



STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

Hansard Verbatim Report

No. 36 — April 10, 2019



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

Mr. Fred Bradshaw, Chair
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Buckley Belanger, Deputy Chair
Athabasca

Mr. Ken Francis
Kindersley

Mr. Hugh Nerlien
Kelvington-Wadena

Mr. Eric Olauson
Saskatoon University

Ms. Laura Ross
Regina Rochdale

Mr. Corey Tochor
Saskatoon Eastview

[The committee met at 18:00.]

The Chair: — Well good evening and welcome to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I'm Fred Bradshaw, the Chair. We have here Ken Francis, Hugh Nerlien, Eric Olauson, Corey Tochor, and we have Nicole Sarauer substituting for Buckley Belanger.

This evening the committee will be considering the estimates for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, and the Ministry of Corrections and Policing. The estimates under consideration this evening include vote 73, Corrections and Policing; vote 91 and 196, Integrated Justice Services; vote 3, Justice and Attorney General. We will also be considering the supplementary estimates — no. 2 for vote 3, Justice and Attorney General.

**General Revenue Fund
Justice and Attorney General
Vote 3**

Subvote (JU01)

The Chair: — We will now begin with vote 3, Justice, central management and services, subvote (JU01). Minister Morgan and Minister Tell are here. Please introduce your officials and make your opening comments. I would like to remind the officials to please state your name for *Hansard* when you speak.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Good evening, Mr. Chair and committee members. I am pleased to be here tonight to answer questions and to provide insights and highlights of the 2019-20 financial plan for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. I'm joined this evening by a number of officials from the ministry. With me at the table is Glen Gardner, deputy minister of Justice and deputy attorney general. I will have other ministry officials introduce themselves as they answer questions.

Our plan and budget is focused on the right balance for Saskatchewan. We will promote access to justice and Justice programs for the people of Saskatchewan. This year's budget includes \$427,000 devoted to improving interpersonal violence and abuse services in our province. Funding will also be provided for four crisis workers, creating two new positions and maintaining the funding for the two that were announced after the release of the Domestic Violence Death Review Report last spring. Additionally, funding to expand programming for children will be provided.

We remain committed to having a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan. Funding of \$1.2 million will be devoted to enhancing court services, including civil enforcement, jury management, and court security in the Court of Queen's Bench.

We promote safe and secure communities. The Public Complaints Commission will receive additional funding for a new investigative position and resources to proactively improve its oversight of policing within Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Coroners Service will also receive \$1.6 million to undertake enhancements such as the addition of a third forensic pathologist and improved toxicology.

2019-20 also sees the return of over \$10 million of programming to the GRF [General Revenue Fund] from the Victims' Fund. This reflects our success at lowering the accumulated surplus in the fund and returning it to balance.

In closing, the Ministry of Justice plays a key role in our province. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past year and will continue to collaborate with our government and community partners to achieve greater success in the future. The funding for the 2019-20 fiscal year will ensure the ministry continues to play this role for our government.

Those are the highlights with regard to the 2019-20 fiscal budget. I would like to just mention that we are also voting tonight on a supplementary estimate for the 2018-2019 budget. The funding that is in that supplementary estimate are an additional \$1 million to support its work in the justice system, and in particular the Saskatchewan Coroners Service. Coroners have faced utilization pressures this past year that we will address with new funding in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that the committee may have on these additional costs for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. But before we take questions, I will turn it over to my colleague, Minister Tell.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Minister Morgan. I'm pleased to be here tonight to provide an overview of the Ministry of Corrections and Policing 2019-20 budget and financial plan. With me at this table is Dale Larsen, acting deputy minister of Corrections and Policing. We're also joined by a number of officials from the ministry, and I would like to thank all of them for being here and for the great work they do every day in helping protect and improve our province's safety and well-being.

Our plan and budget is focused on the right balance for Saskatchewan, a balance which helps ensure Saskatchewan communities are safe and secure, and that Saskatchewan communities continue to be the best place in Canada to live, work, and raise a family. Our ministry is committed to providing supervision and rehabilitation services for adult and young offenders, and ensuring that we continue to support police forces across the province.

I'll begin with some highlights of our plans on the corrections side. This year is part of our '19-20 budget and financial plan. We plan on fully opening the 96 secure-custody beds at the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford. This will provide offenders with the opportunity to address their mental health and addictions in a world-class facility. We will be opening a new living unit at Paul Dojack Youth Centre later this year. It will provide 14 beds in a flexible design to allow us to house male or female young offenders in either open or secure custody.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our infrastructure in the correctional system, we will continue to install new locking mechanisms and will begin a new project to install contraband detection equipment in our facilities. As part of our ministry's budget, we remain committed to providing effective policing programs to uphold the rule of law and to protect both society and the rights of individuals.

Along with our partners with the Ministry of Justice and Integrated Justice Services, we are leading the gang violence reduction strategy. In '19-20 \$1.2 million of federal funding will be devoted to this intelligence- and data-driven work. It will enhance current law enforcement strategies and efforts and focus on the prevention, intervention, and suppression of gangs and gang violence. As part of the gang violence reduction strategy, we will be opening another dedicated substance abuse treatment unit in one of our adult secure custody facilities. Evaluations of the Regina program have proven to reduce offender re-contact with the correctional system.

Although there is a decrease to the policing budget line for '19-20, there is new funding of \$1.7 million for the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] to continue to provide policing services, and \$400,000 for the First Nations policing program. The decrease presented in estimates is due to changes in pensions and accommodations within the RCMP contract and has no effect at all on front line or delivery of service. We will also be spending 1.1 million in federal funding on training RCMP and municipal police services on drug-impaired driving detection.

The Ministry of Corrections and Policing plays a vital role in our province. We have accomplished much in the last year and are focused on continually improving, now and into the future. We are not alone in this goal and we will continue to work with our government and community partners to innovate and achieve greater safety outcomes for Saskatchewan residents.

Those are some highlights, and both myself and officials from the ministry would be pleased to answer any questions on the '19-20 financial plan and budget for the Ministry of Corrections and Policing. Thank you.

The Chair: — Well thank you, ministers. And I have one correction to make before we continue on. Actually I have Todd Goudy substituting for Eric Olauson. So are there any questions? Ms. Sarauer.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to both of the ministers for both of your opening remarks. As I try to do every year, I've tried to separate my questions between the two ministries, but I know how integrated the two of them often are. So as I do every year, I ask you to bear with me. Before I get started on the list of questions that I do have, there were a couple of questions that came to mind from your opening remarks that I'd like a little bit of further discussion on.

Minister Morgan, you had mentioned some allocation of resources toward jury management. Could you elaborate on that?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We're joined by Glennis Bihun.

Ms. Bihun: — Hi, good evening. So the ministry has had a review of its overall jury management system under way since about 2016. And you might recall that a little over a year ago we introduced a component as a result of that review, which was the juror assistance and support program.

Our review is focused on not only taking a look at the legislation, but also further financial supports and emotional supports for jurors, as well as how can we improve some of the consistencies

in regards to how we actually administer the legislation and grant relief and really make an efficient, effective support for that.

So specifically within the 1.8 that Court Services received, there is a total of 330,000 that's allotted to sheriff services overall. We're in the process of reaching some final decision points of what specific dollars will go towards jurors, and that will be a combination of what we need for resources within the ministry to administer it well, along with what additional supports for jurors might be considered.

Ms. Sarauer: — That 330,000 for sheriff services, is that an increase or a decrease from last year's budget?

Ms. Bihun: — That is an increase.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Of 330,000 or how much?

Ms. Bihun: — 330.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. And you said it's still to be determined what that will actually be allocated to?

Ms. Bihun: — So we're in the process of putting together some final recommendations for consideration for how those dollars will be allocated, shared between resources as well as supports for jurors.

Ms. Sarauer: — Any time frame for when you plan on putting forward that recommendation to the minister?

Ms. Bihun: — We hope to have those recommendations in the minister's hands so that we can be implementing come early fall.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — You're likely aware that the process for selecting jurors in our province is based on health cards. I think there's a lack of information in the public about what role a juror plays and what the responsibilities are, and we're having to empanel ever larger groups of jurors to try and make sure we have a full panel. So we think by providing some supports and some education we may alleviate the need to have to empanel so many, and we may make that particular civic obligation less, less onerous for members of the public.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. We've heard challenges around, in particular, funding for transportation and accommodations. Is there any consideration going into that?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Yes, that would be certainly be part of the thing, is what the needs of the prospective juror might be for living out or for transportation or for family supports.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is there any consideration going toward increasing representation of Indigenous and Métis jurors in the province?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — In coroner's inquests, we maintain two panels so that the panels would be more reflective of the family members that would be involved for criminal jury selection. We don't think that having a quota or a specific target is desirable, but our goal would be that we would make it better or easier for

more jurors, whether they're Indigenous or not, to be available to be empanelled.

As you're aware, the federal legislation has done away with pre-emptory challenges. But I think we've made a conscious decision that we would not want to say, okay because either the victim or an accused happens to be Indigenous, that we would want to have a specific target or goal. It should be representative of the population, so that's the direction we're taking right now.

Ms. Sarauer: — Just to clarify, there's no movement toward specifically increasing Indigenous or Métis representation, but all representation on juror selections?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — That's correct. We would want to make it easier for any member of the public to have the necessary support so that they can fulfill their obligation to do it. And that would certainly apply as much or more to an Indigenous family than anyone else.

[18:15]

Ms. Sarauer: — And the supports that the ministry will be implementing or enhancing, that has not been determined yet.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — It hasn't. We put the funding in the budget this year. And we are looking for the ministry to come back with the recommendations of how that funding would be allocated or what we'd be able to do. And the goal would be that we would want to get it in the hands of prospective jurors, as soon as we reasonably can.

But I think the same things that you were contemplating was, you know, the costs of transportation, the family-related costs. Those are the things that we would want to target, plus whatever supported counselling might be for a juror that's going through a complex or a trial that's horrific by nature.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I also want to ask some further, for further information around civil enforcement. I think you indicated in your opening remarks that there would be some allocation of resources toward that?

Ms. Bihun: — Yes, so also within additional resources this year, our funds to support how we deliver our civil enforcement. We appreciate very much that since *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* came into force in 2012, that while that's created a effective platform for both creditors and debtors, the case files that we are reacting to are significantly higher.

And so we have taken great steps to establish a centralized unit that would allow for files to be set up centrally and some of that administrative work to be done centrally. So that we can really have our deputy sheriffs and those experts in the field on doing the enforcement, focused on the enforcement work. So as we continue to reach those decision points on the reviews of that, we'll continue to support further centralization to maximize the service delivery that we can provide to both creditors and debtors.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I also have a follow-up question from Minister Tell's opening remarks, in particular around the new substance abuse treatment unit.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Substance treatment unit. Okay.

Ms. Scriver: — Heather Scriver, assistant deputy minister of CSRS [custody, supervision and rehabilitation services].

Ms. Sarauer: — I asked about the new substance . . . Minister Tell in her opening remarks mentioned that there would be a new substance abuse treatment unit in one of the correctional centres. I was asking for more information.

Ms. Scriver: — Yes, we plan on opening up another unit in one of our facilities. We're still debating which one it's going to be but we're leaning towards our women's facility because the need there is great.

Ms. Sarauer: — So how much bed space will be available in the new unit?

Ms. Scriver: — It will be between 14 and 20, and 20 being the top limit.

Ms. Sarauer: — And when you're talking about substance abuse treatment, can you elaborate on what that will look like?

Ms. Scriver: — It will be very similar, if not a replica of the one at the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre that we've had there for a number of years. The overall goals and outcome of this initiative for offenders, families, and the community are to reduce involvement or harm associated with alcohol or drugs, improved physical and/or psychological health, improved family or social functioning, and reduce the involvement with the criminal justice system. So it's been evaluated and has demonstrated participants at a statistically significant lower rate of re-contact with Corrections at the 6-, 12-, and 24-month post-release.

Ms. Sarauer: — Absolutely. I've heard great things about the Regina unit. What are the current wait-list numbers to access that unit that's currently operational in Regina?

Ms. Scriver: — I can give you the numbers that ran out of the DSATU [dedicated substance abuse treatment unit]. So for fiscal 2017-18, 113 completed the program out of 120, and six groups were run. And in fiscal 2018-19, 86 completed out of the 96, and five groups were run on that one as well.

So we have a one-day snapshot, March 31st, 2019, and the wait-list for the DSATU at RCC [Regina Correctional Centre] was 91.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have an average annual or just the one day?

Ms. Scriver: — Just the one day.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. So on that particular day, there was 91 people waiting to access one of those bed spaces in the unit.

Ms. Scriver: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Which I think, you know, shows the desire to access the program and, as you've stated, the general success of the program, which is why the ministry — and I'm happy to hear

— is considering adding an additional unit, perhaps in the women's correctional centre. Is there any work towards expanding that further? A 91-person wait-list is quite large.

Ms. Scriver: — Yes, we are going to expand it. There is a definite plan because we see success out of this, and this is exactly what we're trying to accomplish. So we have a goal of having a DSATU at every one of our facilities.

Ms. Sarauer: — But for this particular fiscal year, there's only a plan for the one additional, correct?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay, thank you. I'm going to start with some Corrections and Policing questions because I usually start with Justice first, so I figured I'd mix things up this year. Could you provide me with the FTE [full-time equivalent] numbers for the ministry budgeted for this upcoming fiscal year? And then also what it was for last fiscal please.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Okay, for 2018-19, it was 2,124.4. For 2019-20 is 2,327.4.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Do you have a breakdown of where those additional FTEs are going?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I'm sure we have a breakdown for that. I mean I can speak generally to . . . In particular the increase?

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Is the correctional centre. With respect to the overtime, making those adjustments so that . . . It's the overtime strategy, so ensure we have the base amount of people so that we don't end up incurring overtime costs the way we had been. So it's sort of a rebalance.

Ms. Sarauer: — Just to clarify, for all the correctional centres then, yes?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. That leads to my second question. I was hoping that there could be a breakout of total FTE numbers for those working within the correctional centres, a year-over-year comparison between last year.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I'm not sure how far you want the breakdown to be at, but the total young offender facility numbers is 724. At the adult facilities, the total numbers is 1,617.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Is that budgeted for this upcoming year or the past year?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — '19.

Ms. Sarauer: — '19?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — '19-20.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have the . . . Could you provide the '18-19 numbers as well? The same breakdown is fine.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Okay. So for '18-19 it was for the custody services, adult, 1,642.5. For the young offender . . .

The breakdown that I provided on the '19-20 numbers, we can get to you the '18-19 numbers for comparative purposes. Okay. So we can get those to you. Thanks.

Ms. Sarauer: — That would be great. Thank you so much. I now am looking specifically at the Estimates book and the vote 73 for Corrections and Policing, just so you can follow along. Looking at (CP17), it's called demand reduction and modernization. I just wanted to ask a few questions around what falls under each allocation. So the first allocation here is research and evidence-based excellence. Could you provide some information as to what falls under this particular line item?

Mr. Rector: — Good evening. Dr. Rector, executive director of the research and excellence-based branch. That branch has been in place for about five or six years. It's just for the first time it's been identified as a separate line in the budget. So it's not something newly created.

The role of the branch, it consists of senior program experts, subject matter experts in the area of corrections and policing and data management. The types of programs we've been involved in is, for example, I co-chair with the Attorney General side, Mr. Gerein, the provincial remand initiative. The serious violent offender response is also a joint initiative between the Attorney General and Corrections and Policing. The branch no longer . . . We support that now. I'm no longer the Chair of that committee, other folks are, but the branch continues to support that whole program through training. And you know, as an example, there's clinical experts that are involved either directly in their branch or that we collaborate with. And right now we're just completing a review of a handful of very serious complex cases over the years that were in that program. And, you know, what have we learned, what are some recommendations? So that's an example.

