in this province and how that compares to other locations around North America, and we're comfortable that we have a regime in place that would ensure that we're not going to be the first out, and nor would we be the last in in terms of during a recovery. So we think we've got the right fit relative to the environment. We continue to try and protect and maintain around ensuring that investment is maximized, I guess, for the people of the province in terms of activity.

We also have a very obvious barometer that we can watch, and that's licence applications for drilling activities. And certainly we've seen some slowing, but right now the key piece for us is that there is a good inventory of approved wells to be drilled, and so industry could operate at a very robust level for the next several months. And so given all of those factors, industry is well poised to continue activity in the province at some level and also to recover or reinvest or re-engage if conditions around price recover.

I would also just say that when you evaluate all of those things, you also have an interest in production volumes. And Saskatchewan's oil is such that it will be drilling activity that drives any decline in production volumes because our oil is and environment is such that once they're in production, they typically tend to keep the oil in production, which is good I guess on our revenue side.

Notwithstanding all of that, as the minister's echoed and as you have echoed, we certainly are concerned about the people in the industry and hope that the stability and somewhat of an upward

trend in price is something that we can see going forward.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks for the information, really an important area for the ministry to be focused on. Just moving along, and I'm cognizant of time, maybe you're okay if we sit until about . . . an extra few hours or so here tonight.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Good try. Good try.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I'll follow, as far the apprentice registry, registration of an apprentice, in the past I believe it was always there was registration that would occur with the province. And there's been a change I believe that that now can occur or occurs with . . . It can also through the employer.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, we'll either have Jeff or . . . Yes, Jeff will be able to address the specifics. I'll make you a deal. I'll make a deal with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I'll spend another three hours here, but it comes off Premier's estimates. So I'll put that on the table. I'm happy to be here for another three hours.

**The Chair:** — I'll just remind officials, if it's the first time addressing the committee, just mention your name for Hansard please.

**Mr. Ritter:** — Sure. It's Jeff Ritter. I'm the CEO of the apprenticeship commission. Can I just ask you to restate your question, please?

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Sure. It's my understanding that apprentices would register with the province in the past and that there's been some sort of change on this front and now apprentices from out of province can also register with their employer.

**Mr. Ritter:** — Okay. Thanks very much for your question. In practice the SATCC [Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission] has never compelled the registration of out-of-province apprentices even in compulsory trades.

Historically our interpretation of our legislation and regulations have been that out-of-province registrations were not required. Furthermore it's also considered to be a bit of an impractical use of resources for the organization because we don't actually provide any service for out-of-province apprentices. But we do enforce our regulatory requirements and, in particular, on mandated ratios by visiting job sites to obtain apprentice year cards and, in the case where they're a journey person, to get their journey person certificates from any province in Canada.

So basically it was through this that we did a review of our legislation and regulations and realized that there may be an alternative interpretation implying that out-of-province apprentices should be registering directly with us. And since discovering this, we've begun working on our regulations to make it clear that the registration of out-of-province apprentices is not required. So we hope to make those amendments in the near future.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Okay. But they've been registering in the past.

**Mr. Ritter:** — In practice, no.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So just if I go back through some of the annual reports, it always states how many, in each year, how many registered apprentices there are. So is that number, is it accurate? Or could . . . [inaudible] . . . explain.

So I have a quote, a report then from — what fiscal is this? — the '12-13 annual reports, just as an example of how it's reported out. And maybe then if you can explain how the numbers are arrived at and how out-of-province registrations are captured. "On June 30th, 2013, there were 10,023 apprentices registered with SATCC. Throughout the 2012-13 year, 14,170 apprentices received services from SATCC."

I guess I'd like to get an understanding of, are out-of-province apprentices captured in that number? And this was the first year as well that there was a shift to also reporting on those that are receiving, apparently receiving services, so sort of a new category. Can you just breakdown what these categories are and what these numbers mean?

