

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**  
**Monday, April 13, 2026**

**MINUTE NO. 13**  
**3:36 p.m. — Legislative Chamber**

1. **Present:** Blaine McLeod in the chair and members Bhajan Brar,\* Brad Crassweller, Hugh Gordon,\* Hon. Jamie Martens, Megan Patterson, and Nicole Sarauer.\*

**Substituting Members**

Bhajan Brar for Leroy Laliberte

Hugh Gordon for Jacqueline Roy

Nicole Sarauer for Betty Nippi-Albright

2. The committee considered Bill No. 31, *The Defamation Act*.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Tim McLeod, Minister

Darcy McGovern, Legal Executive Director

Maria Markatos, Director, Legislative Services

3. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 21, they were agreed to.
4. It was moved by the Hon. Jamie Martens:

Add the following Clause after Clause 3 of the printed Bill:

**“Presumption of damage**

4 An action lies for defamation and in a defamation action, if defamation is proved, damage shall be presumed”.

The question being put on new clause 4, it was agreed to.

5. It was moved by the Hon. Jamie Martens:

That the committee report Bill No. 31, *The Defamation Act* with amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

6. The committee considered Bill No. 32, *The Defamation Consequential Amendments Act, 2025 / Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Defamation Act*.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Tim McLeod, Minister

Darcy McGovern, Legal Executive Director  
Maria Markatos, Director, Legislative Services

7. The questions being put on clauses 1 to 5, they were agreed to.
8. It was moved by Brad Crassweller:

That the committee report Bill No. 32, *The Defamation Consequential Amendments Act, 2025 / Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Defamation Act* without amendment.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

9. The committee recessed from 4:04 p.m. until 4:09 p.m.
10. The committee considered the 2026–27 estimates and 2025–26 supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the 2026–27 estimates for the Firearms Secretariat.

The following ministers and officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Government Relations

Hon. Eric Schmalz, Minister

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Tim McLeod, Minister

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister

Max Bilson, Deputy Attorney General

Brad Gurash, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services

Rory Jensen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Community Justice

Kylie Head, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Justice Services and Tribunals

Elizabeth Hilts, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Public Prosecutions

Darcy McGovern, Legal Executive Director

Gina Alexander, Executive Director, Community Safety and Well-Being

Cindy Hingley, Executive Director, Financial Services

Maria Markatos, Director, Legislative Services

Jeffrey Wagner, Chief Coroner

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority

Roger Sobotkiewicz, Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Legal Aid Saskatchewan

Jayne Mallin, Chief Executive Officer

Saskatchewan Firearms Office

Blaine Beaven, Commissioner

Murray Cowan, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Firearms Officer

Dan Dierker, Executive Director, Corporate Services

Stephen Coote, Executive Advisor

11. The committee adjourned consideration of the 2026–27 estimates and 2025–26 supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the 2026–27 estimates for the Firearms Secretariat.
12. The committee recessed from 6:34 p.m. until 7:01 p.m.

13. The committee considered the 2026–27 estimates and 2025–26 supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Community Safety.

The Minister of Community Safety and the following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Community Safety

Hon. Michael Weger, Minister  
Denise Macza, Deputy Minister  
Josh Freistadt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Supervision and Rehabilitation Services  
Scott Harron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Custody Services  
Wanda Lamberti, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services  
Corey Zaharuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Community Safety Services  
Dean Carey, Executive Director, Offender Services  
Chris Clemett, Executive Director, Engagement and Enterprise Projects  
Curtis Kosolofski, Executive Director, Contracts  
Matt Mirasty, Executive Director, First Nations and Indigenous Policing  
Jeff Rowden, Executive Director, Provincial Protective Services  
Jill Rowden, Executive Director, Central Services  
Allison Stene, Executive Director, Health Services  
Ryan Clark, Director, Infrastructure and Finance  
James Githegi, Director, Financial and Resource Management  
Nathaniel Day, Executive Advisor to the Deputy Minister

Saskatchewan Marshals Service

Rob Cameron, Chief Marshal  
Thomas Sierzycki, Executive Director and Civilian Deputy Chief

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

Marlo Pritchard, President and Fire Commissioner  
Laura Debassige, Vice-President, Corporate Services  
Steve Roberts, Vice-President, Operations  
Devon Exner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Recovery Task Team  
Rizwan Ahmed, Executive Director, Human Resources, Safety and Training  
Peter Boniface, Executive Director, Air Operations  
Michelle Broda, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services  
Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Recovery Task Team  
Dave Cundall, Executive Director, Corporate Planning  
Noel McAvena, Executive Director, Provincial Disaster Assistance Program  
Dale Rockel, Director, Investigations and Emergency Response

14. The committee adjourned consideration of the 2026–27 estimates and 2025–26 supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Community Safety.

15. The committee adjourned at 10:35 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Jessica Start  
Committee Clerk

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Blaine McLeod  
Chair