[18:30]

Collaboration with the university, both universities on a variety of different things. So in previous years I've mentioned sort of cost-effectiveness examples in some of the programs, serious violent offender response being one of them. And that's through collaboration with the University of Regina, department of economics. The examination of the remand initiative and of benefits of some of the subprograms are completed by University of Regina, that I work within and from a contractual basis for that independent evaluation.

The forensic centre in University of Saskatchewan as well as with department of computer science and mathematics, those folks are involved in areas pertaining to corrections and effectiveness of corrections programs, but also around looking at it from a new perspective to see, you know, what are their driving forces for remand? You know, how do we look at some of our bigger challenging problems differently?

The branch, and myself in particular, also supports other ministries. So we have a branch, it's funded by Social Services, but I support the supervision for it through the Corrections and Policing budget. It's looking at the whole field of child welfare in examination of advanced methodologies in analytics to look at

how to prove outcomes in terms of diminishing subsequent maltreatment of children, whether they remain at home or increasing effective family reintegration, providing data and science to that whole process from a different lens.

I also, as a branch collectively . . . It's like a team. It doesn't matter whether people are in Social Services or Corrections, you know, depends what's the challenge in how we pull things together. So you know, other examples across ministries include, you know, department of Education would like to look at an initiative around early years. And so you know, we certainly collaborate with that sort of initiative around working with what kind of data is required and what systems, like the Department of Health — not department, the new Health Authority — and data for children and how that might work, so the police analytics lab, which is a partnership between University of Saskatchewan, the government through Corrections and Policing, and Saskatoon Police Service. And involvement in the inaugural project is missing persons, of which the first part of that is children.

So that's a little bit of a summary of what we do. But there's a fair amount of detail with that. So you have contracts, service development with CBOs [community-based organization] that relate to some of these projects. So under the remand initiatives, the contracts to Salvation Army, Elizabeth Fry, John Howard, it's not just sort of money for particulars. It's money for particular services, but the branch is involved in provincial training of the staff around case management, interventions, effectiveness, problem-solving, that type of thing. So that's the subject matter experts that support those agencies.

Canadian Mental Health Association, Saskatchewan division, we fund a program for them as they provide some of the clinical work with the serious violent offenders who have diagnoses in serious mental illness. So they provide what I would call, almost like daily support, living supports for them. You know, it's one thing to provide a space to live; it's another thing for them to maintain that space or employment, that type of thing. So you know, it's a new program. It was created through partnership with experts and with the CMHA [Canadian Mental Health Association].

So that's, you know, sort of a scan of all the different things that we work on. All of them . . . You know, the title of the branch is research, yes, but in evidence-based excellence because what it's about is improving the outcomes. It's not just about examination but, you know from that examination, what have we learned so we can actually implement things? So the whole remand initiative was based on that. It's one thing to, you know, here's the information; now what do we do with it, right. How do we . . . what's our next step? And so it's an innovative partnership with the Attorney General side on many dimensions because everything that I've just mentioned, none of it is being done anywhere else.

So we examine it based on our best sort of data, our information at the time. And we create things and we test it and evaluate it and do the continuous improvement process.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. And the slight increase to the budget for this year, I'm assuming that's for salaries. Or is it for something else? It's from 4.1 to 4.3 million.

Mr. Rector: — That was . . . You'd think I would know if an additional 100,000 came into my budget. It's an administrative aspect. Remember I said we have partnerships. One of the partnerships that we work with and fund is residents for the clinical psychology program in forensic psychology. And we had this base funding and we partnered with the Saskatoon Health Authority and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority.

After a few years there was a challenge in maintaining that program in Regina. So while they were sort of stabilizing their structures, there was a halt on that particular program, whereas the one in Saskatoon is well established and continues to be. But when that happened . . . It's not clear to me, but for whatever reason rather than . . . Because of that funding was not going to be used by me for that year, it was, you know, substituted for say maybe — I'm just guessing here — maybe overexpenditure in custody would be an example. But at the end of the year it didn't come back, somehow got lost in sort of being permanently allocated to another budget line.

And so we will continue on with those clinical resident positions. And so once we found that sort of, what I would call a booking error, I requested that those funds come back into the research and evidence-based excellence budget.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Is it a similar reason why there's a slight increase to the continuous improvement and innovation allocation? It's from 196,000 to 330,000.

Mr. Tulloch: — It's Dave Tulloch with corporate services. Yes, that reflects an internal transfer of one person as well as COLA [cost-of-living adjustment], so 130 of an internal transfer and for COLA.

Ms. Sarauer: — Just so I confirm what you're saying, it's moving one staff person from a different department to this area?

Mr. Tulloch: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you so much. Could you provide the budget allocation for safer communities and neighbourhoods for this budget year, please?

Mr. Larsen: — Those numbers didn't increase this year, Ms. Sarauer. The number for SCAN [safer communities and neighbourhoods] north, out of Saskatoon, is 872,000, and SCAN south, 788,000.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. So just to reiterate what you just said, the budget allocation has not changed from last year to this year. Has the FTE amounts changed at all either?

Mr. Larsen: — No. Those Prince Albert numbers were added in last year, right?

Ms. Gallivan: — They were added last year. Sorry, Rae Gallivan. The SCAN unit in Prince Albert was added last year and became operational a year ago, so there was one additional FTE allocated to that, plus operating dollars. We had two FTE for the Prince Albert SCAN office but we had no budget dollars. And last year in budget, we were able to stand up a three-person unit in Prince Albert.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. And in this budget those numbers have stayed the same?

Ms. Gallivan: — They're steady, yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I'm also curious to know the budget for civil forfeiture proceeds of crime.

Ms. Gallivan: — There is no budget for the civil forfeiture fund within the GRF. The civil forfeiture fund is run as a special purpose fund, which means that it has to self-fund based on the amount of forfeitures it takes in, the value of those forfeitures. It has to self-fund all of its salary and operating dollars, which is approximately 485,000. Once it does that, it's free to distribute the balance of the forfeitures to police services and community-based organizations.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — When we started doing the civil forfeiture, I had been watching *Miami Vice* on television. I had visions that we would get Ferraris and a lot of interesting things, and I had the portfolio at that time. And the first thing that came along was . . . They came and they were quite proud that they had managed to successfully seize and obtain title to a 1978 Vega.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Vega.

Ms. Sarauer: — I think I've heard you say that point before, Minister, which actually leads me to my next question, which is how much was brought in last year in terms of proceeds?

Mr. Larsen: — We'll have to get back to you on that one. We just had actually an update this morning in our system, but the case of moving forward, we'll get back to you on that number.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. And since you're going to have to get back to me, I would like the last five years if at all possible. That would be fantastic.

Ms. Gallivan: — Did you want both revenue and expenditures of the fund?

Ms. Sarauer: — Please, yes. And then what's budgeted for this year as well in terms of expenditure, which I think you already said is 485,000, but if that's different. And then what you're anticipating or hoping to bring in as revenue. Thank you. Appreciate that.

Mr. Larsen: — And you understand the revenue side of that is a bit of a guesstimate, right?

[18:45]

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes, I definitely do, and I know we have legislation that may alter that as well. I can't remember what stage it's at, but I understand that, yes. Thank you. I'm curious now, now that I'm thinking about it. There's a Justice component to this as well because there's I believe a dedicated — or there was a dedicated — Justice lawyer because there is, of course, a civil court proceeding process as a result of this. So there is a Justice budget allocation dedicated to this issue as well. Is that also funded through the proceeds of what is . . .

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — No, I believe there's three and they're

funded all through the other ministry. But I'll let you . . .

Mr. Larsen: — That's correct. We do secondment agreements with Justice every year, and they're funded under the fund as well.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. So part of that \$485,000 is allocated towards those three legal counsel.

Mr. Larsen: — That's correct.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Okay. I'm curious to know more about . . . And I'm looking at the policing and community safety services (CP15) allocation. The program support allocation of that received a slight increase of about \$300,000. Could you provide some details as to what that increase is?

Ms. Gallivan: — So what we do is we moved \$300,000 from our police programs area to our police programs support area, just because of the way our organization is aligned. If you recall, two years ago we received a million dollars in budget for rural crime initiatives. Part of that money was to support positions in our office. One of them was a community safety officer position to expand that program. And so the money was received in the police programs area. However, the position resides in the police program support organization. So we've always . . . Every year we have to balance being short in one area and being over in the other. So this year we've corrected that balance.

Ms. Sarauer: — Does that also explain why there's a slight decrease in the police programs allocation this year? Or is that separate?

Ms. Gallivan: — Right, so there would be the same offset of 300,000 and then . . . There's a \$22,000 decrease, which is actually three items. It's a transfer to police program support. And then there's additional dollars for the gang violence reduction strategy of 197, and an additional 48,000 for cost-of-living adjustments. So that makes up the net decrease of 22,000.

Ms. Sarauer: — That gang violence reduction strategy, that is, and I think Minister Tell mentioned in her opening remarks, that is all federal dollars. Is that correct?

Ms. Gallivan: — That is correct.

Ms. Sarauer: — So there's no provincial dollars that's going toward that program. Can you provide some details as to how that money is going to be allocated out?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Okay. The breakdown is 972,000 for IJS [Integrated Justice Services] and 250,000 for Corrections and Policing.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay, thank you. What is going to be done with that money in each particular unit?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Well 972 that I talked about with IJS will be distributed between community safety and well-being, and strategic systems and innovation. And I'll explain that as best I can.

The 822 to community safety and well-being, to develop and implement an intense outreach program: what this is, is the organization will develop relationships designed to work for them and with them over the course of up to five years so they can benefit from life skill education employment programming.

The relentless — it's called relentless outreach — has been successful in helping individuals exit gangs, reducing reoffending among high-risk groups, providing job placements, and providing support to youth to sustain behaviour change over the long term.

150,000 of the amount is going to the Saskatchewan integrated intelligence group. Its IT [information technology] system will be used to identify and track gang members and affiliates.

250,000 to Corrections and Policing will be distributed between police programs and custody services, and 197 to police programs to enhance the Saskatchewan integrated intelligence group.

Now I'm going to turn it over to Rob to explain some of that a little bit deeper. Thanks.

Mr. Cameron: — Rob Cameron from Corrections and Policing. So the components that the minister is speaking about, there is what we are calling now the Saskatchewan integrated intelligence group. That's basically a fusion centre where we're bringing in partner agencies that will work as a collective group to collect intelligence, process intelligence, and deliver intelligence products out to the partner agencies. It will enhance the synthesis of intelligence and the ability to be more proactive and directive towards targeting criminality, specifically towards gangs. So that's the SIIG [Saskatchewan integrated intelligence group] component. Part of that is of course the development of an IT component which would enhance a database system of some sort. We're not at the point where we can say what that is yet, but we're working on that right now.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Is any of this money being allocated out to organizations outside of one of the two ministries?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — We had 12 community-based organizations that received \$20,000 each under this gang reduction strategy. The names haven't been announced yet. And it is all part and parcel, whether it's reintegration, providing support, whatever the case may be, to these specific organizations that applied to government to receive the money.

Ms. Sarauer: — How was it decided that that was the amount that would be allocated to those organizations?

Mr. Larsen: — There was 14 received in total and we went with as many as we basically could justify. The CSWB [community safety and well-being] group that went through them decided that 12 were valid. Even though initially we started with a lower number for the allocation, we thought that we should move it up and we moved it up to 12 out of the 14.

Ms. Sarauer: — So again why was it decided that instead of giving a larger number to maybe two or three organizations, that a smaller number to about 12 would be more beneficial?

Mr. Larsen: — It's not finished yet. So we anticipate that some of the programs identified through this process will eventually lead to bigger program funding. It's a small portion for the previous year, but it's going to continue for the next five in bigger increments, right?

Ms. Sarauer: — For federal dollars, is it the federal dollar amount is increasing?

Mr. Larsen: — That's correct.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Do we know what the increase is going to be, anticipated to be, in terms of allocation to outside organizations for next year?

Mr. Larsen: — There's a bit of a debate about the federal allocation, how they're disbursing that money to the provinces and territories each year. We've argued that we need more of the upfront money as opposed to back end loading the amounts. And in relation to the programs, it's not totally identified year to year what we anticipate spending because we're still in a discussion stage with Public Safety Canada on getting some of that money sooner rather than later.

Ms. Sarauer: — What is the ministry anticipating an outside organization will be able to do with \$20,000?

Mr. Wilby: — Drew Wilby, acting assistant deputy minister of community engagement. In terms of those capacity grants, what we're trying to do obviously is reach out into the communities and build some capacity. We've had some pretty good feedback on the RFP [request for proposal] that's gone out. We're hopeful to be able to announce that in short order, in terms of what those programs and those projects are. Part of the intent was to send that out to the communities to see what they could do with that money that was available and allow them to drive the innovation and drive the product that's there.

The other piece of that, as the minister highlighted, is the intensive outreach and support program over the course of the next few years. Obviously that's going to be a fairly significant amount of money. The RFP's gone out. It hasn't come back yet. You know, we're hopeful that will come back soon. But we're talking dollars of about 800,000 next year, or this year; 1.3 in '20-21; 1.3 in '21-22; and 1.4 in the following year. So that should be fairly significant in being able to go out, target these individuals, hopefully get them back into programming that's going to change some of those behaviours and patterns and put some wraparound service around them.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you for that additional detail, Mr. Wilby. I'm happy to hear you've heard some positive feedback. I've heard some negative feedback, so that's what I'm relaying on to the ministry, that it's difficult for a CBO, an outside organization, for them to do anything really of substance in a year with such a small amount of money. And I am assuming that that opinion may not be shared across the board with all outside organizations, but it is an important one to consider when, you know, operational expenses can be \$20,000 a month for some of these organizations. It's difficult for them to do anything additional of substance with such a small amount of money.

[19:00]

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I think the money that was provided, you know, in deciding it was going to be \$20,000 for 12 organizations, was done specifically to help increase capacity. We're not expecting huge programming coming out of these community-based organizations and delivering, you know, to a wide range or a huge audience. We're really just somewhat stepping out into the community to see what is available, what they can do, and really identify what they're going to need for ensuring that the province's priorities are met with respect to gang violence.

And I don't want to leave you tonight with any impression at all that as a result of federal funding, that there has been no work done with respect to gangs and the gang strategy in the province. We've had our own thing going on: 138,000 to the Yorkton Tribal Council; 299,000 to Saskatoon Tribal Council; 342 to the Regina Street Culture Kidz project; 188 to Prince Albert Outreach; 66,000 to the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. They've all been receiving this money for very specific purposes and we're going to continue working with them. And then they're looking at gangs and gang-related violence in Saskatchewan, you know, and helping with reintegration possibilities. This is much broader than this particular gang reduction strategy that's occurring.

We also, with respect to gang reduction, we have the integrated street enforcement teams. Police are specifically targeting, in particular in Prince Albert, targeting gang and drug activity in the North. Major crime units are looking at gang activity in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert. I mean I could go a little bit more here with respect to the gang issue in the province and the gang strategy to help address that. I just wanted to ensure that there was an understanding that there has been stuff going on prior to this happening, and significant money has been given to those organizations that I listed.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you for that further information, Minister. I am happy to hear that these federal dollars, there is a desire to increase capacity, especially at the front-line level, which we all know is very, very important. I'm just relaying the concern around the ability to increase capacity for an organization when the increase is only \$20,000.

I also wanted to ask . . . I'm looking at the *Building Healthier Communities* report that was made, *Final Report on Community Recommendations for the Development of the Saskatchewan Prevention/Intervention Street Gang Strategy*. I understand this is not a government document but it was one that was created here in the province and out. As I'm sure you're well aware, has several recommendations for the development of a Saskatchewan prevention/intervention street gang strategy.

And in particular the first theme, I wanted to see if there was any thought within the ministry in terms of implementing this recommendation in any way, and just quote the first sentence because I think it basically talks about what it is. But it says, "Communities expressed a need for a centralized leadership organization, that has the ability and capacity to bring together various stakeholders in the province." And then it says specifically that those who were consulted on this were apprehensive of that lead person being actually the Department of Corrections and Policing.

