

The Assembly met at 13:30.

**Clerk:** — Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be advised that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open this day's sitting.

Prayers

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a petition that reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Sask Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

The people that have signed this petition are from Saskatoon, Wadena, Margo, and Fosston.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the shocking lack of a hemodialysis unit in the city of Moose Jaw. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals all from the city of Moose Jaw.

I so present.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a petition today with citizens who are concerned about the exorbitant increase in the crop insurance premium. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

And the signatures, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are from the communities of Viscount and Meacham.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I too have a petition today regarding the condition of Highway 47 between Estevan and Boundary dam resort. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take

immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Estevan, Torquay, and Kamloops, BC (British Columbia).

I so present. Thank you.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Once again I rise with a petition signed by citizens of southern Saskatchewan who are really worried about the lack of health care services. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the proper steps to cause adequate medical services, including a physician, be provided in Rockglen and to cause Five Hills Health Region to provide better information to the citizens of Rockglen.

And as is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this one is signed by people from Rockglen, Fife Lake, Killdeer, and Lisieux.

I so present.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents from the Kindersley riding who are concerned with health care in the region. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure the current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of west central Saskatchewan.

And as is duty bound, our petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from the towns of Kindersley and Brock.

I so present.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to improve Highway 42.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to make the necessary repairs to Highway 42 in the Arm River constituency in order to prevent injury or loss of life and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Marquis, Tugaskie, Stewart Valley, and Central Butte.

I so present.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens opposed to the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance 2003 premium increases to farmers. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Sask Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

And as is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Perdue and Biggar and district.

I so present.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of constituents concerned with a section of Highway 22. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 22 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, come from the communities of Earl Grey and Southey.

I so present.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional papers nos. 13, 18, 36, and 40.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, with leave of members to make an extended introduction today.

Leave granted.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thanks to members. And I expect perhaps the Leader of the Opposition, someone, will also will want to have a few comments I think about the introduction that I am making today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, across the province this year we are celebrating a number of 100th anniversaries. It's the 100th anniversary of the capital city of Regina, the 100th anniversary of Moose Jaw, the 100th anniversary in Lloydminster and many other communities.

Another important 100th anniversary we celebrate this year in this province and in particular in this city is the 100th

anniversary of the Hill group of companies. And that is why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome to the legislature today representatives, many representatives, of the Hill family as with them today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hill Companies.

I think it's fair to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Regina, the capital city, one is hard pressed to think of any significant development that has happened in this community that the Hill family has not been involved with. The Hill family has played a critical role in this city and in our province's history.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Hill company came into existence in the year 1903, the city of Regina at that time had a population of 3,000 people. And one of the early activities of the Hill company was to bring settlers from across Eastern Canada and from Britain in developing this community and its residential areas, including the Cathedral and Lakeview areas. In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it may not be widely known that Mr. Walter Hill sold property to the provincial government in 1906 where this Legislative Building now stands.

Of course much of the capital city's downtown has been developed by the Hill Companies: the twin towers — the McCallum Hill Centre — the Bank of Montreal building, Crown Life Place, and the FCC (Farm Credit Canada)/Agriculture Place. But as we all well know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the company did not only contribute in bringing the buildings themselves, in one very important development the Hill Companies facilitated the move of the Farm Credit Corporation from Ottawa to Regina.

Three generations of the Hills have also played a major role in the development of the insurance business in Saskatchewan.

And of course one very, very significant event happened in 1991 when Paul J. Hill spearheaded the acquisition of the Crown Life Insurance Company. And that transaction brought over 1,200 new jobs to the province and the city, and directly and indirectly expanded the GDP (gross domestic product) of our province by 2 per cent and the city of Regina's GDP by 10 per cent.

Today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as it is well known, real estate and development, insurance, broadcasting, oil and gas — the list goes on and on — the scope of the Hill Companies' involvement in the commerce of our province and beyond is truly astounding. And yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I may say, in spite of their many, many successes in business, one thing stands out about the Hill family's contribution, and that is their commitment to this community and to this province.

While the Hill group of companies have now grown and become international in the scope of their interests, this group of companies and this family have maintained their international headquarters here in Regina. And more, they are active, active players — companies and individuals — in the community, in the social, in the benevolent life of this city and our province.

For 100 years the Hill group of companies have fulfilled that guiding principle which has been at the bedrock of all of your enterprise, that principle which is, and I quote:

Start with a foundation of solid values and stay true to the things that you believe in.

Having done that, you have contributed enormously to the capital city of Saskatchewan, to the province of Saskatchewan, and if I may say, to the nation of Canada.

And so I want to join, I'm sure, with all members today in welcoming the Hill family, the large number of the family who are here. We will want to congratulate the Hill family of companies on your 100th anniversary. And, I'm sure, to wish you 100 more years of success, and I would like to be here to see it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to introduce individually not all who are gathered today but certainly some who are with us in the gallery and perhaps, if I can ask the members of the family who I introduce, if you could perhaps stand or give us a wave.

