



# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

Ms. Laura Ross, Chair  
Regina Rochdale

Mr. Doyle Vermette, Deputy Chair  
Cumberland

Mr. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Mr. Eric Olauson  
Saskatoon University

Mr. Doug Steele  
Cypress Hills

Mr. Warren Steinley  
Regina Walsh Acres

Mr. Gordon Wyant  
Saskatoon Northwest

[The committee met at 19:00.]

**The Chair:** — Good evening, everyone. The time now being 7 o'clock, we will start the committee meeting. My name is Laura Ross and I'm the Chair for this committee. Sitting in this evening we have Nicole Sarauer who is sitting in on behalf of Doyle Vermette. We also have Eric Olason, Doug Steele, Warren Steinley, Gord Wyant, and absent . . . Oh, he is here, Jeremy Harrison.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — November  
Justice  
Vote 3**

**Subvote (JU06)**

**The Chair:** — So I would like to advise the committee that pursuant to rule 148(1), the November 2017 supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Justice, vote 3 was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice on November 29th, 2017. We will now be considering the supplementary estimates for Justice, vote 3, subvote (JU06). Minister, please introduce your officials and make your opening comments.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Good evening. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm pleased to be here to discuss the additional funding provided to the Ministry of Justice and to answer questions. I'm joined by a number of officials from the ministry. At this table are Glen Gardner, deputy minister of Justice and deputy attorney general, and Dale McFee, deputy minister of Corrections and Policing.

I am also joined by Heather Sriver, assistant deputy minister, acting, of custody, supervision and rehabilitation services; Glennis Bihun, executive director, court services. She used to be with Labour Relations and Workplace Safety and I think left that file to get away from me and now I'm waiting to see whether she wants to leave this one as well. Mindy Gudmundson, executive director, strategic planning and fiscal planning; Mark McFadyen, executive director, acting, of custody services; Brian Rector, executive director, research and evidence-based excellence; Doris Schnell, executive director, offender services; Scott Harron, executive assistant, deputy minister of Justice; my chief of staff, Drew Dwernychuk; and ministerial assistant, Molly Waldman.

We would be pleased to answer your questions. Before I do, I would like just to comment briefly as to what we are asking the . . . what the additional funding was for. For the current fiscal year, the ministry required additional funding of \$12 million to support its work in the justice system. In particular, this funding will be used in the operation of the province's correctional facilities. The custody services area of the ministry has experienced higher-than-anticipated numbers of accused and offenders in its facilities. Although the ministry is successfully managing the issue, it does cost more to house and supervise the individuals in our care.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have on these additional costs for the Ministry of Justice. Thank

you.

**The Chair:** — Yes. Ms. Sarauer, would you like to ask your questions?

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. First I'd like to thank the minister for his opening comments, the deputy ministers for being here this evening, and as well all of the officials for being here this evening. I really appreciate it.

Perhaps it's best to start, for you to go into a little bit more detail as to what the \$12 million is actually being allocated for. You had mentioned that it's to help with a larger amount of inmates than you originally anticipated, but could you go into detail as to what that 12 million will actually be used for?

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Yes. I'm going to let one of the officials speak to it, but I can give you a little bit of background. The correctional facilities are sort of the backbone of what the ministry's operations are. If additional persons come into the facilities or in custody, the numbers and the corresponding expenses go up, so it is largely due to unanticipated usage of the corrections facilities or the custody facilities. So we have pressures across the ministry dealing with crime reduction, but the ones we're dealing with here tonight are the custody pressures.

I'm going to let Deputy Minister McFee give a brief answer.

**Mr. McFee:** — So the ministry, as mentioned by the minister, 12 million. If you broke that out: increased counts, use of contingency space, about 7.3 million; increased use of escorts, transports, expert supervision, one-to-one supervision, and medical, about 2.6 million; increased staff training, 2.1 million. That's with the increase in meth and the new naloxone training is the majority of that. And certainly those would be the high overview of what those breakouts would be.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Will any of this money . . . Is any of this money going towards new staff? Are there new FTEs [full-time equivalent] as a result of this \$12 million?