**Mr. Ritter:** — Okay. Thanks for the question. The difference between the number of apprentices and the apprentices receiving services is the difference between a count of apprentices and a touchpoint with varying apprentices. So we may have apprentices that contact us for services three or four times throughout the course of the year. We track and report on that. So that would be the difference that you're referring to.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — What assurances or safeguards do you have in place to ensure employers are reporting back to the ministry, or is it of no interest to the apprenticeship commission? Is it of no interest to have that information then around the number of out-of-province registrants?

**Mr. Ritter:** — We think any benefit of the value of the information would be outweighed by the cost or the impact on the mobility of the apprentices in terms of registering with us. Now we do, as a matter of course, conduct over 4,000 employer consultations a year through our field staff. Typically, you know, of that number, about 300 would be construction site visits where we have multi-trades participants working on a common job site. To date this year, we've conducted over 217 construction site visits, and we use those 4,000 visits over the course of the year to ensure regulatory compliance with things like our ratios.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Okay. And you suggested that it's sort of a newer interpretation of the Act — I don't want to paraphrase incorrectly — of the out-of-province registrants? And I guess, if so, could the minister be specific, or someone on his behalf, as to where in the legislation it's permitted or that this is appropriate not to have out-of-province apprentices registered?

**Mr. Ritter:** — So it hasn't been a new interpretation. The interpretation has been consistent for years and years and years insofar as we've never required the registration of an out-of-province apprentice. What is new is our efforts to actually validate that that practice was correct. And in doing that validation, we discovered that there is, you know, an alternative interpretation that suggests that we should be

looking to change our regulatory framework to bring a legal foundation to our current and long-standing practice.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Chair, if I could just jump in, in terms of the question the Leader of the Opposition had earlier asked me, we have the information, and I'll be brief. I know the deputy leader only has a few minutes left. But in terms of the innovation and knowledge programs, I indicated there were four contracts around which focus on supporting strong foundations, improved outcomes, and practices for newcomers and settlement agencies.

There were two contracts with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. And the way it was recorded, it wasn't clear that they were two. So of the four contracts, they were the simpleCTS one which I mentioned, LanguageLine services, and two with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for translation and interpretation services. So those were the four contracts, and so I lay that on the Table for the information of the members.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks for the information. Thanks for the answer, the information as well, as it relates to apprenticeship. If we have following questions from that, we can follow back up. And as far as the UCC, I don't know this exact partnership, but certainly I'm thankful for all the work and leadership of the UCC in Saskatchewan at really important times.

I'd like to move along to getting a sense of what's going on with youth and adult skills training. And I'd like to get a sense of I guess what changes are occurring throughout the province, and as well for you to touch on specifically what changes are occurring in northern Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Again a good and relevant question from the deputy leader. I'm going to turn it over to Alastair for maybe perhaps some additional detail. But what I would say by way of a general comment, I think that, you know, we put a real emphasis on engaging youth and engaging young people in the workforce and, you know, have made investments in that regard. And I think it's being reflected. I mean we have the lowest youth unemployment rate in Canada, significantly lower than the national average. Our youth unemployment rate is 8.6 per cent, I believe. The national average is about 13. So we are seeing young people engaging with the labour market and we have made some real investments. But I'm going to turn it over to Alastair who can perhaps add a bit more.

[17:15]

**Mr. MacFadden:** — In terms of the program planning that we do, we have an emphasis on focusing on the employment rate. And the employment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 in Saskatchewan is higher in our province than in other jurisdictions. So in that sense we have a good foundation to build on.

Your question was specific to northern communities, if I heard correctly.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — The whole picture and then northern as well, yes.

**Mr. MacFadden:** — Okay, so with respect to northern partnerships, what we do see is an increased investment year over year, just over 1 per cent. More is going to the North. In the growth plan it identifies a specific opportunity to engage more northerners in jobs in the North, and that's why it's become a specific emphasis for us. So just to give you an example of one of those initiatives, we have a construction worker preparation project in Creighton. In that project, we were aiming to prepare 150 northerners to work in the resource industries in the North, and community resources, things like elders and local mentors were there to assist the participants to improve their employability and gain employment.