Has the ministry contemplated this report and this

recommendation in particular? And is there any movement within this strategy to create something like what has been recommended?

Mr. Wilby: — Thanks for the question and bringing up the report. We provided a grant to Str8 Up for 49,500 to do some of the work and which of course led to the culmination of that in the conference that they had last fall. And I think the important part there was that we did stay removed from Str8 Up. And we wanted them to lead the charge and start to develop that out.

Part of the thing with the capacity grants — and appreciate the feedback that you've provided on those — is obviously that was money that we needed to get out the door last fiscal. Otherwise it would have gone back to the federal government and that wouldn't have benefited the communities or the stakeholder agencies at all. And we need to start somewhere and build that capacity.

In terms of moving outside of the ministry, you know, we do feel the ministry has a key role to play, especially through our community safety and well-being division, aligned as well with of course our custody services and the policing agencies as well. But we do need to work with the communities, which is why we're looking at this RFP for that intensive outreach program. Obviously that won't be a government agency that's delivering that program. It will be someone outside.

There are models that work like that, where they are outside of government. Boston's an example. They've now moved into Maryland as well, to look at some of those pieces. And they've had some good success in addressing especially the criminogenic needs around some high-risk young offenders, some really serious gang-affiliated individuals.

So you know, we will continue to work through that and look at those pieces, as well as working of course with our custody services division. They're a key partner in this. We know that the individuals coming into our correctional facilities, 30 per cent of them have those gang affiliations. And finding ways of targeting them while they're in a facility, while they're a captive audience for us in addressing those issues, as well as then providing those wraparound supports back out into the community, as well.

But we need to start somewhere, and we think this is a good place. It's a good partnership that we have with the federal government on this one. We're happy to work with them on it and try to address some of these issues. Because I mean what's happening in Regina is happening in Saskatoon and Swift Current and our smaller communities as well.

And of course we're taking a lead from the bigger centres. Toronto has seen this; Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton, you know, to different degrees and different levels. But making sure that it's a coordinated approach, that we're working with our policing agencies and our community-based organizations is absolutely essential. So it's advice very well taken that you provided.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. And just to clarify, Mr. Wilby, on the RFP that you had just mentioned. That is planning on being awarded to one community organization or more than one?

Mr. Wilby: — We'll see what creativity comes back from the CBO sector. It's possible we may see a partnership come back with some of the agencies that are out there. This is treading a bit of new territory I think for Saskatchewan CBOs in the complexity of some of the issues as well as some of the, you know, the wraparound that's required. So you know, we would definitely encourage some partnership agreements if they see that to be fit. But we'd like the CBO sector to drive that innovation.

There is a rigorous evaluation component as well because of course where we invest the money, we want to see outcomes. We want to see that being met rather than just putting money at a problem for the sake of putting money there. We need to see a reduction so that we don't have these individuals continue to come back into the correctional system.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have a deadline for when that RFP is going to be awarded?

Mr. Wilby: — I can commit to getting back to you with that. I know if it's not out, it's going out, and we'll get some firm timelines on that for you so you're aware of that.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that. I wanted to ask about the creation of a crystal meth strategy. I know I'm probably varying into a few different ministries here, but I'm wondering if there's any work from the Corrections and Policing or Justice side in terms of implementing a province-wide crystal meth strategy.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — The Ministry of Corrections and Policing co-chair a provincial drug task force. Predominantly in the lead of this is, of course, Health. That's not to say that Corrections and Policing doesn't have a place there. We definitely are involved from an enforcement standpoint. Intelligence-driven enforcement is key.

When we have these types of occurrences in our communities, it's easy to have a knee-jerk reaction and think that we, as police or whatever, can actually solve these problems. It's just not there, and it never was. But looking at the data and having made sure that they're, you know, that they're data-driven, analytics-driven responses to really get to the root of the issues . . . Albeit the police, of course, are there to ensure that any criminality is dealt with, ensure that, the best they can, that the movement of drugs is disrupted.

And we have provided the province a lot with respect . . . And I say a lot, \$150,000. \$150,000 since I believe it's '07 in municipal police funded positions, which of course are directed toward provincial priorities. And drug intervention, gang intervention are all provincial priorities.

So it's not as though . . . Again, all of this stuff has been continuing on. Whether we have a very specific strategy to deal with opioids or not doesn't mean it isn't being dealt with. This task force is in the process of gathering enough information so that we can make an informed, and have an informed response to the opioid crisis, bearing in mind that health is a major component of what we're dealing with here. And the policing part of it is the disruption, suppression, disruption of drug trafficked throughout the province of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is the ministry tracking statistics on methamphetamine possession and trafficking charges?

[19:15]

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I'll turn that over to my colleague to see if we're keeping track of those, but I have to say it's 150 million not 150,000.

Ms. Sarauer: — That's a big difference.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The federal government, as you're aware, does the prosecution, so they would have a better count or better records of them. We know that the province operates drug court in Regina and Moose Jaw, and the usage is reasonably small but it's fairly successful when they go through. In the last year we had . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Go ahead.

Mr. Gardner: — Moose Jaw, 10 grads total, seven participants. In Regina, 87 grads total and 30 participants?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The drug court and any of the interventions, whether it's from drug court or wherever, depends on where the user decides to avail themselves of it. The opportunities, I think, are given to people at a variety of places along . . . whether it comes from a medical professional or a family member or from being given the opportunity in drug court or while the person is in custody. I think it's important sort of to have a continuum of off-ramps for a person to try, and drug court is one of them.

The numbers have not been huge but the successes have been reasonably good. But I think it's operating at a level that's consistent with what the needs are right now. It's been a conscious decision not to make a large-scale expansion of it, just because there wasn't the view on the part of the courts or the part of the Crowns that there would be a significant benefit to increase the number of spaces in drug court.

Ms. Sarauer: — So are you saying that the number of people willing to utilize the court is what is resulting in there being no need for an expansion, or is it the amount of individuals being charged with crimes that would be suitable for the court that is causing there to be no need for the expansion?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — No, I think there's two things. An individual is charged with something where they're suitable and they would get diverted to drug court in conjunction with the Crown prosecutor and their defence counsel. So there would have to be a willingness on the part of the accused and on the part of the Crown's willing to do it. And I'm not sure that perhaps somebody else that can . . . I have the director of prosecutions, Tony Gerein. I'll let him provide that.

Mr. Gerein: — Good evening, Tony Gerein. Drug treatment court depends on both the offences as indicated by the minister and the particular situation of the individual. They have to be amenable and desirable to the process, and of course they have to maintain participation in it because it's not like a conventional court in the sense that they come, they get their disposition, as you know. As a result, there's a great deal of time and effort in assessing and then ensuring that they follow through in the process. It takes time. One of the limits, of course, is the

resources available to deal with each individual. It takes a little more than it does in a conventional setting. So as a result, there's all kinds of situations that are not approachable or appropriate for it, and it's a case-by-case analysis.

Ms. Sarauer: — I suppose I still don't know the answer to my question, although it was a very great answer that you gave, Mr. Gerein.

Mr. Gerein: — Well not if it didn't really answer your question, but thank you.

Ms. Sarauer: — Well it would be my fault more than yours. I still don't know where the gap is because I know that, I believe that the amount of drug-related charges are rather high, so I'm just wondering why the numbers are such for drug treatment court that the ministry and the courts are of the view that there is no need to expand the program. And maybe we don't know the answer to that question because there are those two factors, like I said, and I think you just said as well: there needs to be a willingness and the charge needs to be appropriate.

Mr. Gerein: — And of course you need to have a dedicated drug treatment court. It's not something that can operate within the limits of the existing system. You can't take a docket court and say we're now going to do some drug treatment stuff as well. So you need enough prosecutors. There needs to be defence resources. There needs to be court resources. We need to have the treatment means and such through Corrections. So all of that has to be factored into what's doable at a particular time.

Ms. Sarauer: — So then is it a chicken-or-the-egg situation? Like if you build it they will come. Is that where the gap is here?

Ms. Bihun: — Hi. I wanted to talk a little bit about the capacity building and collaborative approach that's really behind how we develop and determine how best to expand and move forward with therapeutic courts, not only drug treatment courts really.

So in the last fiscal year a key focus, of course, was holding workshops. It included all of those stakeholders that Tony, Mr. Gerein, was describing because you absolutely of course need those community supports in place to be able to support the programming in addition to the collaboration with both Social Services, along with addiction support from the Regina health authority, along with those that the ministry can provide in that regard.

So what we're focused on right now is developing an advisory committee to develop a provincial strategy to review best practices and focus on how do we develop and further expand and enhance how we invest in the resources for these courts, not only drug treatment courts.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I suppose I got off on a tangent there, so I appreciate both of your answers to my questions around treatment court. What I was more focused on was the ministry keeping track of the amount of charges. And I do understand, Minister Morgan, that these are federal offences that would be dealt with through federal prosecutors.

In particular I'm looking just for your reference at a chart, and it's methamphetamine possession and trafficking occurrences in

the city of Saskatoon, and this top line is city wide. And if you can see, there's quite a substantial increase. And just for the purposes of *Hansard*, I will say that 2012 the number was 19, and then 2015 it jumps up to 205; 2016, 339; 2017, 419; and 2018, 457. And this is city-wide for Saskatoon alone.

I understand, and I know my colleagues of course will be likely asking questions about this from the health sector but, as you both agree, there is a Justice and a Corrections component to this as well. So my question is, at what point have we collected enough data and are finally going to work to take some action on these clearly increasing numbers in our province?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I think the numbers are sad and they're tragic. Because it's not just the number of charges, it's the number of people that are in custody, and also we've got a growing number of deaths. We've been working with Health to provide data on injection deaths as well as just drug overdoses, and there's a huge spike up all the way. And it's not simply in Saskatoon or in Saskatchewan. It's all across North America. And I think we want to try and work with partners elsewhere across the nation, across North America, to try and develop the best or the most proactive programs we can, one, from dealing with it from addictions point of view, but from a prevention point of view by way of education and working within the schools to try and make sure that the young people aren't doing it.

And I think that's got to be one of the worst things for a parent to go through is a loss of a child through a drug overdose. You meet with the parents after that's happened and oftentimes the parents, they think of their daughter or son as being somebody that's 12 or 15 years old, barely old enough to drive, and they get a knock on the door that there's been an overdose. They weren't aware that their son or daughter was either smoking cigarettes or drinking or whatever. And it's a horrible thing to go through.

And I think as a province we want to do the best that we can to try and provide supports for addictions. And I think there's more work being done by Health and Social Services and from the courts. We want to be able to try and direct people wherever we think it's appropriate.

As you're aware, the drug courts are relatively new in the province, were implemented a few years ago at a time when there wasn't the rapid increase. So I think it's something that we're watching now to see what benefit there would be to putting resources there or whether resources should go towards treatment elsewhere and doing that. But your point's valid and I share the concerns that you raise.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, and I appreciate that. I know both of you ministers, Minister Tell and Minister Morgan, understand and appreciate the seriousness of what's happening in our province. My question is what is, or is there anything planned for this fiscal year to address this concern?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I'll speak to the policing component. On May 1st officials from the ministry met in Saskatoon and present were Saskatoon police leaders and P.A. [Prince Albert] police leaders and Regina also. And you know, there is discussions going on and there is a recognition of the issue and the challenge that we're facing as communities, in particular in Saskatchewan because that's where we need to focus even though a lot of these types of

drugs are coming in from outside our borders, for sure. And perhaps we need to look at a much bigger strategy throughout probably Canada and North America working together. But having said that, that is another issue for another day.

And one of the topics of discussion was, you know, utilizing or possibly expanding the crime reduction team now that we have to currently have two teams that are highly flexible and responsive to issues that any community is facing, in particular designed to address street-level drug and gang activity. Drug and gang activity virtually go hand in hand in this regard. So it's not as though that there aren't discussions going on and albeit that our partners in Health have a part to play in this, and the police have a significant part to play in this and as well as the court system has another part to play. So bringing everybody together and trying to have a strategy that actually makes some sense is challenging.

So what we do, we do. We focus on what we can do as a ministry in Corrections and Policing. And you know, the intelligence drives a lot of our response. The analysis, the trends, the information coming from our community partners on the ground is indeed important. And we use the information, the police use the information in order to disrupt street-level drug, street-level gang operations.

And I mean, I believe that the police are doing the very, very best that they can do with the support of the province and our CRT [crime reduction team] which has . . . The CRT has proven to have great success in being nimble enough to respond quickly to an issue or challenge that is happening in any particular community. And so the discussions have been expanding the CRT and I mean, we're looking at those things. Those things can't happen overnight. They just don't.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I'm wondering if there's an answer from Justice as well.

[19:30]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Drug courts are really a partnership with the Ministry of Health and with the various community partners. So they're working . . . The two facilities we have in Regina and in Moose Jaw, they service Saskatoon as well. People are sent down on a case-by-case basis. So to the extent that there's a willingness on the part of the offender to do it, they're utilizing that. And then I know we've got supports within a correctional centre, but there has to be a willingness on the part of the person. They have to realize that this is their opportunity to avail themselves of the help that's there, and we want to encourage them.

And part of that is education. Part of that is working with families to make sure that their daughters and sons get directed in that way and that they're willing to do it. But a lot of times, if this is a serious addiction problem, just . . . the willingness isn't there. But we're going to continue to do that, and we're going to analyze all of the programs that are there to try and identify which ones are most effective.

And the other thing we want to do is look where the programming that's taking place in other provinces are, to determine whether if somebody else has a better model or a better method of doing

it, that we're being the most effective we possibly can. It's a matter of life or death for a lot of people.

Ms. Sarauer: — I appreciate that. I understand the Ministry of Corrections and Policing issued a press release on April 2nd, 2019 titled "Prince Albert Centre of Responsibility to end operations." Could you provide some further information as to why Community Mobilization Prince Albert made the decision to close the Prince Albert Centre of Responsibility?

Mr. Wilby: — Drew Wilby, acting assistant deputy minister of community engagement. Yes, that press release was issued on April the 2nd. The decision to roll down operations of Community Mobilization Prince Albert and the Centre of Responsibility component was made by the local steering committee. It was a group of very valuable volunteers that were doing the work up there and overseeing both the operations of the COR [centre of responsibility], and of course the hub, the two component parts which, although worked together, were separate entities.

A difficult decision for sure that they made. We were in constant conversation with them over the last while. You know, as to the exact reasons, I mean obviously they've been fairly public on what they have said. What they communicated to us was the difficulty of putting the human resource capacity into the COR and committing those bodies. Because obviously, I mean P.A. is, you know, it's a very dedicated community but it is away from Regina, is away from those resources.

We had about \$482,000 a year into the COR. The government sees obviously the value in that and has made the decision to create a provincial COR within our community and safety well-being division. The importance there obviously is to support the hubs, and we know that the hubs are working. We know that they're demonstrating that through the daily work that they're doing and the connection to service that they're connecting their hub clients to.

And so what we want to do is provide some communication support, some analytical support, and be able to run that analysis and determine what it is that the hubs are bringing in, what are they seeing on the street, what are the drivers of some of those social issues in their communities, and be able to provide a response to that and do some of that analysis.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. So just so I understand, the work that was being done through the Prince Albert Centre of Responsibility will now be done through the provincial COR?

Mr. Wilby: — I wouldn't say the exact same work. What we'll do is we'll take some of the lessons that were learned in Prince Albert. They've been very open with us on working with our folks to, you know, discuss what worked and what didn't. We'll take those lessons and we'll look from a provincial level — how do we support those 14 hub tables in 15 communities? You know, we know that they are all over the province, including on some First Nations, and we need to be able to support them in the work that they're doing, as well as being able to provide a provincial response to some of the challenges that they're seeing as well.

Now with that, of course, they'll be working with our CBO communities and some of those other existing agencies and

contracts that we have in place. So we won't be reinventing the wheel on this. We'll take the lessons that P.A. is providing us, some of that stuff that we have internally already, and then creating a more robust structure around that in order to create a successful model.

Ms. Sarauer: — You had mentioned about \$480,000. Was that how much was allocated to Prince Albert COR specifically?