**Mr. McFee:** — No.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. You have mentioned . . . Maybe the first thing to start off with . . . I'm going to go into some more questions about all of the different areas that you had just spoke about, Mr. McFee. But I think it's probably pertinent since the reason why you're asking for or you're requiring this additional money is because of over . . . or I guess under-anticipating the amount of inmates you would have in custody this year.

So could you give me a point-in-time count for where you're at right now in terms . . .

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — PIT [point-in-time] count for 2017-18 was 2,026, which is 347 more than the budgeted amount of 1,679.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I'd like it broken up by facility, please.

**Mr. McFee:** — So broken out by facility, Regina Correctional

Centre '16-17 was 663, '17-18 which is 696, and the peak was at 727. It's being utilized presently at an 89 per cent operational capacity.

Prince Albert Correctional Centre is 2016-17 was 458, got down to 455 in '17-18, but the peak was 494. As you're aware of the fluctuations that do happen in these environments, at an operational capacity of 93 per cent.

Saskatoon Correctional Centre '16-17 was 431, spiked to '17-18, 452, with the ultimate spike was at 495 which had an operational capacity of 103 per cent overall.

Pine Grove Correctional Centre was '16-17 had 175, was down 174, but with a peak count this year of 202, as you can imagine the fluctuations in the peak count.

White Birch operational capacity of 12 and was steady at 12 with a peak of 19. So the total secure custody in those adult facilities were '16-17, were 1,739. 1,790 was the increase with 1,854 being the spike and fluctuates right around that 95 per cent capacity rate. And as you can imagine, that's a snapshot in time and those obviously, based on those numbers I gave you, are fluctuating on a daily basis.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Now you mention that some of this money is going into, I'm assuming, repurposing some contingency space. Can you go into detail as to what you mean?

**Mr. McFee:** — Can you just give me clarification of what you mean by the repurposing?

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Well I guess I'm looking for clarification from you. You had mentioned that just over \$7 million is being used for contingency space, I'm looking for more detail on that.

**Mr. McFee:** — So to highlight these . . . and I'll go back through them of what's being done in each facility. So 1C, the program review of 10 beds at Regina Correctional Centre, was 370,000 a year. The 3A, which is the 19 additional beds at Regina Correctional Centre, was 250,000 a year. The 2D converted 60 beds to remand which is 750 K a year. The honour dorm of 32 beds was 750 K a year. And the Prince Albert Correctional Centre, the opening of unit 4 which was 24 additional beds for 240 K a year. And the pod 1 which was 20 beds for 200 K over 3 months.

In Saskatoon Correctional Centre, closed C unit for 38 beds; opened overflow dorm, 30 beds, 1.6 million a year. Overflow two-thirds, extra 10 beds, 528 K a year. Overflow 4, 20 beds, 1.6 million a year. Echo dorm 1, five extra beds, 528,000 a year. Unit D, eight extra beds, 528 K a year. Unit B, six extra beds, 528 K a year. Medical and holding cells, 1.6 million a year.

Pine Grove, nothing closed. Unit 2 increased by two beds, zero cost. Unit 3 increased three beds, zero cost. Unit 9, which was the Sharber unit, converted 22 beds, 965,000 a year, and the gym, 35 K for 10 days.

White Birch, no contingency spaces. And that would be the highlight or the details of those contingency spaces and what was moved around.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — So these are all new beds that weren't in existence from last year, is that correct?

**Mr. McFee:** — Yes, it's contingency beds based on populations as you said, and fluctuations, opening and closing of contingency spaces.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I suppose what I'm looking for from you is a bit more detail of what you mean by contingency spaces. Are you talking about . . . And that's why I was using the word repurposed, repurposed space.

So for example, last year there was a gym that was converted into a dorm. There was a recreational, or programming space that was converted into a dorm. So I'm looking for more detail around that, that kind of thing.

**Mr. McFee:** — I'm going to have to turn it over to Heather Scriver, custody services.

**Ms. Scriver:** — Hi. So at Regina Correctional Centre, 1C program room was converted to 10 beds. This unit is used intermittently and it has access to both showers and washrooms. Additionally at Regina Correctional Centre 1D program room has been converted to hold 10 beds, again used intermittently. It's on the unit so it has access to showers and washrooms.