Some of the outcomes would be things like safety training, GED [general equivalency diploma], driver training, and links with northern employers to help people secure jobs. That would be an illustration of one of the projects.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks for sharing that example. And I know that youth unemployment is particularly troubling in through the North. There's challenges in different parts and certainly where you have a decent rate in parts of the province. But certainly that's an area that requires attention. But I appreciate you sharing that example, and it certainly sounds like a good program.

Looking at the Canada Job Grant, and it's come through some different changes, of course, over the past couple of years, I believe one of the efforts that has been spoken about and something that we've heard, certainly from small business as well, is about making this more accessible for small businesses. I think there's been some mention of this by your government as well. Could you provide an update on what actions have been taken on this front?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. A good question. Job Grant is a very, very important program, and we see Job Grant being a very important part of our economic growth strategy going forward, directly connecting employers with employees. And I think this is the way we want to go forward with the LMDA as well, renegotiation which I referenced earlier. We see this as being a model that's going to work. So we've made significant increased investment this year. Last year it was \$2 million investment that was available in Job Grant. This year there's going to be a \$4 million fund available in Job Grant. And we actually just signed it. It's a new program. We just, Kenney and I, Minister Kenney and I signed it in the fall of this year, so it's new.

And we continue to work with employers. It's a different way of actually delivering training, and it's a new way for Saskatchewan. So we're working with employers in raising awareness about the program and, you know, pointing out the benefits of the program or potential benefits for employers. And you know, we're pleased with the progress that we've made to date, but we do know we need to work closely with them, and whether that be a small employer or larger ones, because this program can provide real benefits for both small or large.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Certainly it's important to improve the accessibility for small businesses that have identified it as a challenge in Saskatchewan. I'd be interested in hearing what your engagement is on the AIT [Agreement on Internal Trade]

and evolution and changes on this front.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, a really good question. On AIT, we've been very engaged on the renegotiation of the Agreement on Internal Trade. You know, we've seen some very good, encouraging progress and I have to give credit to my colleagues from across the country who have come to the table with an open mind. You know, I'd been trade minister at a different point a few years ago, and when I came back into or had responsibility again given for trade, the process was at about the same point. Over the course of the last year, we've really . . . And I'll tell you, our government has really I think taken a leadership role in pushing for the renegotiation. We thank our federal partners as well, but this is a provincially led initiative. And I take my hat off to my colleagues because there's been a real willingness to have genuine free trade within Canada. And that's where we need to get to.

And you know, I would be so bold as to say that the underpinnings of the New West Partnership have provided the underpinnings of the AIT renegotiation, which means a negative list; it means a person-to-government dispute resolution mechanism, both of which I see as being incredibly important in terms of a renegotiated and new AIT.

So we've been making some really good progress on this. We're going to be having a ministerial-level meeting I believe this summer, to work through some more details, but officials have done some really good work on this. And there's been engagement at every level from the Premiers on down. So we're making progress.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — And how has the . . . Some of the action plans laid out to fix procurement in Saskatchewan, make improvements to procurement in Saskatchewan, how have that factored into your engagement at the AIT table?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, well I mean in terms of the procurement discussions with respect to AIT, we've expressed some, you know, frustration I guess with the way some provinces have approached that particular item. You know, we're doing good work on that and I think you would have seen, Mr. Wotherspoon, the announcement that Minister Wyant had made with regard to our direction going forward on that. And it's a direction I fully and completely support, and I think, you know, it's not going to be . . . It will be very much compliant with the AIT. So I'm not sure if that's where you were going but that's kind of, it will be compliant with the AIT. We're committed to making sure that's the case.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much, Minister Harrison, for those comments. We've reached our agreed-upon time. It's 5:22. Despite Mr. Wotherspoon's suggestion, this is the end of the consideration of the Economy estimates for this year. We will now move on very quickly here to vote off the main estimates, vote 23, the Economy. So if the members are ready, the first being central management and services, subvote (EC01), in the amount of 38,360,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. The next, minerals, lands, and resource policy, subvote (EC06) in the amount of 15,471,000, is that

agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Petroleum and natural gas, subvote (EC05) in the amount of 14,204,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Revenue and corporate services, subvote (EC04) in the amount of 6,310,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Economic development, subvote (EC12), in the amount of 13,085,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Tourism Saskatchewan, subvote (EC14) in the amount of 14,442,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Labour market development, subvote (EC13) in the amount of 173,018,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Performance and strategic initiatives, subvote (EC20) in the amount of 1,292,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of 3,013,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

Economy, vote 23, in the amount of 276,182,000. Now I'll ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums, for Economy, in the amount of 276,182,000.