Mr. Wilby: — Correct. The budget to the Prince Albert COR was 482 annually.

Ms. Sarauer: — Then that amount is being moved now to the provincial COR, or is that being just absorbed somewhere else?

Mr. Wilby: — Those decisions are yet to be made fully. I mean, obviously there'll be some cabinet decisions around that. We do anticipate being able to, you know, implement a provincial COR within the community and safety well-being division. But you know, going forward we'll take a look at that and see how best to invest that money. But right now, yes, it is allocated to that branch to be able to provide some of that work.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Since we're on the . . . we touched loosely on the hubs. I do want to raise — and I'm trying to find where I printed it off, but — some concerns. And I know we've dealt with this already in the legislation. But some concerns that I've heard, as well as a recent article in *Vice* that I can't find right now, but spoke more to the Ontario hub model but also the Saskatchewan hub model as well, around concerns around privacy. So could you provide some information as to how privacy is being dealt with in our provincial hubs?

Mr. Wilby: — Yes, I believe the article you're referencing was by Nathan Munn in *Vice*. I think I may have interviewed with him for it actually. Yes. He raised some concerns there. We have run the hub model by our Privacy Commissioner and they're supportive of it. They made some recommendations. Those recommendations were fully accepted and adopted and put into the hub model here in the province. So we do believe that the hubs are in compliance with privacy legislation.

Of course, you know, I mean we understand fully the importance of privacy and people's personal information and data, and that's something that they guard quite closely, you know. And we do believe again that the model is in compliance with that, as I believe the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as well.

Of course, you know, the hub is about connecting people to service and making sure if they're in a state of crisis or if they're, you know, needing that service, that we're able to do so and provide them with that and what's required. And then of course once that connection is made, it would be up to the individual agencies to make sure that they're protecting that information and protecting that data as they go forward.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that. I finally found the article and you were correct. That's the right one.

I did want to point out the article mentions . . . And this is of course a review of the Ontario model, but I still want to ask how this applies to Saskatchewan. Just to quote the article, it says,

“Reviews of Situation Tables in two Ontario cities commissioned by police and community partners show that some interventions have ended in forced hospitalization or arrest.” Do you know if any of these two situations have occurred in Saskatchewan as a result of work done within the hub model?

Mr. Wilby: — The answer to that would be no. Not no, I don't know. The answer would be no.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Is there a difference between the Ontario model and the Saskatchewan model in terms of the data that's collected?

Mr. Wilby: — It's a difficult question in the sense that each is subject to, you know, the respective province's privacy legislation. And we do know that the situation tables in Ontario were replicated on the hub model here. But of course they've evolved and differed and, you know, they run things according to their system and operations.

We are confident in the model here, of course, and we're confident that the hub tables are abiding by privacy legislation. We do have a team that's fully committed to working with them to ensure they are in compliance with that, to ensure that they are supported. And I think this movement towards the provincial COR model will just further that and will help to further support the hubs in that important work they're doing.

You know, we sort of have a three-fold model of prevention, intervention, and suppression. And this is a key piece on the prevention/intervention side, where we can get to people before they come into significant contact with the criminal justice system. And so we want to make sure that we've got the supports in place to make sure those hub tables are functioning as they should.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I want to raise another concern that was in the article, and this was by one Ontario social worker. And again, understanding this is Ontario, but wanting to know if this applies to Saskatchewan as well.

They spoke on anonymity, but:

. . . expressed worry about the high number of minors being evaluated for intervention, and having their information added to the RTD because of “how often interventions are done without consent.”

Could you provide some information on how that would apply to the Saskatchewan model?

Mr. Wilby: — So again, we're not exactly able to speak to the Ontario model being, you know, not entirely familiar with the Saskatchewan model. The only one that would retain the data or the information would be the agency that brought the name forward initially. And so by default they would already have the information of that individual.

Once it's entered into the system, it's de-identified so that no one is able to go in and identify again who that person would be. There is the four-filter approach, which again ensures, you know, another layer of protection against information sharing and such. So you know, there are very valid concerns in the Ontario

context, but again in the Saskatchewan context we're fairly confident in the model that's here.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that further information.

Being cognizant of the time, I'm jumping around a bit in Corrections. But I do want to ask some questions around the recommendations that came out of the Breanna Kannick inquiry. We talked about them last at the December 3rd, 2018 supplemental estimates and some of the recommendations had not yet been implemented. So maybe when the right authority official is available, then I can go through them and see what the status is of them at this point.

Ms. Scriver: — Heather Scriver, ADM [assistant deputy minister], CSRS. I don't have the specific recommendations with me tonight. We can definitely get you the information. Do you have some questions?

Ms. Sarauer: — I do, yes. I have . . . There's two in particular that hadn't been implemented as of December 3rd, 2018 that I was looking for some follow-up, the first one being, there was a recommendation that there be a 15-minute overlap of correction worker shift changes for debriefing. Has that change been made yet?

Ms. Scriver: — That I'll have to get back to you on.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. The other one is the recommendation requiring an improvement of staff training for empathy, compassion, addictions, and withdrawal and for cultural sensitivity that had not yet been implemented at the time of our last discussion.

Ms. Schnell: — Sorry, can . . . It's Doris Schnell, corrections and policing. Can you just repeat the question and make sure I've got all the pieces of it? Did you put it away? I'm sorry.

[19:45]

Ms. Sarauer: — Getting things from the floor is a little bit difficult for me right now, but I got it. And the question I had was the status of the recommendation requiring an improvement of staff training for empathy, compassion, addictions, and withdrawal and for cultural sensitivity.

Ms. Schnell: — Yes. So we have recently integrated trauma-informed care into our mental health training, so that's a piece of what we're doing. So every new staff, starting in September, that comes on board will get the mental health training and the trauma-informed care integrated right into the training. So that's a piece of it.

We're also doing more . . . We've committed to doing Indigenous training for staff on an ongoing basis, so not just . . . I shouldn't say just, but now all new staff coming into the facility get a day worth of training around Indigenous culture. And we're adding an ongoing training, an awareness training as well, that's going to start as well. Our intention is to actually follow some of the recommendations in the report that you talked about earlier around including racism and prejudice and explaining more about some of the ceremonies and cultural practices as well.

And we are actually working with CAMH [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health] right now, down east, around an online training program that we would be able to provide to our folks. We've identified the program. We're just talking with them about whether there would be costs involved and whether we could get it onto our, like, Learn system so that we have it available for staff to take, and then we could make that a requirement.

Ms. Sarauer: — So just to clarify, all of the training that you've just outlined, that will all be mandatory for every new staff member?

Ms. Schnell: — The trauma-informed care will be part of the mental health training. The Indigenous training will be an ongoing refresher that happens for folks in custody and community and . . . What was the other one? Yes. The answer is yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — So the mental health training, that's mandatory.

Ms. Schnell: — For all new staff coming in, it's mandatory training. And the trauma-informed care is being integrated into it.

Ms. Sarauer: — And that's for every . . . for new staff for every correctional centre in the province, adult and youth?

Ms. Schnell: — Yes. And also community corrections as well, yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Last year I asked a question around statistics for taxi services that were being utilized throughout Corrections after the inmate release, obviously as a result of the STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] shutdown. I believe those numbers were going to get to me. I don't think I received them; my fault for not following up. But I'm wondering if the numbers are available this year.

Ms. Scriver: — In anticipation of that question, yes they are. So our stranded offender assistance policy, it works in conjunction with partners to provide transportation of course for offenders and individuals back into their home communities.

So in terms of community corrections — so these are folks that are in front of the courts — in '18-19 fiscal year, they assisted a total of 91 offenders, transportation back to their home community. Of the 91 offenders that were returned — they went to 24 communities in Saskatchewan — taxi was the most utilized mode of transportation, followed by flights. So a total of approximately \$40,000 was spent on that program in '18-19.

In terms of custody services, there were 724 offenders were provided with transportation. City transit was the most utilized mode of transportation, followed by private bus service, and that was in '18-19. So Saskatoon was the location most often assisting with the offenders. There's probably \$19,000 was spent in that program in '18-19.

So if I move on to just the total costs of the transportation costs home, and you were asking for two fiscal years, so you asked for '17-18. So for Prince Albert Correctional Centre, it was \$24,000 for '17-18; for '18-19, it was only \$220. Saskatoon Correctional Centre was \$3,500; '18-19 was about \$4,100. Pine Grove

Correctional Centre, about \$10,000 in '17-18; '18-19, \$11,000. Regina Correctional Centre, \$1,200 in '17-18, and in '18-19 about \$3,500. So that kind of averages out to, for the 724 offenders, about \$26 per client.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is there a number estimated, budgeted for this upcoming fiscal year?

Ms. Scriver: — No. It would come out of the local budgets based on part of their case management.

Ms. Sarauer: — Oh, okay. So each individual correctional centre has to find the allocated funds for that.

Ms. Scriver: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — How is it determined which taxi service is used for each location?

Ms. Scriver: — I don't know. Whatever's available from point A to point B. Of course, up in the northern area it would be a different mode of transportation, but whatever's available.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate you gathering the numbers in anticipation of my question, and I'm glad I got to asking it. I would have been sad if you would have done that for nothing.

Ms. Scriver: — Did you want to know the breakdown: taxi, bus, city transport?

Ms. Sarauer: — I think I'll pass. Normally I would skew towards more information, but I have so many questions for Corrections I have to start being restrictive. But thank you anyways. I appreciate the breakdown and the offer, but maybe I'll have more time next year.

Minister Tell, I was cc'd on a letter dated January 31st, 2019 from several different organizations that were asking for the publication and the provision of correctional centre procedural directives. I can find the letter if no one within the ministry knows what I'm talking about, so just give me one minute.

I believe Elizabeth Fry, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan . . . There were a whole bunch of organizations that were all together in the letter — and I was cc'd as critic — asking for the provision of these directives in all of the correctional centres in the province. And I'm just wondering what the status is on their request.

Ms. Scriver: — We have met as, you know, a collective group in terms of having our policies public facing. And more jurisdictions are going towards public-facing documents. And we have decided that we are going to have our policies public facing. We'll be working of course with our privacy shop and our deputy minister's office to ensure that, you know, they're appropriate to be public facing. But at this juncture we are committed to put our policies online.

Ms. Sarauer: — Fantastic. So the direction is, is that those policies will eventually be put online. What is the timeline for providing those documents to the organizations that have requested it in that letter?

Ms. Scriver: — So the folks in the letter that requested policies, we will be providing them policies as they're required or as they ask for them. And that was our initial response. We are just developing a platform so we can put them online, and then they'll be available to the public. So if they require a policy right now, we will be supplying them with that policy.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. So just so I understand, they have asked for them, but are you saying that their request was too broad and you're asking for them to provide specifics as to which policy they want?

Ms. Scriver: — Yes. At this point in time, it was a very, very broad ask, and it required a lot of resources to go through the policies and make sure that they were vetted and appropriate for public facing. So yes, when they ask for the policy — and we're in constant contact with EFry [Elizabeth Fry Society] and those advocacy groups — we will be supplying them with the policies that they're requesting until we can get the platform to put the public facing.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Do you have a timeline for when that public platform will be created?

Ms. Scriver: — Not at this point, but I can get back to you on that as well.

Ms. Sarauer: — That would be fantastic. Has a list of the policies that do exist, so they know which ones to ask for, been provided to those organizations?

Ms. Scriver: — A list is available. I'm not entirely sure if it's been provided to them. I understand that they have not been provided to them, but we do have a library of policies that have been appropriately vetted that we can supply to them.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. But they have not been supplied at this time.

Ms. Scriver: — Correct.

Ms. Sarauer: — I would just raise the issue that I know that they have raised in the past, that it's difficult . . . Especially, for example, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, I know, does a lot of work around prison law. Providing that service without actually being able to access the policies is very difficult. So I would urge the ministry to make those documents public safe, public facing as soon as is possibly practical. Thanks.

Wondering if I could get some capacity counts for the correctional centres. I should also raise another . . . I forgot one other thing around the policies. I have heard concerns about inmates not receiving the inmate's handbook in the correctional centres. I'm wondering, before I ask for the capacity numbers, if there's any work being done toward or what's done currently in terms of educating and informing staff around the fact that (1) the inmate handbook exists, and (2) that they're obligated to provide that to new inmates.

Ms. Scriver: — Every staff member should be aware that is the requirement. We had just actually updated the inmate handbook and it is in a bound booklet now that is provided to the units. And upon admission the offender knows that this is available to them

and the admission staff will have that conversation with the offender as well.

Ms. Sarauer: — I obviously can't provide exact details for confidentiality reasons for those who've expressed these concerns to me, but I have heard that concern about the Regina Correctional Centre as well as the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, for the ministry's information. So I hope there's some further follow-up on ensuring that the inmates are getting what they're supposed to be getting in terms of the information they're supposed to be provided with. And whenever you're ready, Ms. Scriver, I'm ready for the capacity numbers.

Ms. Scriver: — In terms of the snapshot of March 31st, 2019, the total adult custody and reduced custody numbers for the average daily count for '17-18 were 1,919; for the average daily count for '18-19 was 1,935; and there was a peak count on August 13th, 2018, which was 2,043. That's the entire custody services population.

Out of the March 31st, the count was 1,967. 1,029, so 52 per cent of those, were sentenced offenders. 937, 48 per cent, were remanded offenders. We have an operational capacity of 2,060. So at that time on March 31st, our utilization rate was 94 per cent.

[20:00]

Regina Correctional Centre, again that's snapshot in time, the count there was 653; 332 were sentenced, which is 51 per cent. Remand were 321, which is 49 per cent. The peak for Regina Correctional Centre occurred on September 10th at 711. Prince Albert Correctional Centre, the total count of course is 479: 214 of those were sentenced which is 45 per cent; 265 or 55 per cent were remanded. The peak count occurred on August 18th which was 515. Saskatoon Correctional Centre, total count of 479: 241 were sentenced and 238 were remand, so it's a split of exactly 50/50. The peak count occurred September 10th with 505. Pine Grove Correctional Centre, 195: 100 of those were sentenced; 95 were remanded. Peak count on that came in at August 15th, 222.

Did you want me to do White Birch and SHNB [Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford]? White Birch total count of 18. So 2 were sentenced which is 11 per cent, and 16 were remanded, 89 per cent. The peak count then was July 10th of 23. And then Sask Hospital which opened up in 2018, the sentenced offenders or patients were 8 which is 11 per cent; remand 2, 89 per cent. And we don't have a peak count that's applicable.

Ms. Sarauer: — Could you provide those as utilization rates too, broken down by each correctional centre?

Ms. Scriver: — I could. Do you want that right now? So the utilization rate as of March 31st for Regina Correctional Centre was 84 per cent, Prince Albert Correctional Centre 98 per cent, Saskatoon Correctional Centre 108 per cent, Pine Grove Correctional Centre 103 per cent, White Birch 83. And I don't have a utilization rate for SHNB.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have the youth numbers as well?

Ms. Scriver: — The youth numbers, again a snapshot. The total count was 116. So at that time, 55 were sentenced secure, which is 46 per cent; open was 30 at 26 per cent; and remanded were 31

at 28 per cent. The total operational capacity at that time was 68 per cent. Paul Dojack correctional centre, 59; 43 of those were sentenced, 16 were remanded. Total operational capacity of 95; per cent of operational capacity was 72. Kilburn Hall, total count of 30; 20 were sentenced, 10 were remanded. Total operational capacity of 45 with an operational capacity of 62 per cent. Prince Albert Youth centre, there was nine sentenced offenders, seven remanded offenders, for operational capacity of 69 per cent. And then Drumming Hill, they had 11 youth there at 100 per cent. And the operational capacity at that time was 50 per cent.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that, you providing that information to me. I do have a few more questions for Corrections, but I see that we've been going for two hours. Now I'm wondering if we could have a three-minute break, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Okay, let's recess then for 10 minutes.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

The Chair: — Welcome back to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, and we shall continue on. Ms. Sarauer.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Minister, I understand that Pelican Narrows has a new peacekeeper security patrol program in their community that has seen some success. I'm wondering if there's any consideration of provincial involvement in this type of patrol or security in other communities.