First of all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a recent winner, if I may say, of the Paragon Award for Lifetime Achievement, Mr. Frederick W. Hill.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Hill's son, Paul J. Hill, and his wife, Carol Hill.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Paul and Carol's daughter, Rosanne Hill Blaisdell, and her husband, Brad Blaisdell.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Paul's son-in-law, Greg Southgate.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Paul and Carol's son, Matthew Hill.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Paul and Carol's daughter, January Yanko, and her husband, Scott Yanko.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Frederick's son, Terrence F. Hill.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Frederick's daughter, Marylyn Horsman, and her husband, Jack Horsman.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Marylyn's daughter, Andrea Horsman.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Marylyn's son, Jonathon Horsman, and

his wife, Monica Horsman.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I may conclude by simply saying, those of us who have on occasion been happy to receive Christmas greetings from the Hills, we've met the big Hills, and there's lots of little Hills around, and through you we would welcome the next, also, generation of Hills.

Thank you, welcome to the Legislative Assembly, and now again I ask all members to greet the Hill families.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I too would ask for an extended period in which to bring greetings and welcome.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And on behalf of the official opposition we too would like to specifically congratulate the Hill family of companies and the members of the Hill family who were instrumental in their success over the past 100 years, to the Legislative Assembly today. A day of which I know the community of Hill companies are particularly celebrating their 100 years of active community involvement here in the city of Regina and in the province of Saskatchewan, and certainly beyond.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the company was born back in February of 1903 — that's 100 years ago plus just a little bit — but it happened right here in the city of Regina when Walter Hill and E.A. McCallum formed a partnership and began the business. Eventually the Hill family took over the entire operation and we have three generations actively involved in the Hill family of companies — Frederick Hill, Paul Hill, and Rosanne Hill Blaisdell, and many other family members in the gallery representing the success of the family in our community and in our province over a number of years.

(13:45)

The Premier has touched on many of the facets of the Hill family's companies and involvements. They are certainly impressive. He mentioned the fact the very property that we are currently on, with its rich history of almost now 100 years of being the centre of government for the province of Saskatchewan, was property that was sold to the province by Walter Hill back in the beginning of the last century.

The Hill family is synonymous with real estate, not only here in the city of Regina but beyond. I remember a few months ago being in the city of Calgary and seeing a plaque on a very large building in downtown Calgary that said the Harvard family of companies. And I thought ah, this is wonderful, here we have a company headquartered in Saskatchewan that has property in the province to the west of us, Alberta, rather than vice versa, which is so often the case.

Real estate and insurance has been the core businesses of the

Hill family and their businesses but they have expanded beyond that. They have been involved in the very life of this province — not only the business life but the cultural life, the spiritual life of the community and of the province. And they have made this province much richer as a result.

The company has been involved not only in real estate and insurance but also in broadcasting, something those of us in the public life certainly are familiar with and usually very much appreciate. Through Harvard Broadcasting they have been instrumental in bringing many major businesses and entities to the city of Regina and to the province of Saskatchewan, including the Farm Credit Corporation, Crown Life. The company has also been involved in the city of Swift Current, bringing the Urban Forest Recyclers into that city and have hired many, many Saskatchewan people as a result of their efforts in that regard.

I think that all of us who have had an opportunity to meet members of the Hill family would certainly want to on this very special day express our sincere appreciation for the immeasurable amount of good and benefit you have brought to the province of Saskatchewan. I'm sure that while residents of this province realize that it's your companies and your presence here have played a huge role, probably not very many of us fully understand the many thousands of jobs you have provided for the people of Saskatchewan, the opportunities that you have afforded this province because of the belief in Saskatchewan and the commitment to Saskatchewan by the Hill family.

Thank you very much. We appreciate you and we thank you for being present here in this gallery on this very special day — the celebration of 100 years here in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### 2003 McCannel Award

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Neil Richardson, P. Eng. has been named the winner of the APEGS (Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan) 2003 McCannel Award.

The McCannel Award was established in 1983 to honour service to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan and to the profession in general. The McCannel Award is named after Roy McCannel, a founding member of the association.

Neil Richardson received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1972 and received his master's degree in geotechnical engineering in 1975.

Neil began his career with Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation in 1974. He has held the position of geotechnical engineer, district materials engineer in Swift Current and the Battlefords, and is currently senior environmental engineer in Saskatoon. Neil's responsibilities include construction quality control. He has authored a number of publications on highway construction research.

In addition to his work with Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, Neil serves on the engineering advisory committee of the Meewasin Valley Authority and is active on the executive of the Saskatoon Geotechnical Group. In the community, he has been active in minor sports and in local and district levels of Scouts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, congratulations to Neil Richardson, his wife, Marjorie, and their two sons on the occasion of Neil winning the 2003 McCannel Award. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### National Mental Health Week

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly today to ask all members of the House to recognize May 5 through 11 as National Mental Health Week in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it would be virtually impossible for any of us to say that our lives have not, in one way or another, been touched by someone suffering from mental illness. In fact one in five Canadians will personally experience a mental illness at some point in his or her life. And that will have a direct or indirect effect on those around them.