For the Prince Albert Correctional Centre, the classroom was converted to pod 1, 20 beds, and again it's used intermittently and it has access to the showers and the washroom. Programming's not impacted as the classroom has been moved to an alternate location at PACC [Prince Albert Correctional Centre].

In terms of Pine Grove, the gym is utilized as a third contingency space to house offenders when the counts fluctuate, when it goes past 175. Year to date it's been open for 10 days and there are washroom and shower facilities in that area. The gym was primarily used for recreational purposes for the offenders, so they've looked at other ways to do recreation with the women at Pine Grove.

The dedicated cultural centre was converted back into a living unit. And that was at Sharber, so the family visiting unit now at Pine Grove has been converted into the cultural program space.

[19:15]

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Is that it or is there more?

**Ms. Scriver:** — Saskatoon Correctional Centre, program areas in A, B, C that house offenders have been changed back actually to program spaces, and other rooms in those units have been double bunked. So this allows for on-unit programming.

The classroom has been converted to a living space for a number of years, and also has a program space converted to a property room as well at Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — You mentioned that . . . Let me just make sure that I got you right. All of the space that has been converted to dorms or places with beds that weren't that prior, they have access to showers and washrooms?

**Ms. Scriver:** — That's correct.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And is that unescorted access or are escorts required?

**Ms. Scriver:** — Unescorted access. Yes, unescorted access.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — You had mentioned that the family visit unit in Pine Grove was converted into a program space. Where is the family visit unit now?

**Ms. Scriver:** — We don't have a family visiting unit per se anymore. It was used very, very rarely.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. You had mentioned in Prince Albert that there is now an alternative location for the programming. Can you describe where that or what that alternative location is?

**Ms. Scriver:** — In the main building behind the admitting area there was a room between remand and the admitting area that's across the hallway from admission and discharge. And so they've just converted that middle space into a program area.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And what was that room used for prior?

**Ms. Scriver:** — Storage.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — You had mentioned that to deal with some of the overpopulation in Saskatoon there's some double-bunking that wasn't in existence before. Can you go into a bit more detail about that?

**Ms. Scriver:** — There's a couple of cells in A, B, and C that have been double bunked. And so those offenders that were in the program space have been moved up to actually the living unit area, and the original program space has been restored back to its original intent.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And those newly-created double-bunked cells, are those closed facilities? Like, is that a . . . What am I trying to say? I'm trying to determine what sort of unit that those are located in.

**Ms. Scriver:** — The exterior buildings outside of the main complex, they're in those areas. You come out of the main building and you are walking down the path and you have those three buildings, they're in those ones, the pods.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay, got you.

Can you repeat for me — sorry, I believe the minister might have provided this number to begin with — what the total amount of additional beds are that have been created?

**Mr. McFee:** — I don't think we've talked about the beds. We talked about the actual PIT count, the numbers.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. Could you provide that to me then?

**Mr. McFee:** — Okay. Bed space capacity: Pine Grove, I'm going to have to get a pair of glasses here, 147; Prince Albert Correctional Centre, 432; Saskatoon Correctional, 412; Regina

Correctional, 522; for 1,513.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And that's the total I'm looking for. How many new needed to be created this year?

**Mr. McFee:** — We'll have to get back to you on that.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. Let's move on, being cognizant of the time. Mr. McFee, you had mentioned that some of this money was going . . . and I didn't catch all of the things that you had said, but was dealing with escorts and transports, and perhaps something else. And staff training is a separate one that we'll talk about later, but I'm trying to catch everything that you said in between, after contingency space and before staff training.

**Mr. McFee:** — So escorts would be inmates that obviously must be escorted into the community. Doctor, specialist appointments, as you can imagine, most of these have to be taken to the doctor as it's harder to get a physician to come into the correctional centre. With the rising count, certainly increased medical needs of inmates, and the necessity of three staff escorts after an escape of high risk that we're aware of in Prince Albert, we've changed it as an OH & S [occupational health and safety] action to have three staff, so that drives extra costs. So that's the escort portion of it.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. So that's no new, like you said, no new FTEs [full-time equivalent]. This is just the FTEs you already have working longer hours.