Mr. Larsen: — The peacekeeper, community safety officer program, we're currently at 91 throughout the province, and I'm not sure the exact breakdown on First Nations. However we have been supporting some of the First Nations in relation to the funding of training for community safety officers to get them going in their communities. So we're pushing forward with that and it's one of our top priorities going forward.

Ms. Sarauer: — So if a First Nation wants to see this program implemented in their respective location, what's the process for doing that, given that ministry support?

Mr. Larsen: — The process is that they would technically come to us; however we have a pretty robust communication outreach to them. And they're familiar with the individuals, the officials that we have working in that program. We're in constant communication with them, trying to help them get the training that they need to support the program. One of the challenges they have is the staffing of the program after the fact, right.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is there someone specifically in the ministry that we can point them to if there is a band that's interested in this program?

Mr. Larsen: — Absolutely. Do you want the name?

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes.

Mr. Larsen: — Gavin Nash.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. You're going to make me just ask and ask for it. Is there any consideration toward collaborating with the RCMP on this program?

Mr. Larsen: — We're working with the RCMP quite closely. North Battleford is probably the best . . . That, as you probably know, was the pilot program for the entire community safety officer program. The relationship that they've built up over the last few years with the RCMP is starting to show benefits, and we're encouraging that throughout "F" Division as well.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I want to ask you some questions around the new Sask Hospital, the Corrections side of that. I understand \$7.2 million is being allocated toward the Corrections side of Sask Hospital. Is that correct?

[20:15]

Hon. Ms. Tell: — The 7.1 million that you stated, can you tell me where you're getting that number from?

Ms. Sarauer: — It may have been from the press release with the budget, but I could be wrong. I guess my question then is, how much money is allocated from Corrections to the Sask Hospital?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Okay. I think we've figured out where you got that number from or where that number actually does come from. The closures of the two facilities in North Battleford were obviously put back or put into the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford and that ends up to about 7.2, okay? So then we have incremental funding for '18-19 of over \$1 million and . . . or funding of 1.061 million over '17-18. So the incremental funding has occurred. So in '19-20, a further incremental funding of 9.577 million over 2018-19. So it is because of those closures of those facilities in North Battleford, then reinvested back into the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Yes. Just to clarify it, because now I've found where I found the number. It was in one of the news releases for the budget and it said more than 7.2 million is being invested in the correctional component of the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford. Could you provide some information as to how the correctional side of the hospital will be operating?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'm not sure that I understand what your question is. Like how will it be operating . . . How is it different from the other sections? If you have the chance to go there for a tour — if you haven't, you should — it's broken into sort of pods or sections, and the sections are remarkably similar, whether they're part of our Corrections one or Health or a blended one. And each one of the pods has got sally ports that will access doors to go in and out. Most of them on the side away from the riverbank have got an outdoor area that has a gas barbecue so the inmates would be able to barbecue or sit outside. And on the other side there's, generally speaking, large open areas or hallways that have got windows on one side. It's an incredibly comfortable looking place to be for a treatment centre. And then it's supposed to have a relatively smooth flow between the Corrections facilities and the Health facilities where the workers go back and forth.

And we've gone to some regulatory changes to make sure that whether a person's designated as a health worker or corrections worker, that they can be seamless in the accountability and the treatment that they're providing.

So I think the answer to your question, if I'm understanding it right, is that there's very little difference between what's the hospital portion and what's the correctional side of it. I don't know if that's . . .

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. First of all I appreciate the invitation. I love touring a correctional facility, so I will be following up shortly with your staff on locking down a date so I can do that tour. I was hoping for one.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Please do. Take whoever you want from your side with you. I guarantee you will enjoy it every much as you did the tour of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. Sorry.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. I do know some of my colleagues have, I believe in Health, and our leader, have already toured it, just to be clear, but I wasn't available that day. But I will absolutely take you up on that offer, Minister.

And you did answer my question. And I was wondering specifically around the staff and how that was going to be operating. So if you could provide some more information about that in particular, both the health services that will be provided and who is providing that, as well as the correctional guard component of it as well.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Yes. Of course the correctional side is a correctional facility, albeit it's more of a therapeutic, secure facility for offenders in the province of Saskatchewan.

You know, as discussions have gone on with respect to how is this going to look, what does it actually look like, we asked the same questions. The officers, the correction officers that are going to be working there are considered mental health corrections officers. So they either have . . . they come from diverse backgrounds, but people that are more sensitive, engaged with people that are experiencing mental health, addictions issues. And I mean not everybody is suited for that type of venue. But the mental health corrections officers that are going to be working in North Battleford are going to be part of a multidisciplinary team as it relates to case management. And they are integrated. It's a professional team that serves the needs of the offender. And due to the training and this concept being in its infancy, we are revising and recognizing the need to develop further the multidisciplinary concepts for both the Health and the Corrections side.

So is it a bit of a work-in-progress? Yes. Will we be implementing and utilizing tried and true techniques, strategies, interventions with respect to the offender and their individual issues? Yes. And this has been a long time coming for Canada in particular, but I mean especially here in Saskatchewan. And I think it is going to serve this province extremely well.

We all are recognizing the fact that a high degree of our offenders in the province do have these mental health and addictions issues. And you know, when we're trying to reduce the numbers in our correctional facilities, we would be remiss to not address those mental health and addictions issues in a very specialized, therapeutic environment, albeit secure for their own safety and the safety of the public. It is a necessary component. I am hopeful and rather certain that we're going to see some amazing results out of this and very, very excited to see what those results are

going to be.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. And just to clarify, it will not be just these specialized correctional workers on the Corrections side. To the extent that you can provide, what sort of other staff will be available in terms of mental health workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, those sorts of things?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — All of those are going to be there just like they are in our facilities throughout the province. And we contract those services through Health and those services will be provided through Health. But it is more of a team approach, integrating the mental health corrections officers into that team. They're not just there for security and yes, they can provide that. Yes, they are trained for that, but they're also trained in the other component too. So they will be as much a part of that team as the health worker that comes into, or an organization that's delivering any specific program or whatever the offender is requiring.

And I think it'll give the time for the offenders to get the treatment that they need, time and the space and the multidisciplinary approach of this team focused entirely on the health, welfare of the offender so that they can lead productive lives. And so it is different. It is different and for the needs of these offenders, it's way better.

Ms. Sarauer: — I know this information's been provided before, but how many beds are available, and are they separated between men and women?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Well it's a 96-bed unit, okay. Okay, specifically dealing with the secure correctional beds, 96 beds in the entire correctional component, currently one 24-bed unit is open as of December, this past December. Opening the second 24-bed unit is delayed due to difficulty recruiting psychiatry nurses. You know, as with everything, you have to build up capacity. What's going to be required in this hospital in its entirety is definitely more and more specialized than it had been in the past. So they're trying to staff up.

All four units are scheduled to be open by 2020. The third unit's September 2019, the fourth, February 2020. But as with everything, they may be delayed. That's what the plan is. Admissions to first unit from December 3rd to March of this year, 18 admissions, seven discharges back to home correctional facilities, and one discharged, one early release.

Ms. Sarauer: — How about youth in custody?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — This is an adult facility.

Ms. Sarauer: — How will those who require these types of services in youth facilities be accommodated?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Well basically the same way that they are delivered within an adult facility. We're contracting those services out. Health provides those services to the offenders as required. Yes.

[20:30]

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. This may be a question for both ministries. I'm not entirely sure. I am trying to shift over to

Justice, although I still have lots of questions for Corrections, but I'm cognizant of the time.

Administrative segregation. We've spoken a bit about the report that I believe was leaked to media a while back and it came up in question period about the UN [United Nations] Nelson Mandela Rules. Since that time there's also been some decisions that have come out of Ontario around administrative segregation and some fairly substantial financial liability placed on the government for administrative segregation and a specific cap now being put on it.

I'm wondering what sort of work the ministries, or one, is doing around this particularly. But now that we also have these court decisions, I think there's probably more heat being put on this issue now. I would assume so.

Ms. Scriver: — Absolutely, you're correct. So just in terms of the Ontario court ruling and the 15-day hard cap, we are now currently exploring our admin seg program to address that court ruling. Of course it's in Ontario, however chances are jurisdictionally everybody is going to be adhering to that cap. So we want to be ahead of the game.

I think in terms of our admin seg program, we have shown some phenomenal results in terms of the assessment tool that we've implemented. It's been developed to ensure that all reasonable alternatives are being considered prior to the placement and during each review of every offender that is in admin seg or considered for admin seg. We have a new review process that has been developed to ensure inmates on administrative segregation are assessed on a daily, weekly, and every 14-day basis.

And we are working on developing a behavioural management program to reduce the number of administrative segregation placements, as well as assist in reintegrating the inmates back into the general population.

Ms. Sarauer: — You said you've done some work on this, but you're exploring more. Is there a time frame for when this hard cap is actually going to be implemented within the correctional centres?

Ms. Scriver: — I can't give you a definitive time frame, but I can assure you that this is one of the areas within the correctional facilities that is getting the undivided attention it deserves.

And just in terms — because I know you're going to ask this question — is the administrative snapshot. So for in 2018 we had for a total population of offenders . . . From March 21st, 2018 to March 6th, 2019, there is 1,730 offenders that were on administrative segregation of the total population . . . pardon me, of custody services. We had 68 offenders in segregation, so that was a percentage of 3.9. In 2019 there's 1,801 offenders. We now have only three offenders on admin seg, which is 0.2 per cent. So we're very diligent in our work in regards to administrative segregation in Saskatchewan.

Ms. Sarauer: — And just to be sure, the definition of administrative segregation has not changed. Correct?

Ms. Scriver: — Correct.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Do you have an average time for those who are still in administrative segregation?

Ms. Scriver: — I do. I have the length of stay of days on administrative segregation, again for that time frame of March 21st, 2018 to March 6th, 2019. Do you want me to do 2018 or just 2019?

Ms. Sarauer: — 2019, please.

Ms. Scriver: — 2019 for RCC, zero. So the average length of stay in days in . . . For a total, one to five, we had one offender; 11 to 15, we had one offender; and from 31 plus, one.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have for the remainder of the correctional centres or just RPCC [Regina Provincial Correctional Centre]?

Ms. Scriver: — No, I have for RCC. The length of stay in days at RCC, there was nobody; for PACC [Prince Albert Correctional Centre], nobody; Pine Grove, nobody. For SCC [Saskatoon Correctional Centre], we had one offender for one to five days, another offender for 11 to 15 days, and then another offender for 31 days plus. So that's where we get our total of three.

Ms. Sarauer: — So you're saying that right now, or at that point in time I suppose, in all of our correctional centres in the province there were only three inmates on administrative segregation?

Ms. Scriver: — That is what I'm saying.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay, I'm also curious to know what the ministry is going to define as a hard cap of 15 days. I'm trying to figure out a way to word this. So if an inmate hits that 15-day mark and they get removed from segregation, is there . . . what is defined . . . is it an hour, you know, and then they get put back in and then they start from scratch? Or is it a day or . . . Obviously I'm sure that the ministry will say, and mean, that the goal is for them to not be put back into segregation. But in the event that that does not occur, what is the time frame between removal and put back in?

Ms. Scriver: — We haven't had a discussion and nailed that down as of yet. But if an offender is in admin seg for 15 days and gets moved into general population, they need to . . . To be put back into administrative segregation, there is going to be specific criteria that will be looked at and need to be reviewed prior to putting them back in admin seg. And that could be for the safety of themselves, for others, you know, the facility.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you for that. I appreciate that. I need to move on to some Justice officials. Thank you so much for all of your answers.

I'm wondering if I can ask some numbers around the Human Rights Commission. Is there someone available? Fantastic.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We're going to be joined by Jan Turner.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Could you provide some information around file numbers for the Human Rights Commission over the last fiscal?

Ms. Turner: — The Human Rights Commission had a total number of individual complaints of 518 for '18-19 fiscal.

Ms. Sarauer: — Could you provide the numbers as each progressive stage went on in the process as well, please?

Ms. Turner: — I don't have that information from the Human Rights Commission yet. It's early in the fiscal year. So we have the total number that does show a bit of an increase compared to the previous fiscal year, but I don't have the full breakdown from them yet.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay, thank you. Thank you. I appreciate that. I have some questions for the Office of the Residential Tenancies as well.

Ms. Turner: — Okay.

Ms. Sarauer: — Similarly, Ms. Turner, I'm looking for the number of files.

Ms. Turner: — Again these are projected, given that we're so early into this fiscal year, but in the past year there were 8,043 applications received in total. Of those, 6,622 were landlord applications, and the remaining 1,421 were tenant applications.

Ms. Sarauer: — That was for the 2018 year?

Ms. Turner: — For the '18-19 fiscal.

Ms. Sarauer: — How many of those went to the hearing officer level?

Ms. Turner: — Again I just don't . . . We just don't have the full breakdown yet. That was projected.

Ms. Sarauer: — It was projected for '18-19?

Ms. Turner: — For '18-19. It was just, they are still finalizing that right now. So again, information that we can easily send in.

Ms. Sarauer: — That would be fantastic. Thank you. The budget for the Office of Residential Tenancies, was there any increase in allocation of funds for this office in this fiscal year?

Ms. Turner: — I think you'll see in the budget document that they received a \$25,000 cost-of-living increase for salaries for that office. Otherwise, it is pretty much status quo.

Ms. Sarauer: — That's an office that, as your numbers indicate, receives a substantial amount of inquiries and applications. Does the ministry feel — knowing that the director isn't here — but does the ministry feel that the amount provided is adequate currently for the amount of applications received by the office?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We know that it's a busy office. Funds were provided for some technology improvements which should make the office somewhat more efficient. The technology updates are not yet complete, and there were some challenges with getting information able to be put online. So the support that we're wanting to give them is by way of a better computer system that they will be able to keep track of the files, have both landlord and tenant information put in directly so that the hearing officer

has the information without having to go through all the process. We think when that's there it will relieve some of the pressure that's there.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you for that information, and if you could provide that further information, that would be appreciated. I'm also wondering, the legislation that was passed around terminating leases for survivors of interpersonal violence, do you have the numbers of how many times that was utilized each year since it's been passed? I think we're in year 3 but I'm not entirely sure.

Ms. Turner: — I have the information for '17-18 and again just for a partial year for '18-19. So in '17-18 — so that's from July 1st, '17, introduction date, to March 31st, 2018 — there were a total of 15 certificates. And for then '18-19, again it's not for the entire year, there were 13. But again we can provide more specific numbers right to the year-end for you.

[20:45]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We inquired of the director as to whether there would be a reason why the numbers appear to be low. And the director's response was that a lot of landlords knew that the obligation was there so there was no need to make the application, that the landlords provided the termination voluntarily. And that, if it was a short-term lease, the tenant may just have chosen to give notice otherwise and not avail themselves of the opportunity to not have to give notice. But we're not aware of complaints that landlords aren't using it other than the ones that have come and then be resolved by the residential . . .

So I'm, I guess, pleased that the usage is low, but concerned whether there are people out there that aren't getting some help that they're entitled to.

Ms. Sarauer: — I would agree that, you know, there's always the concern that there are some people who don't know about it, that could be entitled to it. I'm not actually surprised by the numbers. I actually think that's quite substantial, 28 applicants, especially considering it's not advertised. I think you'd agree with me, Minister, that even if one person utilized this legislation, it's worthwhile.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Absolutely. I would agree with that completely.

Ms. Sarauer: — I think that segues into the ongoing conversation we've been having, Minister, around the private member's bill for five days' paid leave. And last time we talked about it in a question period, you did mention the utilization numbers of this particular legislation. But and I would hope that you'd agree with me as well, with that legislation should be applicable to this legislation as well. If 27 people needed that legislation, it would be worthwhile.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I think it's the support that is right to give and right to have it put into the legislation. I'm anticipating that your next question will be regarding the private member's bill and having the leave as being paid leave rather than unpaid leave.