One of the most startling facts about mental illness, Mr. Speaker, is that more than two-thirds of Canadians have had experience with depression or anxiety and one-third have actually suffered from it themselves. Another shocking fact about mental illness, Mr. Speaker, less than half of those adults suffering from depression seek care from a health professional which leads to increased isolation and loneliness. Professional and social support is crucial to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, in the same week we recognize the achievements of our young people, we must also be aware of the fact that suicide is the major cause of death among this group. Of all deaths involving young people between the ages of 15 and 24, nearly a quarter of those were from suicide. Such tragic losses for families, for friends, for all of us, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year's Mental Health Week is, Respect, Don't Reject. And we must all work hard to ensure that we are doing all we can to reduce the discrimination and stigma that is so often attached to mental illness. Individually and collectively we must encourage the kind of environment where resilience and recovery from mental illness will not only be accepted, but celebrated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### National Forest Week

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This week is National Forest Week in Saskatchewan and traditionally the first day of forest week is Arbor Day.

Here's a bit of history for you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Arbor Day began in Nebraska in 1882 because originally in that prairie state there were few trees for shade, fuel, or lumber. On the first Arbor Day, Nebraskans planted about one million trees.

The prairie half of our province has more than a little geographical similarity with the prairie state, and it is no surprise that we have adopted this holiday as our own. Our holidays remember what happened in the past. Arbor Day looks to the future, as we are encouraged to plant a tree today to bring pleasure for the people of tomorrow.

And as everyone knows, Mr. Deputy Speaker, half of our province is covered by forest, a forest that is part of a diverse and crucial ecosystem, a forest that offers great experiences to a tourist, a forest that is crucial part of our economy providing over 8,000 new jobs in just the past few years alone.

To begin forest week in Saskatchewan a tree planting ceremony took place in the Nisbet Provincial Forest near Prince Albert. The ceremony was hosted by the Saskatchewan Forestry Association and by Saskatchewan Environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our natural forests in the North and our urban forests in the cities, are gifts we dare not squander. During this week and on this day we should renew our pledge to protect and preserve this precious resource. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **Family Celebrates 110th Anniversary in Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 110 years ago yesterday, May 4, Heinrich and Gertrude Adrian stepped off the train at Rosthern, Saskatchewan. It wasn't Saskatchewan at that time; it was the North-West Territories.

Rosthern was a drop-off point for settlers for a 30- to 40-mile radius. The Adrians had come from the village of Friedensfelt in Russia. Heinrich and Gertrude settled on a quarter section some six miles northwest of Rosthern. They built a soddie and began a new life in Canada.

Shortly after, they and their neighbours built a school. They named the school Friedensfelt after the village they had left in Europe. Friedensfelt translated means field of peace.

The Adrians had left Russia not for free land or the picturesque white house, red barn, and windmill; they had left Russia to seek religious freedom. The second year they were here one of the Adrian daughters planted a Russian willow — that willow, Mr. Speaker, at 109 years old, is still alive and well.

Last week I had a picture taken beside the tree, of my grandson, Dylan, my son, Ken, and myself. Dylan Heppner is a great, great, great grandson of Heinrich and Gertrude Adrian. I am thankful to the Adrians for their step of courage and faith to come to Canada. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **University of Saskatchewan Husky Football Camp**

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last Friday morning I had the great, good fortune, along with the member from Saskatoon Fairview and the Minister of Industry and Resources, to attend a function that I have to say was a real dog's breakfast. I'm speaking of course about the

University of Saskatchewan Husky football team's third annual fundraiser which kicked off their spring training camp.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bobby Jurasin, of Saskatchewan Roughrider fame, gave a moving and inspirational talk to over 1,000 Husky boosters in attendance. He talked football, but he also talked about what a great place Saskatchewan is, about how well he was treated in his years here, and how proud we should be of our people and our province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Husky head coach, Brian Towriss, also spoke. His team is coming off a very successful season, last year having made yet another trip to the Vanier Cup, the Holy Grail of Canadian college football.

The U of S (University of Saskatchewan) Huskies have played in the Vanier Cup six times since 1989 and have won that coveted trophy three times. Coach Towriss also said that he's extremely pleased with the Husky prospects for this year, and I don't think I'd be going too far out on a limb to predict that the Huskies will be making a seventh appearance in that game this season.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to wish good luck to all the hopeful, young players who are trying out for the Huskies during spring training, and to all the players and coaching staff, good luck for a successful and rewarding season. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **International Youth Week**

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in this Assembly today to ask all members of the House to recognize International Youth Week, a day we have set aside to honour the many incredible achievements of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, most of us in this Assembly know that the youth of today are subject to incredible stresses and pressures that 20 years ago we didn't even begin to comprehend. The issues facing our young people are indeed challenging ones. And it is our responsibility to ensure that they have access to the education, training, skills, and resources to help them make informed decisions that will have a positive outcome to benefit them, their families, their friends, and society as a whole.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we may be a bit biased here, but I'm sure that all members of the House will agree with me when I say that Saskatchewan's youth stand head and shoulders above the rest of those in Canada. Their enthusiasm, energy, talents, and ambitions never fail to impress us.

Members on this side of the House know that Saskatchewan youth, Saskatchewan's youth are born leaders and that's why you'll find them in top positions like president or CEO (chief executive officer) of this company or that company. Sadly, this means that many of our young people have moved to other jurisdictions because they didn't see the opportunity here. They didn't see a wide open future in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they're smart enough to know that it's going to take more than a splashy promotional campaign to bring them back.