**Mr. McFee:** — That's correct.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay.

**Mr. McFee:** — Transfers basically were associated with female prisoner transport between White Birch and Pine Grove and for male offenders between Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. These are for court appearances and for population management, obviously the optimization of the beds. So there's an additional cost for that, but it's also managing the incompatibility, such as gangs and security threats and making sure that you're keeping the environment safe. So those have a cost to them.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Right. And I understand population management and incompatibilities. But let's talk about court appearances a little bit. Are you tracking how many times you have to do a transfer — or a transport, I suppose — for a court appearance? I'm asking this because I know that space has been utilized to allow for more video court appearances, but I'm curious as to how that's working.

**Mr. McFee:** — We'll get you how much our numbers have increased on video here, which have been significant.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — The use of video has been successful. When it was originally brought in there was a concern that the inmates would not want to avail themselves of the opportunity to use the video services because it would ordinarily be regarded as a day out of their cells. But it's usually a day sitting in the back of a prisoner van, so now the inmates seem to be more than willing to deal with an adjournment or that type of an application by way of the video conferencing. And they've had

good success there, but I think I'll let Glennis give you a more precise answer.

**Ms. Bihun:** — Sure. So I have some statistics with me tonight from 2013-14, starting from that point. There were about 9,500 court appearances by video in that fiscal year. Last fiscal year that number doubled to about 19,900. So far year to date this year, so looking at the end of the third quarter, we're sitting at about 16,400. So we are certainly on track to increase the 19.9 from last fiscal year to somewhere around, we'd estimate, 22,000 appearances this year.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Great. Thank you so much. Just so that I'm clear, because we're doing supplemental estimates, not regular estimates, so this is additional money that's being requested. Is there a reason why the amount that was needed for escorts and transports was underbudgeted?

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — The number of inmates has risen. And as the number of inmates has risen, those that are on remand have court appearance, so it would be a proportional increase.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay, fair enough. Let's move on to staff training. You mentioned naloxone training. Is there any other staff training that this is supposed to cover as well?

**Mr. McFee:** — It's naloxone, what I have here in relation to staff training. But there's also a constant turnover in relation to overtime reduction strategy. So when we're talking about training, some of this is a management perspective as well. Obviously with an overtime strategy, try to deal with that in a more effective manner, and we've spent considerable time working with our management to deal with that issue as well.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Can you go into a little bit more detail by what you mean by your overtime strategy? Because we were just talking about utilizing the same amount of FTEs for more transports and more escorts, so I'm curious to know what you mean in that regard.

**Mr. McFee:** — Okay. So in relation to the overtime strategy, what we're looking at is how the hours are paid versus the number of people. So we're actually trying to balance the number of hours per individual so we don't get into the overtime situation. So for instance, there's still some that maybe aren't working full-time, but there are some that are working over full-time in relation to an overtime strategy. So to try to balance the way we pay as per hours worked, versus on an FTE basis.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. So how does that utilize, or how is additional staff training utilized for that strategy?

**Mr. McFee:** — It's the balance. I mean as you're aware from previous estimates, we've got a mix of permanent part-time, permanent full-time, and you know, we're looking at the lowest salary cost to the province without sacrificing safety of the public to do that. And that is a bit of a balancing act that takes a little bit of training, to say the least.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And just so that I understand, so this is training . . . For example, you could have an employee who was doing one particular job, but in order to better . . . or to increase

their hours to balance them out as you're describing, you might have to train them for additional duties. Is that . . . I'm just trying to understand.

**Mr. McFee:** — So one of the things that we have introduced is, if you want to work, if you're in the YO [young offender] facility and you want to work in the adult facility, and vice versa, there's additional training that you have to have to do that. And it equates to approximately two weeks of training, but that is available to, as you said, those that want to pick up extra hours and would like to work in both facilities. That certainly has been opened up.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — That's not a new program though. That existed before, did it not?