As you're aware, we made the decision to follow what Alberta

was doing when we passed the legislation and there was a mix across the provinces. At the present time there's some variation, some providing zero, some providing three, some providing five. We've asked the ministry to do some consultation and jurisdictional review and having some discussions with stakeholders, and I think that was the answer I provided in question period. But I think the simile you made that if one person used this, that it's worthwhile. And I agree with that just as much for this as I do for the other one. So I think it's one we want to look at carefully.

Ms. Sarauer: — I appreciate that, Minister, and I have been reading into the record, nearly every day this session, the provinces that do provide some form of paid leave. I believe there's about five or so.

You did also, and you mentioned again in question period that there is some additional consultation that's going on. I do know that there was, and I have seen the responses that were provided to your ministry in the original consultation that happened, I believe, the first or the second time we put forward this legislation. It could have been with the other minister. But I have seen the responses by the stakeholders about the legislation. So I'm curious to know what further consultation is deemed necessary by the minister and is being done right now.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We have some consultations going with . . . This actually doesn't fall within this ministry. It's part of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. It's part of the leaves legislation. However I'm pleased to answer it in any event.

We have an advisory committee that's made up of public sector unions, as well as some private sector employers, as well as public . . . In any event, they have a meeting set up for some time in the next few weeks. And that's one of the main topics on it is where we go, have a discussion about what's taking place in other jurisdictions and what would implementation look like here. But your point's well taken.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that and I do hope that there's some productive conversations that come out of that discussion of stakeholders. I do . . . there's only, you know, five or so sitting weeks left for that private member's bill to be passed into law, and I really don't want to have to contemplate . . . because I don't want to, you know, anticipate legislation that may be tabled in the future, but table it again for probably I think it's the fifth time now. So I'm happy to hear that work's being done, but I urge expediency within the Ministry of Labour, and Justice as well. I think the example of the lease-breaking legislation is a perfect example of why these supports are necessary.

I have some questions for Legal Aid next. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We have Craig Goebel who is the CEO [chief executive officer], and Jerome Boyko, who is the chief financial officer. As you're aware, I worked at Legal Aid some years ago, and I always like to think that I left some significant legacy when I was there. Jerome is the only legacy that I left. He was one of the people that I hired when I was there.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I'm wondering if you could provide some stats around numbers of cases opened over the last year.

Mr. Goebel: — We have mostly completed the assessment of the '18-19 year so I can advise that we have done two things. Obviously the '18-19 numbers have been assessed. We've also gone back and pulled forward the previous four years, so we have five years' worth of data that we can discuss.

We've done a five-year average in relation to files opened by staff, files opened by private bar, cumulatively, and under the four headings of the work that generally gets done — that's criminal adult, criminal youth, family, and child apprehension — and then have assessed on a percentage basis whether things have gone up and down. So I have a sheet; I can read some of it off or all of it off.

But for the purposes of 2018-19, the amount of files opened by staff lawyers for criminal adult, 7,515; private bar, 1,252; youth, 1,467 for staff; private bar, 139; family, staff, 3,266; private bar, 226; child apprehension files opened, staff, 626; private bar, 135. Total for staff, 12,874; private bar, 1,752; grand total, 14,626.

On a percentage change from the previous year, the total adult criminal opened by staff is down by 4.9 per cent, private bar down by 12.6 per cent. Criminal youth down by 21.2 per cent for staff; that's 21.2 per cent. Private bar, criminal youth down by 36.2 per cent. Family, the staff complement is up by 15 per cent and down by 60 per cent for private bar. Child apprehension is up by 2.1 per cent for staff, down by 17.2 per cent for private bar. The total cumulative change is down 2.5 per cent for staff over the last year and down 26.4 per cent for private bar.

The percentage difference from the five-year average for staff, criminal adult is down by 4.6 per cent; up by 7.7 per cent for private bar. Criminal youth is down 29.2 per cent for staff and down 28.6 per cent for private bar. Family is up 14.4 per cent for staff, down by 13.6 per cent for private bar. Child apprehension files opened for staff are up by 14.9 per cent for staff and up by 11.6 per cent for private bar. The per cent difference cumulative for the five-year average is staff total files opened is down 3.5 per cent from the five-year average for this past year and up by 0.7 per cent for private bar.

The highlights I would say are of course, reducing the private bar usage substantially, but it's . . . I don't know to the extent it's a testament to everyone involved in the criminal justice system, but the number of youth files have gone down so substantially over the last five years that it's a marvel. And it's an incredible achievement on behalf of everyone, I'm sure, from the police to the prosecutions, and hopefully to some small extent Legal Aid has contributed to that. But we're having far, far fewer folks come through as youth, and so I'm sure alternate measures and the variety of things that happened before these kids get into the system is substantially impactful on Legal Aid.

On the other hand, family files have gone up. In part that's because in '14-15 we started to make some reassessment of the financial guidelines. And I think I may have mentioned this in the past, but there were concerns that for families with dependants on the family law side that the guidelines had gotten out of whack compared to the Social Services poverty measures and the welfare rates. And so we fixed the guidelines in '14-15 and then the impacts started to increase. So we have had some increases on family.

The most recent increases on family — just family, not necessarily child apprehension but family — have been as a result of, in particular in Saskatoon, releasing some pent-up demand, where people had put themselves on waitlists to apply to be on . . . to apply for legal aid. And during the course of late '17-18 and through '18-19 we've gotten to them. And some of them are in the system. Substantial numbers in certain instances across the province. So that's why the increases have occurred.

So that's that story.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. That was very, very detailed and very helpful. I really appreciate that.

We had received a written question response around the average wait times for a meeting in each area of the law, for each Legal Aid location, and this was year-to-date April 2017 to end of March 2018 is the numbers that I'm looking at. And some of these numbers are quite, quite stark. So I'm wondering if you could provide me some information on how these have been addressed within the various Legal Aid offices.

[21:00]

But I do want to want to read a few into *Hansard*, if that's okay. In particular, Meadow Lake year-to-date wait time for child apprehension was 82.9 days, family 73.2 days, criminal adult 40.6; Moose Jaw for family was 60.8 days, child apprehension 51.3 days; Regina rural for family, 46.7 days; Saskatoon city for a criminal adult was 42.3 days; southeast year-to-date, family 34.5 days, criminal youth 37.8 days, criminal adult 24.9 days; Saskatoon rural, criminal adult 28.2 days, 29.9 days, 22.8 days; Battlefords, child apprehension for the one quarter was 32.8 days. What work has been happening within Legal Aid to address these long wait times?

Mr. Goebel: — Those were '17-18?

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes.

Mr. Goebel: — That's been a problem, not just the wait times but assessing the wait times in any meaningful way. I think most of those about which you were making note were estimates received from the legal directors of each of those offices without there having been a particular assessment of data to determine what periods they were talking about and what differences there were.

So during the last year, and indeed as a result of the Provincial Auditor's request to start us not just recording wait times or assessing them, we've actually started to do a determination of a date, which would be the date that someone is deemed eligible, to the time that the lawyers in the office have made their first available dates for the initial intake. And rather than have those being, I don't really have a better word than assessed, by the legal director, the offices are now using the Legal Aid information network system to record those dates.

And so we know then exactly what those dates are. They can move through the year, depending on both demand and the available capacity, things like holidays or whatever, other times off. So we have a more precise measure. That at least is something that I can't give you tonight, but it's been taken off for

this fiscal year. And we do have a much better measure of it, a much more accurate measure.

And many of those dates were estimates — I think that's the word I was thinking of before. And in fact, the precision with which some people make estimates make them seem like they're more precise, but they're not. Those weren't as precise as they could have been, and they have come down. So we can table those numbers over the course of the next little while.

But I'm confident that most of the criminal numbers have come down. Some, at least the family numbers, particularly in the former Saskatoon family office, were higher because they had two lists. One list was to apply, and then they had a second list to get on and see a lawyer. So there was a great deal of expansion of the time before you actually got to see a lawyer.

And that has changed because we've merged the offices and effectively done a better job of recording data. And we will be reporting on that on the outward-facing web page because the Provincial Auditor has required that, and reporting differences against what our targets are and explain why.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. You mentioned the Saskatoon office, which got some attention over the summer within the media. Could you provide some further update on what is happening within the office right now?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — It was a grievance was filed and, as you're aware, the matter received a large amount of publicity at the time. There was a retired Queen's Bench Justice brought in to mediate. A resolution was found, and I understand that that resolution is continuing. I don't want to say a lot more than that because there's personnel matters that are involved.

Ms. Sarauer: — I'm wondering if you could provide some detail, Mr. Goebel, around the new call centre that has been implemented for intake. Could you provide us with some information on how that work is going?

Mr. Goebel: — Sure. The call centre was established in the Regina office and began work in October, the beginning of October, to take calls mostly from the two courts: one, Regina Provincial Court and the other, the Saskatoon Provincial Court, using direct-line service. And the idea was to take the eligibility work that had been attributed to two FTEs in both offices, so four in total, and try and consolidate the work that they were doing, essentially because the use to which the eligibility officers were being put in terms of going to court and sitting in an office waiting for people to attend didn't derive for Legal Aid as much benefit as it did for the court. And I don't mean that in any sinister way. It's always useful to have somebody on site if there is a great deal of demand, but there's not that great deal of demand in order for us to have had someone at both Provincial Courts at some point during the day, waiting when they could have been doing something else in the office. So the idea was to provide a technological service or solution to that problem.

And of course what we did was then put in two direct-line phones, one in each court, and then set up a provision for people to call in to the call centre and then during the course of the call would be determined whether they were eligible or not. And on the basis that they were, then they would receive via a local

printer an indication of who their lawyer would be, the staff lawyer, and when they would have their first available meeting with the lawyer, in between which or after which they would go back to court. So they could go back to court and say, I'm going to meet with Craig Goebel on April 16th or something like that, so put my next appearance two weeks. And so that was the solution.

The fact is that after a bit of a rocky start as often happens with technology, people have been compliant and the wait time before which they are picked up and answered has dropped substantially. We're not dropping calls. In fact the data out of February indicated that the wait time was less than 90 seconds to get on. So yes, average wait time in February one minute 37 seconds, so 97 seconds was the average wait time. In February they answered 1,265 calls. They dealt with 1,125. There was 11 per cent abandoned rate.

The one minute, 37 seconds is just less than a minute below our target rate which is two minutes and 30 seconds to get to the calls. And people are advised to the extent to which they're next in line and the wait time. And since about November, the amount of time spent to take the information necessary to make the assessment of eligibility is slightly over six minutes. So the conversation is six minutes. And the service level at that basis, we want to have a target of 85 per cent, so we're up to 76 per cent within five months. The March numbers will come.

So what we want to do then is roll this out past the office or past Saskatoon court and Regina court. It's going to go to the P. A. court next and then probably North Battleford. And then what the idea is, in fact, to take over as much as possible the intake action or activities that are necessary for all of the offices around the province. And that will free up admin time in the offices.

Ms. Sarauer: — What sort of measures is your office using to determine success with this change?

Mr. Goebel: — Well as I say we're talking about the ability to . . . I'm not sure that we'll be able to get a one-for-one analysis, that if you did something here, you'll have an exact benefit on the other side of the equation. But one of the great irritants, particularly in the offices where they didn't have eligibility officers, is that admin staff have to stop whatever it is they're doing and either answer the door, answer the call, or answer the person who's coming in. So there's a lot of interruption, a lot of disconnection between the ability to get things done, whether you prioritize that work or you prioritize the work that the admin staff do for the lawyers or whatever support they're providing.

If you can centralize or manage the process in some way that reduces the irritants of having to stop and start and stop and start, I think what'll happen is you'll still take the occasional walk-in. And many of these offices are in court buildings so people will come up and come in or some of those things will continue. But the idea is to get this work . . . These are processes. So the idea is to, as quickly as possible, determine and tell someone if they're eligible or not. And so that will be a lot faster.

Ms. Sarauer: — Are you keeping track of the amount of eligibility denials since the call centre was implemented that have been overturned by appeal?

Mr. Goebel: — Oh, I don't think that . . . I'm sure we have that. I don't have that tonight. But we don't generally have . . . If your assessment is that you're not eligible, we have in the legislation a complaints process. But the complaints process is, in my estimation — and we have changed it over the last few years — is, did we make a mistake in determining what your income was? Did we make a mistake in determining whether the scope of service was properly assessed? Were we rude or were we dismissive or did we somehow offend you? And under those three criteria, we have very few of any of them. So the work that is being done in the offices and by the call centre has not increased our number of complaints in any meaningful way.

Ms. Sarauer: — What sort of training . . . Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

Mr. Goebel: — We do track denials and what they're for.

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes. You got my question. I was wondering if that had increased as a result of the call centre implementation.

Mr. Goebel: — No.

Ms. Sarauer: — What sort of training is done for those call centre intake workers?

Mr. Goebel: — Well we've been able to hire some folks who've had call centre experience, so they know what to do when they're talking to people on the phone. The manager who set up the program was involved in call centres, and our director of operations spent serially because we've had people come in and out of the job. So they're getting on-the-job training by watching and listening to those who have come before them and have the experience, which I think, I can't give you an actual indication of the hours that are put into it, but it's an on-the-job training, shadowing, and that sort of thing.

[21:15]

Ms. Sarauer: — Is there a manual that's provided to intake workers?

Mr. Goebel: — Oh yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — There is? Could that be tabled at some point?

Mr. Goebel: — I think it's . . . I'm not sure it's public, but portions of it for sure, that are relevant to your question.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We could certainly have a look at it, and to the extent that it's . . . to the extent that it would be available, but we'll certainly provide it. And I don't know why it would not be, but there may be that there's something in it. But we'll certainly provide whatever's available.

Ms. Sarauer: — I suppose why I'm asking for that is, from my understanding — and this could've been something that was recently done when the call centre change happened — manuals initially weren't being provided to the staff. So I'm wondering when that, when that happened, the change?

Mr. Goebel: — I'd have to ask that question. The point that I made or was making, and I think the minister understood what I was trying to get at, is that there's a philosophical divide among

the legal aid plans. You can put all of your information on the site and make it available to everybody and it has . . . that produces an invitation for anybody who wants to try and gain the system to figure out ways to gain the system. So those who have eligibility criteria available to the public have many more people apply who are then later found to be ineligible. So some of the plans do not, and we're one of them, do not put our eligibility criteria on the public-facing website. And that's not to deter people, but it's to avoid the problems that you get with people saying, well I can figure this out. Then it's a time waster.

Ms. Sarauer: — I suppose my concern is more around ensuring that the intake staff are being appropriately trained. I think you agree with me that this sort of work would be a little bit more specialized than a traditional, just a typical call centre job, because you do have to have understanding of the legal system and various charges and eligibility and can be a bit complex.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I think that I would agree with you that most people would want to have a fairly sophisticated individual taking the initial call. I think if you talk to clients, they would certainly like the eligibility to be done by the lawyer that will be handling their file later on, which is just not practical to do. So the current method, or the method before the call centre, it was done by an admin support person. So they weren't getting the benefit of having a lawyer or a significant amount of legal advice at that time. So the idea with the call centre is that this would make that more polished, more sophisticated.

And we'll want to be watching carefully. Because I think the point you're making is we want those people to be caring, compassionate, understand what the issues are, and be able to determine the eligibility both within the range of service or financial eligibility in a compassionate and caring way. And I think that's something we'll want to watch. We'll regard this as a pilot project.

But so far the early signs are, there isn't a lot of frustration on the wait times and there isn't a lot of complaints or dissatisfaction coming out of it. But I appreciate the concerns that are being raised, and I've indicated to the staff in the ministry and at Legal Aid that this is something we want to watch really carefully. We're hopeful that it works out well. It was their initiative. It wasn't something that was directed by either the ministry or by the minister's office. But so far we've got faith and confidence in the staff that's there and in the results that are being produced so far.