Saskatchewan's young people need access to resources, opportunities, and room for growth. Saskatchewan's young people need a Saskatchewan Party government. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Strengthening Our Circle

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to bring to the attention of the Assembly the hard work and dedication of outreach workers involved in an ongoing project to promote respect and responsibility, as well as curb violence in Saskatchewan's youth. The program is sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Centre and is entitled Strengthening Our Circle.

It began in September 2002 and has since been introduced to the communities of Endeavour, Preeceville, Sturgis, Canora, Invermay, Norquay, Pelly, Keeseekoose, Cote, and Kamsack, Mr. Speaker.

The initiative involves outreach workers engaging with students and their teachers in school settings. During classroom sessions, students explore the six fundamental pillars of the program: respect, diversity, communication, community and school, teacher supports, and shared values. In addition to classroom activities, students and teachers also attend workshops, motivational speakers, in-services, and dramatic presentations in an effort to foster community and environmental, global, and self-respect. As a result, Saskatchewan youth in the area are learning positive social skill developments, a major stepping stone in the prevention of violence and crime.

I would like to commend the work of Joan Chernoff, the project coordinator, as well as the two outreach workers involved, Rachel Hudy and Karen Ochitwa, for the time, effort, and care they have put into this project. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Saskatchewan Forest Centre

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier today the Industry minister announced a review of the forestry centre project in downtown Prince Albert. However it's hardly going to be an independent review as the deputy minister will conduct the review, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The minister has already announced he's in favour of the project. So what do you suppose his deputy minister is going to find? Mr. Speaker, if the minister truly wants a legitimate review of this project, why doesn't he ask someone independent of government to conduct this review?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(14:00)

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I made clear at the news conference, the mandate of the deputy minister is to do

one thing — it is to talk to the board of the Saskatchewan Forest Centre, and the industry, and the community, to ask them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for their views as to whether they support the development of the forest centre in its proposed location or whether they do not.

And if they do not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be standing in this House, and I will apologize to this House, and we will change our plans. But if they do support the centre, contrary to what the opposition says, Mr. Deputy Speaker — and we'll find out what the community and the industry say, notwithstanding their allegations — I want to know, will that member and that party stand in this House and apologize for their allegations, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the big questions seems to be around the location of the project. The government's own report indicated many good reasons for building the forest centre at SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) instead of in the downtown core.

Will the minister's review reconsider the location of the forestry centre?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's a neat trick — it's a neat trick if you can get away with it — to stand up in the House one day and say, industry does not support this, the board does not support this; and then the next day say, don't go out and ask them what they think. That's a neat trick if you can get away with it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But they're not going to get away with it because we're going to have a public report, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where we're going to say the opposition has alleged that industry does not support this, that the board does not support this. And we're going to go to the people that they're purporting to speak for and we're going to ask them what they have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And then we're going to publish it.

And if I'm wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the people do not support the development of the forestry centre, I'll say what I'll do. I want to know from that opposition, if they're wrong, as they've been wrong time and time again, are they for a change going to stand up and apologize to the people of this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, prior to deciding on the location of the Prince Albert forestry centre, the government commissioned a survey of key industry stakeholders to determine their preferred location. The final report from this survey said, and I quote:

The parties interviewed were practically unanimous in favour of a SIAST location. The forestry centre is seen as more of a centre for technology transfer and industry, which is better suited to the technology and educational opportunities found at the SIAST site, as opposed to a

business or cultural centre which would favour a downtown location.

So what did the NDP (New Democratic Party) do? They completely ignored the advice of the industry stakeholders and decided to build a downtown office building.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, why did the NDP decide to build downtown when almost everyone was telling them to build at SIAST?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well this is very interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On Friday we had that member standing up and saying, there shouldn't be a Saskatchewan forestry centre. That's what he said on Friday, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Today he seems to be backpedalling. Now he says, oh he's just quibbling about the location of the forestry centre, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But now what we have, apparently, from the opposition, is a debate about where it should be located, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So we've come full circle. They are now saying there should be a forestry centre developed in the city of Prince Albert. Well how things change in a few days, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how things change.

You know what it reminds me of? There's never been a development in this province that's had the support of the opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I want to remind people in this province, so they can assess the credibility of this opposition, what the Leader of the Opposition said about the Lloydminster Upgrader when the Government of Saskatchewan declined to sell its interests. You know what he called it, Mr. Deputy Speaker? He called it a white elephant. That's what he said about the Lloydminster Upgrader. Tell that to the people in Lloydminster, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the goals of the new forestry centre was to become the Canadian centre for testing forest fire fighting equipment. However the government's own report notes that a downtown location was less than desirable for this purpose. Weyerhaeuser's vice-president, Steve Smith, echoed this view. He said, and I quote:

You couldn't do that type of testing in the facility to be built in downtown Prince Albert.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, why did the NDP ignore its own report and build the facility downtown when that eliminates the chance to become the Canadian centre for testing and certifying forest fire fighting equipment?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, in case that member doesn't know — and I believe it's in his riding — there's a new forest fire centre that has been built north of the city of Prince Albert in his riding which is the logical place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to have the testing related to forest fires. If the member doesn't know what is in his own backyard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not hard to understand why the member doesn't understand the importance of developing the forestry industry in this province.