**Mr. McFee:** — It continues.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay, so why the increase? Again, since we're in supplemental estimates, why the increase in this budget item?

**Mr. McFee:** — So I don't want to confuse you with the fact that that's been the big increase. The biggest is the naloxone and the contraband, but that is something that we still continue to do, which is part of it. I can't give you the exact breakdown. We certainly could, but that isn't the big part of this.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. And since you had brought it up, Mr. McFee, staff moving for example from YO to adult, is that voluntary or is that part of the strategy that it's not?

**Mr. McFee:** — They apply for it.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. Thank you. Let's talk about the naloxone training, then. You said that that was the larger part of the training budget. Can you go into a little bit more detail please?

**Mr. McFee:** — We'll get our expert here to give you exactly how they're trained.

**Ms. Schnell:** — Hi, I'm Doris Schnell, the executive director of offender services.

[19:30]

So we started earlier in the year with training all of the nurses around the injectable naloxone. So there was a whole rollout in training all those nurses, and then once we did that, we realized that wasn't sufficient. So we trained all of the correctional workers as well in the nasal spray, the Narcan piece of the naloxone, so that we would have very quick response to anybody who was potentially overdosing.

Now we've had five deployments where we've . . . They've all been successful, thank goodness.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — That's great to hear. Is that both the injectable and the nasal spray, five total?

**Ms. Schnell:** — You know what, I'd have to go back and look. When the nurses are available, they use the injectable, and when

they're not right there, we use the nasal spray. So sometimes we actually end up using both. So I don't have that right handy, how many times. We've used the nasal spray more often, I know that.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you so much. I want to move back to what is the larger part of this estimate, the contingency space. You had mentioned, actually I think it was Ms. Scriver had mentioned something about — or it might have been you, sorry — a medical holding unit being changed in some way up to the tune of \$1.8 million a year. I just have a note of that. I just am looking for more detail. I'm not sure if that was P.A. [Prince Albert]; I think it might've been you, Mr. McFee, that had said that.

**Mr. McFee:** — It was in Saskatoon.

**Ms. Scriver:** — So the holding cells and the medical cells were refurbished and made . . . You know, the floors were painted. They were cleaned, new beds installed.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay, thank you. I wasn't sure. So it's the same amount of units there, just revamped. Okay, thank you.

Let's talk a little bit about remand rates because I know this is something we talk about every year in estimates, and I know that's a priority for the ministry to address. It doesn't look like, we're here talking about supplemental estimates, so it doesn't look like the problem has been solved, which is kind of an understatement.

But I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit about how your strategy is going with respect to dealing with remand. We've talked about your pilot project before that's in Regina and Saskatoon and P.A., I believe. As well as I know we've talked a little bit about the role of the prosecutions office in all of this as well as with the police. So maybe it's best we just open the floor and talk a little bit about remand.

**Mr. McFee:** — So we've had some success early on, and the success certainly, as you're aware, was introduced in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. It's been a little harder to get going — some of the shortfall that we have in prosecutions in Regina — but we've just recently within the last few months started to see this stabilize.

So as you remember, we said the first thing we had to do in remand is stabilize it — in other words, stop the growth. At some points it had grown considerably, you know, going up and towards that 55 per cent and continued to spike with additional 114 numbers.

Within the last three months that we've actually further went out and drilled into this, in those centres we're actually seeing it start to level out. Are we going to say that we've cured it? No. What we're going to say is it appears by every inclination of what we're doing is actually stabilizing the remand environment. And for the last couple months, actually three months, it's almost getting to a zero growth on remand. We're also seeing within that first 10 days, the majority, it's up to 93 per cent of the folks are getting out.

So we are seeing some big wins early on, on the remand

strategy. And our hope's obviously within the coming year is to get it up and running in Regina and then further drill it out even further. As you're aware, we start with the weekends, and we see the same issues during the week. So next step is to continue to expand, continue to test, and to continue to see that trend downward.

What I also didn't mention is one part of the remand is to educate the police on how can we reduce the number of breach charges because, as you've asked before, the breaches in Saskatchewan are double than other provinces, and that is also a contributor to keeping them out of the system.