Ms. Sarauer: — I appreciate that, Minister, and I will pass along some of the complaints that I have heard from Legal Aid lawyers in particular around concerns about accidentally double-booking appointments, appointments that were booked and then have gone missing through the computer system, the intake staff not fully understanding the types of law, some issues with the disclosure request forms, as well as lawyers receiving files with errors which cause some delays in terms of the lawyer time.

Is there any ability for staff to be able to be in the courthouse doing intake? I know you've expressed concern already tonight, Mr. Goebel, around the dead time in terms of someone sitting there and not being able to . . . or waiting for someone to come to them for eligibility. I am hearing some concern around accessibility of some individuals who would need to utilize legal

aid but actually being . . . Having to call a call centre is actually difficult, having to use a phone.

So is there any . . . Is Legal Aid planning on moving completely to this phone system? Or is there still going to be some eligibility officers available in some courthouses?

Mr. Goebel: — Other than the two courts that I mentioned where there was in respect of on-site — that's Regina and Saskatoon — no other courts have that. We don't populate any of the other courts in any meaningful way, so I wouldn't say abandoning the process by which we hope to encourage people to make those calls. I mean, I understand the notion that there are some who might not, on any given day in the Saskatoon courthouse and in the Regina courthouse, P.A. even, North Battleford, they're running docket courts and there are legal aid lawyers. So it's not as if someone would be incapable of taking direction from a judge saying, can you help do an intake.

So you know, in that respect again, what the minister just said, it may well be useful to get people to a lawyer. I shouldn't say may well be. It is. In my estimation the most important part of this process is to complete the process so someone can get to see a lawyer. In those instances where there might be somebody challenged by an inability to utilize the phone, we have lawyers there, and there would be none of them who would not take an application. And most of it is information that can be written down on a scrap of foolscap, if that's what it is. But a lot of them carry the paper applications in their briefcases anyway. So for that small number of people, we can manage. We can deal with it.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. I was also curious to know how things are going with the new — I don't know how to describe it — but the new time tracker.

Mr. Goebel: — Timekeeping?

Ms. Sarauer: — Timekeeping, yes, within Legal Aid.

Mr. Goebel: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — And that's a new policy that's been implemented, right?

Mr. Goebel: — Yes. It's going well.

Ms. Sarauer: — Can you just elaborate on what is being required of the lawyers with the new policy?

Mr. Goebel: — Everyone accounts who is dealing with clients for their time with the clients. And it can be done in one of two ways or both ways, depending on the kind of work you're doing. You can, if you're doing a docket court, you'll know the number of . . . or you'll know the files that you're going to court to deal with. If you were in court dealing on a docket day, adjourning or doing sentencing or something like that and you had 15 of them, you could come back after your day in court. If it were — let's make it easy — four and a half hours, then you could divide the four and a half hours among those 15 files. If one of them took an hour in a sentencing, you could pick that one out and put in an hour's worth of time. Then the other 14 would be divided into 3.5. So you can do those and if you're going to do a trial, then on

a daily basis you just put in your trial time and your prep time. There are five components to timekeeping, which is preparation, court time, talking to client, talking to Crown. So it's relatively simple.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — This is no different than in the private bar where people's time is kept track of. And it's not a matter of wanting to check up on people or use it for performance. It's a matter of trying to figure out what type of files cost money, make sure that the files are getting handled. And it's common sense. And I know I talked to some of the lawyers that said, oh it's a waste of time; we don't want to do it, we don't . . . Well I think that's part of being a lawyer, is you track your time, period.

Ms. Sarauer: — I think we spoke about this. We probably talked about this exact same thing a year or so ago. But it is, yes, common in private practice. But it's also universally known as one of the worst parts of private practice, and there are some alternative-model firms that are moving away from the billable hour because it is so difficult on a lawyer, especially over time. I think as someone who also practised in private practice, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I can attest that it was not . . . It's universally known in my years of call and those around the years of practice that I'm in, that it is something that the private bar and law firms in general are actually looking to move away from.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I think on that one we'll agree to disagree. It's a matter of wanting to make sure we get the work done in the most productive way. And the firms that are moving away from it, I wish them every success and, should they have success, we'll be glad to look at it at that time.

Ms. Sarauer: — I'm curious if this is the difference in view to someone who was in partnership versus someone who was an associate. It could be the possibility of why we're disagreeing on this issue.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — A debate for another night. Maybe a debate over a cup of coffee some time. But the point you're making is that timekeeping adds some rigor, and it's a nuisance chore that has to be done.

We're committed to maintaining, keeping track of what type of files cost money. We also have got cost sharing with the feds and the province. And as you're aware, the fed component is largely just supposed to be directed to family law, so we would like to know how much the family law files are costing, how much time they are taking, so that we're able to better argue with the federal government. Although when you look at the cost-sharing numbers we've got, we have not been terribly successful at extracting what would be an appropriate and fair amount of money out of the federal government. But in any event, that's also another issue.

Ms. Sarauer: — Sure enough. And I'm preventing myself from tweeting out "Minister Morgan, lover of the billable hour" for your sake. I do appreciate your comments, Minister, on why this is being utilized. Can you provide some more information as to perhaps — you, Mr. Goebel, or you, Minister Morgan — as to why this has been implemented?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Which? The timekeeping?

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We think it's a productive way of maintaining efficiency, determining how much time is spent on a file, so that when we go to treasury board or when we negotiate with the federal government, we know what it is or we know how much time has been spent on a particular file. But also on a global perspective, we think it's a reasonable approach to take and we think it's . . .

It was implemented by the commission, and I'm supportive of the notion that we want to keep track of the number of clients we have, how much time we spend on each client, so that we're able to say to the federal government, the amount of money that they gave us in 2007-2008, which was 4,202,560, continued in '07-08, '08-09, '09-10, '10-11, '11-12, '12-13, '13-14, '14-15, '15-16, without so much as a 1 cent increase from the federal government. After that it did come up slightly, slowly after that.

But when we're not getting those increases from the federal government and we do the negotiations with the federal government, I think if we say this is the amount of time the family law files are taking, this is what we spend on this type of file, whether it be a custody application, a trial, a divorce, whatever it is, I think when we know those stats, we're armed and we're better able to deal with it.

[21:30]

Ms. Sarauer: — To elaborate on that, I'm curious to know how the number of files per lawyer are tracked. Is it on a per-charge or per-client basis?

Mr. Goebel: — Client.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Is there any increase to FTEs for this upcoming fiscal year?

Mr. Goebel: — For lawyers?

Ms. Sarauer: — Legal Aid. If there is for either of them. Legal lawyers or staff.

Mr. Goebel: — Well from last year to this year, contemplating the new fiscal year, as it stands right now there is one fewer lawyer FTE, and one fewer staff person.

Ms. Sarauer: — Where is that reduction in staff going to be implemented?

Mr. Goebel: — I'm not sure of the staff. I think the staff one is . . . I'm not sure on the staff one. The lawyer one is an unfilled vacancy in Saskatoon. I just don't know which the staff is. . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Saskatoon.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — The goal always has been our most efficient method of providing the services is where the work is done by the staff lawyers rather than by the private bar. In the last few years there's been . . . More and more of the files are ending up in the hands of the private bar. The courts are making appointments to the private bar. So our goal is to try and

minimize the ones that get court-appointed counsel and try and provide them with the staff lawyers. The staff lawyers, in my view and I think it's shared, are remarkably competent, some of the best lawyers in the province for any range, any type of offence, whether it be real serious or minor.

We have some difficulty in persuading some members of the public and the clients of Legal Aid the professionalism and the competence that is there. But the clients that do stay and use them, that don't get a farm-out, I think are very well served. But there is something that goes around some of the correctional facilities, somebody . . . Oh, well, if you make a noise in court, if you fire your lawyer, you'll end up getting a private bar lawyer. Well there's some good folks in the private bar, but there's some superb people within the commission, and I'll go to bat for them every day.

Ms. Sarauer: — I would second that, Minister. I'm wondering if — this is a bit obscure but hopefully not too obscure — if the ministry is aware of a recent Supreme Court decision that was made on March 28th, 2019, the Queen and Myers. It was around the review of detention orders when the trial is unreasonably delayed. I'm wondering if someone could provide . . .

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Is it a Saskatchewan case?

Ms. Sarauer: — It is not.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Generally speaking, the ministry . . .

Ms. Sarauer: — But I see an official walking toward you, so . . .

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Generally speaking the ministry waits till the decisions are made and then they give me a briefing some months later on Saskatchewan files. And if it's one from out of province, it usually takes 6 to 18 months to get a briefing from the ministry. I'm joking, of course. I'm not familiar with them.

Mr. Gerein: — Hello again. Yes, we have looked at the Myers decision, and of course the essence of it is the Supreme Court says that when an individual's held in custody on a summary conviction matter of 30 days or more, they are to be reviewed to determine if they should remain in custody. And that's to happen every 30 days. If it's an indictable matter, they are to come before the court every 90 days.

There already is, there has been for some time those reviews going on in the Court of Queen's Bench across the province. They're held in Regina, Saskatoon, and in Prince Albert on a monthly basis. The focus to this point has been on the 90-day reviews because typically . . . And I dare not say, without exception. And Corrections might have some numbers on this; in fact we're in the midst of looking at this together. But the majority of them, if not all of them, are practically speaking 90-day reviews, because they're individuals who have or are facing indictable charges. They may have breached charges or the like coming along as summary conviction matters. But those are looked at regularly and the process is continuing.

I know the courts have been looking at the issue as well, and there are discussions that have even taken place this week. So we'll continue analyzing the decision. It's very fresh but we want to make sure of course that we move things along. It's something

that dovetails with everything that's being done already regarding Jordan, delay, just resolution, so it's not new as it is perhaps in some places. But we're going to continue to refine it and do everything we can to make sure that nobody is in jail when they shouldn't be or in jail for any longer than they should be.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you for that. So just to confirm . . . You're right, this is a very fresh decision. So just again to confirm, the ministry is reviewing this decision but cannot . . . I'm wondering if you can comment at this time if there has been an assessment as to whether or not there will be an implication, either within the ministry or Legal Aid, for example, who may be affected by this.

Mr. Gerein: — Of course I won't purport to speak too broadly. There may be others here who wish to. But we are looking at the issue of implications. At this point, much of it is already in place, what the Supreme Court has asked for, but the fine points, the nuances, are what we're in the midst of analysing right now and will respond to.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you very much. I'm wondering if I could ask some questions around the maintenance enforcement office.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We have been joined by Lionel McNabb now who has done, I think, this task since the early 1940s.

Ms. Sarauer: — Could you provide, first of all, a number of files in last year in comparison to the year prior?

Mr. McNabb: — Actually our numbers at the end of March were 9,325 and they were just about exactly the same last year. So we get, every quarter, about 215 to 250 new files so about 25 a week, but we actually close about the same amount. So we're staying fairly flat which is a good thing. It would be nice if it went down but flat is better than up.

Ms. Sarauer: — Could you provide the number of staff who deal directly with clients?

Mr. McNabb: — Okay. We have about 80 staff. I guess the question, if it's on maintenance enforcement, we have about 42 of those staff would be in the maintenance enforcement office.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is that number increasing this year or staying the same?

Mr. McNabb: — It has been fairly stable the last few years. And this year it will go up by one.

Ms. Sarauer: — Did the office receive an increase in funding this year? And if so, by how much?

Mr. McNabb: — Slight increase, but we did get one extra staff.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you know or could you provide the average response time for how long it takes for someone to be able to communicate with the office?

Mr. McNabb: — It takes about six weeks to get, four to six weeks to get registered with the office when you first come in. And we guarantee that time. So sometimes it slips on us, but sometimes we're well under that.

Communication can be a challenge for people. We understand that. Particularly payers, we will take their calls almost immediately. The enforcement officers take the calls from payers. We have two client service reps that take most of the inquiries and calls from custodial parents. And so sometimes it takes a while to get back to them. So that's one issue I do hear and we try to deal with.

On the other hand, we also have lots of clients who will send us an email every day, you know, for weeks and weeks. So at some point you just don't respond to those.

So the payer usually can get hold of us almost immediately. And the custodial parents can and sometimes it takes us a while to get back.

Ms. Sarauer: — I'm cognizant of the time and I need to save some time for Mr. Weighill. So I'm wondering if we can do a quick lightning round of a couple of questions. We'll see how well this works.

The Victims' Fund in particular, Minister, there's a loan being made to the Victims' Fund in terms of \$5 million. Can you . . . I believe this is the second year we're seeing a loan being made to the Victims' Fund, and the Victims' Fund being depleted again. Can you provide some further information as to why this is occurring and how the Victims' Fund is going to be sustainable in the future?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'll try and give you the lightning round answer. We had an excessive amount of funds built up in the Victims' and we were at \$30 million-plus at one point in time. So we used the fund for more and more of the victims services, funds that had been provided by the GRF. And we were bringing them in to try and maintain some balance on it.

The effect of some of the things that we were doing were taking money out of the Victims' Fund during the year at a faster rate than was there. So of the \$10 million that was sort of in programming from there, 6.76 was going to transition houses, 1.82 was going to family violence outreach, 1.2 to sexual assault centres, 253,000 for provincial coordination services.

So it may be as we go forward that there may be other reasons that we have to . . . But the goal is that we don't want to cut any of those services. If it has to be supplemented by the GRF, it certainly can be and will be going forward. The commitment we have is that if there isn't sufficient funds in victim services, in the Victims' Fund for that, we would pay it out of GRF.

Ms. Sarauer: — Now correct me if I'm wrong, but does supplementing the Victims' Fund through the GRF defeat the purpose of the Victims' Fund? Isn't it supposed to be a stable source of revenue for these organizations that don't . . . therefore won't have to worry about the GRF ebbs and flows?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I don't think the entities that receive the funds have to worry about it at all. We make the commitment; they're going to receive it. That's how we fund it is through the Victims' Fund. We don't want it to build up to the large amount of money that was there before. The money should be used, and if for a period of time during the year it runs below, or we increase the amount of services that are done on Victims' Fund,

and we're not able to sustain it through the Victims' Fund, we would just continue to pay it out of the GRF. The commitment is that the programs have to continue. We'll use it to the extent that money is available through the Victims' Fund.

And as you're aware, there's been court cases on payment of surcharges and things like that that may impair the ability of the Victims' Fund. It's not yet been a problem but if that is to happen that the courts decline to order Victims' Fund payments, we want people to know the programs that are funded there will continue.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Minister, we still don't have a domestic violence strategy or a sexual assault strategy. Is there still work happening in creating these? And if so, what's the timeline?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Yes, because we are on a lightning round I have the official right here that you can ask about the status of that, and she will give you the lightning-round answer. She will introduce herself as well.

Ms. Alexander: — Good evening. Gina Alexander, executive director, community safety and well-being. So the status of the provincial domestic violence strategy. So as everyone is aware, the domestic violence death review was released in May of 2018, and upon the release of the plan, the community safety and well-being area funded, in 2018-19, the Status of Women office to staff a position to coordinate the development of the provincial interpersonal violence abuse strategy and respond to the domestic violence death review. Consultations took place this past year, and we're expecting the final report to be delivered this spring.

[21:45]

Ms. Sarauer: — Is there any work happening for a sexual assault strategy as well?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I know when I've answered the question in question period, and I apologize for sort of the blur between the two, the answer is yes, and that they're being developed simultaneously. And the reason why when we talk about one we end up talking about the other, is it's usually the same providers that are providing the services. So we may provide funds for a counsellor, and they may be providing domestic violence support, and they may also be providing sexual assault . . . But the answer is yes. And they will both be done at the same time.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I know we've had this conversation a few times, and in some instances that's correct and some instances that's not the case. And I'm glad the ministry is aware of that. Minister Tell, is there any move within Corrections to privatize the prison linen service?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — No, not at all.

Ms. Sarauer: — So just to clarify, there's no RFP currently out for the linen service? And there's no discussion within the ministry to contract out that service outside of Corrections?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I might have misunderstood what you said. It sounded to me that you're asking whether we are contracting out to the private sector, prisons.