But I want to say to the people of the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the real problem here is we have an opposition that is all doom and gloom. They never recognize the good things that are happening, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They won't say anything about the 8,000 new jobs in forestry in the last four years. They won't say anything about the 300 companies working in forestry that are being built in this province. They won't say anything about the fact that we're building the world's largest oriented strand board plant, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We've got oil and gas drilling up 71 per cent in the last year. We've got forestry on a roll. And this province is on a roll. And it's going to roll right over the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Canadian fire equipment test and certification facility was clearly identified as a key component of the new forestry centre. The government's own report says, and I quote:

This facility cannot be completely located at either site. However, much of it could be located at the SIAST site.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all the stakeholders said they preferred the SIAST site. It was better suited to becoming the national centre for testing forest fire equipment. It seems to make much more sense to build a research centre at an educational facility, yet the NDP ignored all of this and decided to build a downtown office building. Why?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member says, this person said this; this person said that. I've already said to the members, we're going to get a report about what the industry says in Prince Albert and about what the board says.

Now the member says, well so-and-so said this several months ago. I want to know why is it that this member and the opposition are so agitated. They're agitated, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the idea of us publishing what people have to say.

Well I say to that member, who proposes to be a representative of the North, that he may not be interested in working with northern communities to build the forest industry or listening to what their views are, but this government is, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And that opposition can complain and criticize and bring about all the doom and gloom they want, but the people of this province, including the people of that riding and the people of Prince Albert, are going to keep building, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, there seemed to be only one person telling the government to build downtown and that was the mayor of Prince Albert.

A report prepared by Innovation Place in December 2001 says, and I quote:

Innovation Place believes the city of Prince Albert would charge a significant premium or otherwise impede approval of the project for any location other than the one in downtown Prince Albert.

This appears to be why the NDP ignored all the stakeholders who were saying, build at SIAST.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when did the city buy up the downtown property that it subsequently sold to the province and when did the former minister of Industry first tell Don Cody that the building would be built downtown?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well as I've said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government believes in working with communities. And when the Cornwall Centre was developed in downtown Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is an example of the province locating certain things like the SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and the SaskTel building in a location to help revitalize an area of downtown Regina.

And I am not ashamed to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this government will work with other communities as well. This government will work with the city of Prince Albert to revitalize downtown Prince Albert. That's what we've been doing with the location of the new court house, which could have been in the suburbs, with the performing arts centre, which could have been somewhere else, and with the forestry centre, subject to the review we have going on right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I want to say that it is clear, it is clear that there's a difference between this government and the opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's this. We will stand with and work with communities across this province. All they'll do is criticize and complain, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the minister spoke about building an office building in downtown Prince Albert. There already is an office building in downtown Prince Albert that resembles . . . much like SaskTel and SaskEnergy.

So when did the former minister first tell Don Cody that the building would be built downtown?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Cornwall Centre was developed, an SGI building was put there and the SaskTel building was put there. Guess what? The opposition of the day opposed it. They said, Allan Blakeney is erecting towers of gold down at the Cornwall Centre. But the government of the day said, no, we're going to work with the city of Regina to revitalize downtown Regina. That's what they did. I don't think the opposition would oppose that.

And no matter what you do, whether you're working at the Lloydminster Upgrader, building a forestry centre, building the Cornwall Centre, the naysayers in any opposition will oppose it.

But what we're going to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is do what any responsible government would do, which is to work with communities to continue to develop the economy of this province. We're going to do that at Innovation Place in Saskatoon, at the research centre in Regina, and with the forestry centre in Prince Albert. That's our vision, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have a vision, unlike the people over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the earlier report we spoke about last week already talked about adequate, plenty adequate office space in downtown Prince Albert. There's already empty space in the McIntosh Mall where the government leases space in downtown Prince Albert. So why did the minister first decide that they're going to build a new building in downtown Prince Albert — an office building — and when did the former minister first tell Don Cody that the building would be built in downtown Prince Albert? When?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well this is a bit confusing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A few minutes ago the member was saying that it should be built at SIAST, as I heard him. Now is he saying it should be in the McIntosh Mall? I don't know. He's bouncing all over Prince Albert. If he doesn't know that the forest fire centre is in his own riding, I don't think he knows his way around the city of Prince Albert very well either.

But I want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that what has really got this opposition agitated is this government has a plan and the plan is working, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have this year 12,000 more people working in this province than last year. We have this year 4,700 more young people working than last year. We have this year 71 per cent more oil and gas wells being drilled than last year.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you'll never hear the opposition say anything positive about what any of the communities or businesses are doing in the province of Saskatchewan because they see their role as criticizing anything that might be proposed. And that's all they're doing today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to the Innovation Place report, the government had decided on the downtown location as early as December 2001. That report says because of the position taken by the city of Prince Albert, Innovation Place has directed the architects to focus on the downtown location.

Mr. Speaker, all the stakeholders are saying, build at SIAST. It made more sense to put a research facility at SIAST. The forest fire fighting certification facility had to go at SIAST. But the NDP ignored all of this and decided to build downtown.