So, so far, touch wood, we are seeing some positive trends. And there's a whole lot of detail we could get into on that, but those are the trends that we're seeing right now.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. So when you're saying stabilizing, you mean you're not seeing the percentage go up. You're seeing it sort of stay around that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . with a slight decrease. So do you know what you're at right now? I think it was around 50 per cent during last estimates.

**Mr. McFee:** — We're right around that 50, yes.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — More than 49 per cent.

**Mr. McFee:** — It's fluctuating.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. Now we talked about the troubles that you were having getting this project going in Regina back in April, whenever we did estimates last. And one of the challenges is a shortage of prosecutors in Regina. So is the ministry still having that challenge even into December, several months later?

**Mr. Gardner:** — Still some challenges. We've had lots of people leaving, and obviously recruiting new people, it takes some time to develop them. I expect we'll be over the hump early in the year, is my guess.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — So why the challenges in retaining prosecutors in Regina? This is something I've been hearing about for a while now and I've heard . . . You know, I know anecdotally why there are challenges. But I want to make sure that the ministry is addressing this retention problem, because it does, especially in the area of prosecutions, have a pretty debilitating effect on how the entire criminal justice system works in Regina, not even talking about the problems with the remand pilot project taking off as well.

So this is an area where it's been a bit of a challenge for a while in terms of retaining prosecutors, keeping qualified prosecutors around and keeping them working in Regina. This isn't a thing that has happened for a long period of time, not a decade, but it is a more of a recent phenomenon. But it is one that has been going on for at least a year now. So what sort of retention work is being done with the ministry in addressing this issue?

**Mr. Gardner:** — The head of prosecutions has been actively recruiting new prosecutors. A number of them have, you know, gone on to other appointments. We've appointed some to the bench. They've gone on to other opportunities. It's a matter of

actively recruiting them and developing them over a period of time. The other shift is to move some of the more experienced prosecutors to doing the early resolution work, which allows them to handle more cases more expeditiously. So it's sort of a shift in priority.

I guess the other, along with that, using the more experienced prosecutors to do some of the early resolution work also helps take some of the pressure off prosecutions and keep them up. But it's a challenge. We've had some particular challenges in Regina that our head of prosecutions is on and is trying to address, but it's people moving on to other opportunities for the most part.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Right. It's a retention issue. I know of at least I think about four lawyers around my year of call, around this three to seven year of call, who've left to go to different places in Alberta, for example, in the last six months or so. So it's definitely . . . I'm hearing anecdotally that it's causing problems in terms of slowdown and issues getting files advanced. So I'm flagging it as a problem that needs to be addressed at some point.

I'm almost out of questions, but I do want to ask because we are talking about some additional money going into corrections. There is recently an inquiry that just completed and some recommendations that were made for Kilburn Hall in particular. I know I've seen the news report about the body scanner, but I'm more curious to know about the other recommendation that called for more nurses. And I asked a few times that this new money isn't including additional FTEs, but this isn't the first inquiry I've seen that's recommended more medical staff be added to various facilities. Is there any work within the ministry or any plans to address any of the recommendations that were made in the most recent inquiry?

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — We've just received the findings. To the credit of the ministry officials, they've been watching the inquest as it's gone on, so some of the things that were starting to appear during the course of the proceedings, they've tried to act on proactively. That would be things like empowering the individuals to make sure that anybody that thought an individual was having a health crisis, they were entitled to call or should call 911 right away, that they didn't need to worry about a protocol or whatever else. If a life is in danger, make the common sense decision to just deal with it.

There's also some cross-training going on the identification of drug overdoses so that everybody that's on-site should be able to understand what they need to do if a situation arises. Now we have not included in this year's budget staff for nurses, but I think if there's one that's needed, they've got an on-call ability to try and bring a nurse in if it's appropriate or to make a 911 call if it's necessary.