Ms. Sarauer: — No, not prisons, prison linen service.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Oh, prison linen service.

Ms. Sarauer: — Yes.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — No, there's no discussions ongoing.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I did want to quickly ask a question about the new Dojack unit. Can you explain how, structurally, what that's going to be? You've already talked about the beds and that. I just want to know, physically are we building a new pod or is this being added on to one of the existing spaces already?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — It is a new pod.

Ms. Sarauer: — Is it going to look similar to the pods that already exist in Dojack? I believe — correct me if I'm wrong — there was some discussion about potentially it being, I think, a mobile space, and I think that is not the case anymore, that it's going to look like all of the other pods that exist there. I just want some confirmation that that's the intention of the ministry.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Okay. The project will include site work and construction of a new unit that houses 14 single bedrooms, a common area, a program area, washrooms and showers, security cameras, program equipment and furnishings, and staff office space. This is not moveable.

Ms. Sarauer: — So again, just to clarify, is it structurally going to be the same as what the other pods are like or will it be different?

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay, thank you. Let's bring up Mr. Weighill. And I don't know if you have more comments that you want to put on the record around the supplemental estimate. Otherwise, we can just keep going.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — No, I think I made the comments initially. The supplemental estimate was for the '18-19 year. There was a million dollars of additional funding for the office of the coroner, the follow-up to Chief Weighill's report. That funding continued over and became \$1.6 million in the '19-20 budget. So what those were and how that money is being allocated, I'll alternate with Chief Weighill and we'll answer whatever questions you have on that.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Minister. And I think, Mr. Weighill, this might be your first estimates.

Mr. Weighill: — Yes, it is.

Ms. Sarauer: — So welcome to estimates. Sometimes you have to wait three hours and 50 minutes and it's 9:50 before you get to answer a question.

Let's talk a bit about the changes that have been implemented since you have taken over in your new role. If you could provide some details, that would be great.

Mr. Weighill: — You're aware that a review was conducted at the Coroners Service and there was 44 recommendations. And as the minister mentioned, this year's fiscal budget we went up \$1.6 million to implement those recommendations. I would be confident that beyond having a few of *The Coroners Act* amendments done and the regulations done, we should probably get all our recommendations done this year.

Staffing is 6.5 FTEs over last year, and that will give us a regional supervising coroner, a new forensic pathologist, a communications officer, a family liaison person, and two administrative positions, one in Saskatoon and one in Regina.

It will also allow us to have a full review done of our pathology services. And when I conducted the review — I'm not a pathologist — I couldn't give expert opinion on that. I will be having a full review of our pathology services, how we work with the health region, and what we would need above the extra forensic pathologist job that we already have posted.

It'll also take care of some issues that we have with toxicology. Unfortunately, in our province we have a good provincial lab that gives toxicology results, but it's not a forensic toxicology lab, so we're not getting good forensic results. So we're looking at an option on how to deal with that, and there's funding there to take care of that issue as well too.

And then the big issue that we have is training for our community coroners. We have about 80 community coroners around the province and we want to bring them up to a certain level and then enhance that level of investigations and medical knowledge.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I'd like to ask some more questions around the community coroners and the training that's being worked on, or will be implemented. Could you provide some more detail as to that?

Mr. Weighill: — Sure. We'll be hiring. Another FTE I didn't mention was a learning and development coordinator. So that person will be responsible for delivering training to our community coroners. So he or she will come up with the lesson plans. We're envisioning we would bring a community coroner in for an introductory two or three days where they start to learn a little bit about the Coroners Service. Then we'd put them out in the field to job shadow for a while, then bring them back for an intensive basic training for our community coroners, and then there'd be ongoing training.

So the learning and development coordinator would develop those plans, do the training, get some web-based training for the future, and make sure that we can keep enhancing our training for our community coroners and our full-time coroners and our other staff as well too.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. It sounds like the addition in funding that the office has received has allowed some very significant improvements to the office. Does the ministry intend to sustain this level of funding for the coroner's office into the immediate future?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Yes. We went to the trouble and expense of having the report done. We hired the person that wrote the report to implement it. And not to sustain or not to continue with

the recommendations would be counterproductive to what we've got.

As you're aware, there was concerns amongst the public about loss in confidence in what was done, concern about the independence of it. So not wanting to throw too much sunshine at Chief Weighill, he has done a remarkably good job of restoring public confidence and doing some community reach out and doing some media so that the public I think should have every reason to have faith in the fact that they're doing a good job, Ms. Sarauer. He's meeting with people that were family members of decedents, people that had died before he came on the scene. So we're pleased. And so the answer to your question is yes.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Mr. Weighill, what work is being done to implement — I believe this was one of your recommendations, but correct me if I'm wrong — cultural sensitivity training for the staff?

Mr. Weighill: — When we have our next coroner's conference in the fall, there'll be a large segment there on Indigenous and new-Canadian rites and rituals for burial, for dealing with their different rites and rituals. As you well know, we have such a diverse community now, it's going to take a lot of training for our coroners to do that. And we'll also be going through the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation as we build up our strategic plan and make sure that anything applicable to the Coroners Service is put into our strategic plan. And from the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls inquiry that's gone on, we'll be looking at the recommendations from that which will also be in our strategic plan.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. Could you provide some information as to file load that your office currently has in comparison to years prior?

Mr. Weighill: — Our file load has been fairly close, within about 30 or 40 cases for the last three or four years. We handle about 1,994 cases per year.

Ms. Sarauer: — Do you have a breakdown of generally speaking how many of those are in-custody deaths versus ones that are ordered by the ministry or anything like that?

Mr. Weighill: — Are you talking about investigations or inquests?

Ms. Sarauer: — Oh, good question. Both.

Mr. Weighill: — Okay. I haven't got the exact number of in-custody deaths. There would be maybe five or six per year that we investigate. They're mandatory if there's an in-custody death that we have an inquest. And the rest of those would be simply unexpected, unexplained, or unnatural deaths that we investigate.

Ms. Sarauer: — Inquest numbers. Do you have inquest numbers available?

Mr. Weighill: — No, I don't have them with me right now. It was around six last year, I believe. And we'll be holding probably 8 to 10 in the next few years because we're catching up on inquests, not because the Coroners Service wasn't supplying the capacity to do that. The ones that we're waiting on are mandatory

inquests, and we're waiting for the reports that come in from the officers oversight, or if it's in Corrections where the Corrections oversight that they're doing within Corrections. Those have been delaying us for about 15 or 16 months. I've heard from Corrections. We are expecting quite a few to come in within the next couple of months, so we'll be holding inquests to catch up over the next fiscal year and into the next year after that.

Ms. Sarauer: — I believe one of the concerns that was raised during your consultation for the report was around delays in the inquest or, sorry, in the coroner's office. Is your office tracking length of time of investigations? Can you provide some insight into how those numbers are going?

Mr. Weighill: — Yes. We check all those and I'm pleased to say that the level of waiting for toxicology results has come down from about six months to about 22 days. The provincial lab has done a great job on that. And right now we're sitting at about 172 days to complete a case on average. So that would be our investigation is done; the police investigation is done; we've received the toxicology results and the final post-mortem results from the forensic pathologist.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you. I appreciate that. I don't think I have any more questions for you, Mr. Weighill. Thank you.

I think I'm ready to wave the white flag here. Maybe before I pass the microphone on, I will thank the ministers for their answers this evening, as well as the deputy ministers for their answers in providing support throughout the course of the night. All of the officials who are here this evening, apologies to the ones that had to sit here and I didn't get to ask them any questions. I always feel bad about that every year.

As well as ministry staff for being here and members of the committee and yourself, Mr. Chair, as well as those who, be it the staff who provide us support at committee, and of course Hansard, and those behind the camera. And I appreciate this opportunity. Every single year it's always an exhausting pleasure.

[22:00]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Chair, I'm not sure about where you are on time, but whether you've got questions from elsewhere, we're certainly ready to . . .

The Chair: — Yes, I believe Mr. Francis has questions.

Mr. Francis: — Yes, Mr. Chair. Could the minister or any of his officials explain in detail some of the supports provided to families going through a separation or a divorce?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — We've been rejoined by Lionel McNabb from the maintenance enforcement office. I will, by way of background, indicate that we have one of the best maintenance programs in the nation. I think our collection rate is second only to the province of Quebec and in Quebec there's an automatic opt-in. You don't . . . You have to opt out of the program. If you get a maintenance order or whatever else, you're automatically part of the system. So there they gather up more the ones that are the easy successes.

In our province, it's an opt-in but we do incredibly well because we are able to collect money that would otherwise go to the individual by way of income tax refunds, GST [goods and services tax] refunds. The individuals are not entitled to renew licence plates or driver's licence without addressing the things that are there. And I think our collection rate is over 90 per cent. 92?

Mr. McNabb: — We're down likely a couple of per cent, but around 90.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Around 90 per cent, so it's . . . And I think as much as we sort of take pride in the numbers, we need to be aware that this is money that's going to families and is often the only method of support that they've got. So the work that's being done in that office is absolutely critical. They also do collections of fines and use the same tools that they have for collections of fines. I'll certainly let Mr. McNabb go through it in a little bit more detail and provide a little bit more background. But Saskatchewan was one of the leaders in implementing the program and it's done, I think, serves our province well.

Mr. McNabb: — Thank you. I'll try to answer the question as best I can with dealing with just family issues. Family justice services, and maintenance enforcement is part of that, has a whole compendium of services that we run, and I'll just try to skim through those. We have a family law information centre where we have a lawyer and he handles inquiries, helps people. He, last year, had 3,152 telephone calls and dealt with 4,436 emails. He has 18 self-help kits for people that are going to court and 11 of those we have online. We'll have 18 online by this time next year.

We do family law walk-in sessions at the court and library. And this year we did 12 sessions in Moose Jaw, 24 attendees; 46 sessions in Regina, 472 attendees; Saskatoon, 39 sessions with 233 attendees. And we do that with a combination . . . We have two lawyers that work in the branch and we partner with Pro Bono and they provide tremendous assistance to us. We appreciate that.

And there was questions last year in the child support recalculation service and that's where we'll help change people's court order. So we started that about eight months ago now and we went province-wide in November. So far it's been about half payers coming in wanting their payments down, half custodial parents wanting their payments up. So we continue to work on that one. It's a growing one.

We have a children's education program where we go out and meet with children. There's usually . . . They're referred by the court. We have social workers and we do a number of things out of there. We do children's voices reports and that's where . . . They're all court ordered and really it's the court saying who should these children be with, which parent, and we give a report to the court. Children's voices are for children over 12. Full-blown custody and access assessments are for children under the age of 12. Again the reports are given to the court. Once a court receives those reports, and the parties and their lawyers, over 85 per cent of them never go back to court. They use that to settle.

We run an interjurisdictional support orders unit and that

transfers family orders between . . . all around the world, so every jurisdiction — provinces, states. We have reciprocity with more countries than any other province in Saskatchewan.

We've the maintenance enforcement office. We talked about that. I'm not going to spend any more time on that after the glowing remarks, which you wouldn't know by the amount of complaints we get sometimes, but that's very kind.

We run a Parenting After Separation and Divorce course. If people are going to court and are going to argue over their children in a separation or divorce, they have to attend. It's called Parenting After Separation and Divorce, and it's mandatory; you have to attend. We put through 2,251 people, which is a bit of a sad number, in 2018-19.

We also run a high-conflict one. So that's when they've taken this course, they're back in court, and a judge says it's not working for you guys. And they go back to a real high-conflict one and that's even more intensive. The first one's six hours and the next one is about 14 hours. So we do that.

And last but not least — well I shouldn't say last — supervised access and exchange. We run that in Saskatoon and Regina and that's where again a judge can order, if the parties are just not getting along, one drops the child off; the other one picks them up. So that's supervised exchange. Supervised access, and we have quite a few of those again unfortunately, where one parent can only see their children if we have a party in the room. So we run that in Saskatoon and Regina.

And sort of last but not least, we partner with a dispute resolution office. We share an office with them in Regina for our social workers and we run a family matters program. And that family matters program helps people. They can get four-hour, problem-solving sessions, really with a mediator. And it's free to try to get them . . . just give them information, where they might go. A lot of them use it to settle. Again the numbers there are very, very good. And it gets people that can get along early in a separation and divorce, and it gets them through without perhaps having to go to court.

The Chair: — Well thank you for that, and seeing no further questions we'll now vote off the estimates.

**General Revenue Fund
Corrections and Policing
Vote 73**

The Chair: — We have vote 73, Corrections and Policing, central management and services, subvote (CP01) in the amount of 916,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Demand reduction and modernization, subvote (CP17) in the amount of \$5,262,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Policing and community safety services, subvote (CP15) in the amount of \$220,160,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Custody, supervision and rehabilitation services, subvote (CP13) in the amount of 181,152,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Saskatchewan Police Commission, subvote (CP12) in the amount of 1,738,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Corrections and Policing, vote 73, 409,228,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2020, the following sums for Corrections and Policing in the amount of 409,228,000.

Ms. Ross: — So moved.

The Chair: — Ms. Ross moves. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Integrated Justice Services
Vote 91**

The Chair: — Vote 91, Integrated Justice Services, central management and services, subvote (IJ01) in the amount of 46,541,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Integrated services, subvote (IJ02) in the amount of 47,875,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Capital improvements, subvote (IJ03) in the amount of 10,694,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of 6,534,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

Integrated justice services, vote 91, 105,110,000. I would now ask a member that we move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2020, the following sums for

integrated justice services in the amount of 105,110,000.

Mr. Nerlien has moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Justice and Attorney General
Vote 3**

The Chair: — Vote 3, Justice and Attorney General, central management and services, subvote (JU01) in the amount of 1,223,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Courts and civil justice, subvote (JU03) in the amount of 48,548,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed?

The Chair: — Carried. Innovation and legal services, subvote (JU04) in the amount of 38,748,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I'm going to re-read this one here. We're just not quite positive if I said that quite right. Innovation and legal services, subvote (JU04) in the amount of 38,748,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Boards and commission and independent officers, subvote (JU08) in the amount of 40,878,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Justice and Attorney General, vote 3, 129,397,000.

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, 2020, the following sums for Justice and Attorney General in the amount of 129,397,000.

Mr. Tochor has moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[22:15]

**General Revenue Fund
Lending and Investing Activities
Integrated Justice Services
Vote 196**

The Chair: — Vote 196, Integrated Justice Services, Loans to Victims' Fund, subvote (IJ02), in the amount of zero dollars. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Integrated Justice Services, vote 196, zero.

**General Revenue Fund
Justice and Attorney General
Vote 3**

The Chair: — Vote 3, Justice and Attorney General, boards, commissions, and independent officers, subvote (JU08), in the amount of \$1,000,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Justice and Attorney General, vote 3, \$1,000,000.

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, 2019, the following sums for Justice and Attorney General in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Ms. Ross: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Ross has so moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Well that concludes our business for the evening. Minister, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of Minister Tell and myself, we'd like to thank you and your very competent assistant who appears to be helping you through the evening and we thank her for that.

We'd like to thank all of the committee members, the member opposite, all of the building staff, the people from Legislative Services, Hansard, Broadcast Services, and the ministry people from the ministry, officials that are here tonight — a cast of thousands. Those people do a lot of work in preparation for being here for this. Even though they may not have answered questions, they've done a lot of work to get ready for this. So we thank them, not just for the work that they do tonight, but also for the work that they do throughout the year. And it's appreciated and valued, and I don't think we thank them and tell them how much they're valued often enough. With that I thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Ms. Sarauer, do you have any more words?

Ms. Sarauer: — I had already given my remarks when I thought I had run out of time.

The Chair: — Okay. Well thank you. And I, too, would like to thank everybody. It's been a long night, and thank you for everybody being here tonight. I will now ask a member to move a motion of adjournment.

Mr. Francis: — I'll so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. This committee stands adjourned until Monday, April the 15th at 6:30 p.m.

[The committee adjourned at 22:18.]