Mr. Deputy Speaker, when did the NDP make this decision, and when did the former minister first tell Don Cody that the building would be built downtown?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(14:15)

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say, I think for the third or fourth time, I have asked the deputy minister to come forward with a report where the opinions of the stakeholders in the city of Prince Albert will be expressed. And we will be guided by those opinions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now the opposition insists, well you have them already. The opposition is saying no, no, don't ask anybody what they think, just listen to us. And for some reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've moved to a position where the opposition is not saying the forestry centre is a bad concept. They're quibbling over where it should be built, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And the quibbling comes down to this. The quibbling comes down to whether they believe the province should work with the city of Prince Albert in determining the location or should put out some kind of diktat telling everybody where it's going to go.

Well we're going to listen to the people, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're going to work with communities, and we're going to keep building over the opposition of that party over there.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the minister has been dancing around the subject of where the Saskatchewan Party's position is. But what we're trying to find out on this side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is where that government's position is on the research and development centre in the city of Prince Albert.

And we're trying to find out, when did the former minister first tell Don Cody that the building would be built downtown?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I can tell you, Mr. Deputy Minister, that nobody dictated to the city of Prince Albert where the building would be built, and nobody dictated to the Government of Saskatchewan where the building should be built. This decision, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was made in partnership involving several players.

I've already said to the House and that member, we're going to have a report about what the stakeholders think of this project, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're going to be guided accordingly.

And anyone watching this exchange, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will know by now that it really doesn't matter what the position of the Government of Saskatchewan is, and how many jobs are being created, how many jobs in forestry are being created, how many companies are operating, how many oil and gas wells are being drilled. It doesn't matter what the government does. It is the job of those men and women over there to paint the picture

as bleak as they can, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's what they're trying to do.

But what they cannot do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is they cannot undo the facts, and the facts are these: that there's more investment, more jobs, and Saskatchewan is moving along, notwithstanding the doom and gloom over . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the minister has said no one pushes around the city of Prince Albert and no one pushes around the province of Saskatchewan. However the report done by Innovation Place indicated very clearly that because of the city . . . position taken by the city of Prince Albert, Innovation Place has directed architects to focus on downtown Prince Albert. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that sounds to me exactly like the province being pushed around by the city of Prince Albert.

So when did the former minister first tell Don Cody that the building would be built in downtown Prince Albert?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker — Mr. Deputy Speaker — I've done the best I can to answer the questions of the member opposite. But the member gets up and keeps repeating his scripted questions.

But what I want to say to the people of the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this government has a strategy to build the economy, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I want the people of the province to know that four years ago we set out a plan to build the forestry sector, over the opposition of the opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And since that plan was laid out, there are 8,000 new direct and indirect jobs in forestry — 8,000 new jobs.

And I think what that member from the Saskatchewan Rivers riding, which includes the forestry industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, should be doing is going out and talking to people that are actually doing the work building the forestry industry. And I think in a positive and proactive way, he should join with this government in trying to get more people employed in Saskatchewan instead of doing absolutely nothing positive and just constantly complaining about any development, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to information handed out by the minister on Friday, we now know that the government had no business plan for this project as late as May 2002. That's why they have no First Nations investors. That's why they have no private sector investors. And the decision to build downtown had already been made previously.

The NDP claims they came up with a business plan later. But they refused to show it to potential investors. That doesn't make a lot of sense. Mr. Deputy Speaker, why was the NDP putting the cart before the horse? Why did they decide to build downtown and eliminate the potential of private sector or First Nation investment even before they had a business plan?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I find it, I find it interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the opposition refuses to recognize one basic fact. And that basic fact is this: that since 1978 the Government of Saskatchewan has worked with people in Saskatoon to invest in Innovation Place so that Saskatoon can have a research park specializing in agriculture biotechnology. Since the early '90s, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested in a research park in Regina at the university for oil and gas, for petroleum research, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now I don't hear the opposition saying we shouldn't have Innovation Place in Saskatoon. I don't hear them saying we shouldn't have petroleum research centre in Regina. And my question to the opposition would be this, Mr. Deputy Speaker: what on earth does the opposition have against the city of Prince Albert, Mr. Deputy Speaker? What do they have against the city of Prince Albert? Because unless they're opposed to Innovation Place in Saskatoon . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. The member's time has expired.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wiberg:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, for some reason the NDP rushed into this project. They had already decided on the downtown location by December 2001, even though it was not supported by the stakeholders, even though they had no business plan, even though they had no private sector investment, even though they had no First Nations investors, even though they had no chance of getting the forest fire fighting certification facility, and even though it just seems to make a lot more sense to build at SIAST.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what was the rush? Why was it so important to take this property off of Don Cody's hands?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as anyone watching the proceedings of the legislature will know, any time . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Order. Hon. members, I'm having difficulty hearing the speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm sure that when the Hill family sold this land on which this building is built, to build the Legislative Assembly, there were people like the opposition, Mr. Speaker, who opposed the construction of the Legislative Building — people like members of the opposition.