The other issue is the body scanners. And they're actively looking at the feasibility of doing that in all of the institutions as to what the cost is, what the physical layout of the various locations would be, and what the overall cost would be to do it. The sense coming from the officials at the ministry is that that would be one of the most effective ways of eliminating or minimizing contraband drugs from being brought in in a body cavity. I'm told that we have an RFP [request for proposal] on

the scanners as well.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — So based on what you're saying, Minister Morgan, there's no plans to hire additional medical staff for Kilburn Hall?

**Ms. Scriver:** — Hi. Yes, we're doing a complete health services review right now, and so staffing levels are part of that review.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Do you mind going into a little bit more detail about that review?

**Ms. Schnell:** — Yes, so this past year what we've done is collected a lot of data that we have around our health services, data around how many folks have contagious diseases, how many people have chronic diseases, the services we have in place. So we've tried to sort of do a whole high-level scan of, you know, exactly what is the need that's presenting in our population — mental health services and medical services — and then what services we currently have in place. And then from there we'll have some recommendations in terms of going forward.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — That's great to hear. I know during estimates last . . . I think it was last estimates, we were talking about mental health services and that you weren't able to . . . Or I was asking about wait times to access medical staff, particularly for those who were declaring, self-declaring a need for a mental health professional. And I don't think the ministry was able to provide me that. I don't think they were. I think they were tracking it by paper or something at that point in time. Is part of the review going to include a way of being able to track that data?

[19:45]

**Mr. McFee:** — We have that right now. So depending on the classification, psychiatry for example, is 14 days at PACC. It's longer in some of the others. And what we're trying to do is balance it out, because it can be up to three to six months in some areas. And that's just one example, but that also covers GP [general practitioner], optometry, dental, harm reduction, methadone. So all of those things are part of this review — including, as you mentioned, the mental health — and trying to find a reasonable, consistent balance that we can meet in all the facilities.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay, thank you. Can you give me all of those wait times for psychiatry and methadone, please?

**Mr. McFee:** — Yes, psychiatry varies from 14 days to four to five months, depending on the health region. And optometry varies from three hours to two weeks, to two to three months. And dental is generally between one and three months. Harm reduction is really no wait, and methadone, there's no wait as well.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Could you give us more detail as to which facilities are experiencing the four- to five-month wait for psychiatry?

**Mr. McFee:** — It varies. The psychiatry is in Regina and the



same with the dental in Regina, but it's got the largest population in custody count, so . . .

**Ms. Sarauer:** — And the longest . . . [inaudible].

**Mr. McFee:** — Correct, yes.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Since we were talking about inquiries, I'm just curious. The Breanna Kannick inquiry was postponed. Do we have a new date for when that's going to happen?

**Mr. McFee:** — We just got that. I can't remember off the top of my head, but I just seen this yesterday. I believe it's March 1st to 5th.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. I don't have any further questions. I just want to take this opportunity, though, before my mike gets cut off to thank first all of the officials for being here this evening. I really appreciated having your thoughtful answers to my many and varied questions. As well to the deputy ministers for being here as well this evening, and to the Minister of Justice. I know this is a file he's had before, but it's my first time critiquing him, I suppose, and I appreciated his answers as well.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Madam Chair. It's my first time with the Opposition Leader who was . . . I thought should have been more aggressive with the officials and kinder to me, but I guess this is the way it is.

In any event, I want to . . . this is part of the process we have where information is shared. And it's a good method of public accountability and I think it's something we all have a huge amount of respect for. So I'd like to thank the committee members for being here this evening, the officials, as well as members of the opposition and to legislative services. Thank you all very much.

**The Chair:** — And thank you very much. We will now move to vote 3, Justice, page 14. Custody, supervision, and rehabilitation services, subvote (JU06) in the amount of \$12,000,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Justice, vote 3, \$12,000,000. That's a big one. 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, 2018, the following sums for Justice in the amount of \$12,000,000.

Mr. Steinley. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

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

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

**Mr. Steinley:** — I so move.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Steinley. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Seeing that we have concluded our business today, again . . . The minister, do you have any closing remarks, or are you . . .

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I've already made them. Thank you.

**The Chair:** — Okay, thank you very much. I will now ask a member to move that we adjourn.

Mr. Steele has moved that we now adjourn. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The committee adjourned at 19:50.]