**Mr. Toth:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Toth has moved. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Minister Harrison, thanks for your patience getting through that. I'm sorry.

**General Revenue Fund  
Lending and Investing Activities  
Economy  
Vote 174**

**The Chair:** — We're still in the main estimates. Vote 174, lending and investing activities, on page 146 of the Estimates. Loans under *The Economic and Co-operative Development Act*,

subvote (EC01) in the amount of zero dollars. This is for information purposes only. There is no vote required as this is a zero dollar amount. Minister Harrison, any final comments for the committee?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Sure. Well absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, members of the committee. I want to very sincerely thank my officials for being here this evening and providing very good assistance. I want to thank the Deputy Leader who asked some very good questions and some very timely questions and some very probing questions. So I want to thank him and for his professional demeanour.

I want to thank Ms. Sproule for her very good questions with regard to Tourism Saskatchewan and acknowledge the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and perhaps offer some — I don't want to be unfair — but some advice that, you know, in terms of the economy perhaps should do a little more homework, a little more homework. But I want to thank though members for being here, and I appreciate the time.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Wotherspoon, very briefly. We have a lot of votes to get to if you want to say a word or two.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Well as I always would, I would always thank the minister and officials, and I will. But you know, I think the minister should, you know, stick to answering the serious questions before him and not getting into the political games. It's unbecoming of a minister.

But that being said, that being said, I will thank the minister for his time here today. And the answers and questions that we had back and forth, I appreciate that. And I certainly do appreciate the officials that are here today and really everyone within the ministry that work tirelessly throughout the year on behalf of Saskatchewan people.

And it's a very important ministry. It connects with a lot of organizations, a lot of groups — whether it's Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, whether it's the apprenticeship commission, whether it's the work that's being done in tourism, whether it's that in immigration and certainly skills training and employment and our energy and resources — it's a big portfolio. There's a lot of important work. So for all those that are invested in this work daily within communities across Saskatchewan, I say thank you very much.

**The Chair:** — Thank you, Mr. Wotherspoon. I'd like to echo the thanks on behalf of the committee for the officials being here today.

We're going to continue with the committee immediately to continue voting off the estimates. Officials are more than welcome to stay for this; it might take a while. But of course their time, expertise is no longer required. So again we thank you.

**General Revenue Fund  
Agriculture  
Vote 1**

**The Chair:** — So committee members we'll continue with

vote 1, Agriculture. First on the docket here is central management and services, subvote (AG01) in the amount of 11,246,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Policy and planning, subvote (AG05) in the amount of 3,039,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Research and technology, subvote (AG06) in the amount of 26,733,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Regional services, subvote (AG07) in the amount of 40,425,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Land management, subvote (AG04) in the amount of 6,416,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Industry assistance, subvote (AG03) in the amount of 7,551,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

[17:30]

**The Chair:** — Carried. Financial programs, subvote (AG09) in the amount of 26,192,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Business risk management, subvote (AG10) in the amount of 239,970,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of 2,816,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

Continuing on Agriculture vote 1, \$361,572,000, I'll now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for Agriculture in the amount of 361,572,000.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Kirsch, thank you. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Environment  
Vote 26**

**The Chair:** — Continuing on, vote 26 in the Ministry of the Environment. Central management and services, subvote (EN01) in the amount of 16,219,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Climate change, subvote (EN06) in the amount of 2,637,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Landscape stewardship, subvote (EN15) in the amount of 3,990,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Environmental support, subvote (EN14) in the amount 7,617,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Fish and wildlife, subvote (EN07) in the amount of 10,711,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Compliance and field services, subvote (EN08) in the amount of 17,637,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Environmental protection, subvote (EN11) in the amount of 34,348,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Forest services, subvote (EN09) in the amount of 10,978,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Wildfire management, subvote (EN10) in the amount of 55,988,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of 10,792,000. Again, non-appropriated expense adjustments or non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

Environment, vote 26, in total 160,125,000. I'll now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for Environment in the amount 160,125,000.