Because the folks watching this on TV, Mr. Deputy Speaker, know that any time you have builders — people who are positive and who are building something — you will have naysayers. But they also know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it's the job of builders to lead and to govern. It's the job of naysayers to be negative and to be an opposition. So those people over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are exactly where they belong.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Provincial Youth Advisory Committee Launched

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to tell you that on Saturday I had the privilege of officially launching the new Saskatchewan Provincial Youth Advisory Committee. And this committee will focus on key priorities such as promoting and enhancing Saskatchewan opportunities for young people.

Their mandate has several key focuses, Mr. Speaker. One is to make recommendations to government on issues of concern to youth or to respond to priority concerns such as how to ensure that youth know about their opportunities in Saskatchewan; the second is to enhance government's opportunities to take youth views into account in agenda setting and decision making; and third, to provide new leadership positions for youth to support the passing of the torch from one generation to the next.

And I'm confident, Mr. Speaker, that the committee will produce concrete proposals to enhance and promote opportunities for youth, including the launching of a new youth-focused Web site. We had some opportunity on Saturday for discussion and already people were generating many helpful ideas.

Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes that Saskatchewan's young people have insight and drive to make huge contributions to this province. The Provincial Youth Advisory Committee is part of the overall plan of this government, Mr. Speaker, to produce workable, sustainable ideas for attracting and retaining Saskatchewan youth, attracting youth from out of province, and for ensuring youth voices are taken seriously.

The Provincial Youth Advisory Committee is composed of 19 youths from across the province, ranging in age from 14 to 29. And it also provides an opportunity for these young people to develop their leadership skills and to work with a diverse group of youth from other backgrounds around the province because, Mr. Speaker, developing a network of young people who are getting things done is also important.

The committee members were selected from those youth who had expressed involvement in other initiative such as Leaders of Tomorrow, the Action Committee on the Rural Economy, and the northern community vitality project, as well as the committee that reports to the children's ombudsman. All of these youth have been nominated and have been identified as leaders in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the committee is co-chaired by two members, Amy Sandeski and Matthew Dunn, and I have every confidence that they will lead the committee in its work with vision, creativity, and skill.

And for young people interested in future appointments to the committee, some additional positions will be filled once we receive these. This is available on-line from Culture, Youth and Recreation Web site as of May 12. The address is [www.cyr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.cyr.gov.sk.ca). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And thank you, Madam Minister, for taking the time to provide us with some detail about your government's most recent initiative regarding Saskatchewan's young people.

On behalf of the official opposition, our congratulations and best wishes go out to all 19 young people who are involved in this endeavour. We sincerely hope that you will be given the necessary tools and resources that will enable you to achieve the goals and objectives that have been outlined. We know that your creativity, skills, talent, energy, and enthusiasm will certainly be put to good use as you help prepare yourselves and others for the roles that await you.

When it comes to Saskatchewan's youth, members on this side of the House are always encouraged with any kind of initiative that focuses on attracting and retaining this key demographic. We are all very aware of how vital our young people are to growing Saskatchewan. The tool for economic and social success must be in place, be recognized and believed in by all of us, but this is especially true for our youth. It is their commitment to the future that will ensure Saskatchewan's future. Their success is our success. If they do not see opportunity, leadership, vision, or the possibility for growth, they will not stay. It's a pretty basic formula, and one that has been proven thousands of times over in this province.

And that's why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will not only watch the actions and activities of this new advisory committee, but also the subsequent actions and activities of the government that appointed it. The members opposite have given this group of young people an extremely challenging and valuable directive and we are looking forward to the recommendations of this committee.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(14:30)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 25 — The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2003

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 25, The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2003 be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Why is the member for Rosthern on his feet?

**Mr. Heppner:** — To ask permission to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like at this time to introduce to you and through you to the members of this House, a young gentleman sitting in your gallery. His name is Ben Fehr.

And I'm going to be very interested in seeing how he enjoyed this because I think he came here — and he's going to spend today and tomorrow around the legislature — because he felt he was very interested in what happens in the legislature and what politics is all about. So now that he's looking at it in the nitty-gritty of it we'll see a little later on how he enjoyed that.

So it's going to be good to have him around the legislature for the next two days. And I would ask the members to join me in welcoming Ben Fehr to the House.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Why is the member for Regina Elphinstone on his feet?

**Mr. McCall:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the legislature, two individuals seated in the Speaker's gallery. The first is Noah Evanchuk, if you could please stand up Noah. And the second is Anna Marie Kowalsky. And with names like Evanchuk — or as might be said Iwanchuk — and Kowalsky, I'm sure you can imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what their interest in this place is.

And in fact, in fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they're quite active in the politics of this province and indeed of this country. And of course with fine names such as these, they're active in the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

So I would like to urge all members to join with me in welcoming in to this place, and I'm sure that with a good round of applause we can give them a proper welcome, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions 155 and 156.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### General Revenue Fund Justice Vote 3

**Subvote (JU01)**

**The Chair:** — I would recognize the Minister of Justice to introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today, sitting to my left, is Mr. Doug Moen, who is the deputy minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General. To his left is Ms. Betty Ann Pottruff, who is the director of policy planning and evaluation. To my right is Mr. Murray Brown, the acting executive director of public prosecutions. Immediately behind me is Mr. Gord Sisson, the director of administrative services. And immediately behind Mr. Moen is Ms. Elizabeth Smith, the executive assistant to the deputy minister.