**Ms. Jurgens:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Jurgens has moved. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Highways and Infrastructure  
Vote 16**

**The Chair:** — We're on to vote 16, Highways and Infrastructure, central management and services, subvote (HI01) in the amount of 18,409,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Strategic municipal infrastructure, subvote (HI15) in the amount of 26,245,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Operation of transport systems, subvote (HI10) in the amount of 89,199,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Preservation of transportation systems, subvote (HI04) in the amount of 144,900,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Transportation planning and policy, subvote (HI06) in the amount of 3,306,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Custom work activity, subvote (HI09) in the amount of zero dollars. This is for information purposes only. No vote is needed.

Infrastructure and equipment capital, subvote (HI08) in the amount of 559,865,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of 152,423,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments or non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes. No amount to be voted.

Highways and Infrastructure, vote 16, 841,924,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for Highways and Infrastructure in the amount of 841,924,000.

**Mr. Doke:** — I move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Doke, thank you for moving that. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.



**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — March  
Highways and Infrastructure  
Vote 16**

**The Chair:** — We're on to the supplementary estimates. Vote 16, Highways and Infrastructure, operation of transportation systems, subvote (HI10) in the amount of 10,350,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Preservation of transport system, (HI04). The amount is 17,900,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Highways and Infrastructure, the total vote for 16 is 28,250,000. Now I'll ask a member to move the following:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2015, the following sums for Highways and Infrastructure in the amount of 28,250,000.

Mr. Hutchinson, thank you. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Innovation Saskatchewan  
Vote 84**

**The Chair:** — We are carrying on with vote 84, Innovation Saskatchewan. Innovation Saskatchewan, subvote (IS01) in the amount of 30,510,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Innovation Saskatchewan, vote 84, the total is 30,510,000. Again I ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for Innovation Saskatchewan, the amount of 30,510,000.

**Ms. Jurgens:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Jurgens has moved that. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Saskatchewan Research Council  
Vote 35**

**The Chair:** — Committee members, we're moving on to vote 35, Saskatchewan Research Council. Saskatchewan Research Council, subvote (SR01) in the amount of 22,475,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Saskatchewan Research Council, as I've mentioned, that's the total amount, \$22,475,000. I'll now ask a member, as we have always done, to move the following resolution:

That there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for Saskatchewan Research Council in the amount of, as mentioned, 22,475,000.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Kirsch has moved that. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
SaskBuilds Corporation  
Vote 86**

**The Chair:** — We're on to vote 86, the SaskBuilds Corporation. SaskBuilds Corporation, subvote (SB01) in the amount of 13,673,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. That is the only vote for this SaskBuilds Corporation, vote 86 in the amount of 13,673,000. And again I'll ask a member to move:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the sum for SaskBuilds Corporation in the amount of 13,673,000.

Mr. Doke has moved that. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Water Security Agency  
Vote 87**

**The Chair:** — And moving on quickly to vote 87, Water Security Agency, subvote (WS01) in the amount of 20,477,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Vote 87 of the Water Security Agency is, as mentioned, 20,477,000. I'll ask a member to move the resolution:

That there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, the following sums for the Water Security Agency in the amount of 20,477,000.

**Mr. Toth:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Toth has moved. Thank you. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Reports are being distributed to the committee members. Before you we have our report to the Assembly. The Standing Committee on the Economy, this is the sixth report. So committee members, you have before you a draft of the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy. We require a member to move the following motion:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Kirsch. Thank you. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Thank you very much, committee members. Seeing it's past the hour of adjournment and our business is done for today, this committee stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.

[The committee adjourned at 17:42.]