And also in the room, I believe at the back, are some other officials. And I'll maybe introduce them if we bring them on to the actual floor during the course of the proceedings.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. And good afternoon to the minister and his officials, and I thank you for being here today to answer questions from a number of us in the opposition.

Mr. Minister, I'd like to just start today by asking whether or not your department has taken further consideration of placing rave legislation for the province of Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — We do not have any intention of bringing in such legislation during this session of the Legislative Assembly.

**Ms. Julé:** — All right. Mr. Minister, I was just wondering if there's . . . I had taken quite an interest in that, as well as a number of stakeholders throughout the province whom I had spoken with last year. And I'm wondering whether or not you're still hearing from those stakeholders — I'm sure you heard from them also — on whether they are concerned about raves and the need possibly for rave legislation in order to regulate the raves?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — We certainly have a concern with respect to the safety and security of young people who attend raves. But I do want to say that this is a very complex matter, Mr. Chair, and there is no province in Canada that has come up with legislation to regulate raves.

And we are in a position where we have a concern. We want the police to exercise the jurisdiction that they have under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to enter premises to check for drug use or drug trafficking. We want the police to use their other powers if appropriate. We also want the industry, the people who sponsor raves, to act in a responsible manner.

But no province has brought forward legislation with respect to what is a fairly complex area, and at this time we are not proposing legislation either.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the minister: Mr. Minister, I'm wondering if you could, I guess just as a matter of information for the people of the province, if you could maybe outline some of the complexities that make this a difficult legislation to bring forward?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well some of the complexities, Mr. Chair, I'm advised would involve the question of what activities should be regulated. For example, one could regulate something called raves. Well, one would have to say, what is a rave, in legislation? Well one might say it is a late-night dance party. Well what kind of late-night dance party?

There are private establishments where, late at night, people dance. Is that covered by any kind of regulation? There are community events, wedding dances, private affairs where people get together and dance late at night. There are activities that involve young people.

How do you draw the line between activities that should be regulated by the government and activities which should not be caught by the legislation? It's hard to define. So that is one of the complexities.

Another complexity is that the federal authorities have jurisdiction over criminal law. They have jurisdiction over drug . . . controlled drugs, prohibited drugs, narcotics. The province has let . . . jurisdiction over things like health and safety matters. Where do you draw the line as between the jurisdiction of the province and the jurisdiction of the federal authorities?

What is the intent of regulation? Is it to stop the illicit use of drugs and the danger that that can pose for young people? If so, is that something that the province can legitimately and legally control through provincial legislation? Or is it a matter for enforcement by the federal drug police officers, which there are, and drug prosecutors, which there are?

So those are some of the complexities. There are others.

And I want to say we share the member's concern with activities that may pose a danger to the health and safety of young people in particular. But at the same time in looking at this, my officials advise me, in talking to the police, talking to other authorities, we see a lot of complexities.

And we've found talking to other provinces that no province has been able to come up with legislation that would be valid for a provincial government to do and that would be effective in terms of doing what the member would want and what we would want, which is to keep young people safe.

And so those are the kinds of problems we have. I'm advised there was one private member's Bill introduced in one of the legislatures — I believe Ontario — but it was withdrawn. I don't know why, but presumably because someone may have pointed out that, well here are the problems with your legislation.

So the ability of the province to pass legislation in this kind of area is constrained because we have authority over some things but not others. And then as a practical matter, the matter of regulating activity of people who are entertaining themselves is difficult because you're trying to regulate some activities but not others.

And there may be human rights and other issues that may be brought to the forefront if you say well, I'm going to legislate that if you're under 18, you know, we have these rules — well

we do have alcohol rules obviously — but rules in terms of whether you can have a certain activity whereas if you're over 18 maybe you have a different set of rules.

(14:45)

So it is fairly complex. We don't have an easy answer for how to regulate this other than to say that we are continuing dialogue with the police authorities in terms of trying to regulate or make sure that the police attend these events where there are certain problems.

And I think it's fair to say that some of the problems that we seemed to have in the news a few years ago have not been in the news lately. And of course there was one very tragic result at one rave — I believe in Saskatoon — and so it is hoped that people are acting responsibly in light of some of the problems there have been at the events known as raves.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for those answers. I was very curious about the status of looking into the possibility of legislation regarding raves.

And I would agree with you, it's very difficult to be able to define raves and there is a whole gamut of things that goes with it. But I do think that the concern of our citizens of this province is a valid concern and that there may be some avenues that may be pursued by Justice that could assist in making sure that the venues that raves are at are certainly providing, I guess . . . well it's a safe environment, as safe as can possibly be.

Mr. Minister, I have a variety of questions. I'd like to move now to the results of the legislation that was enacted last year at this time, as a result of the Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade, and the legislation I'm referring to is the seizure of cars of people that have been charged or are suspicious and taken into impoundment.

Now, Mr. Minister, I did a question to your department the other day. I phoned and found out that there have been 95 cars seized in the last year in conjunction with this legislation. Eighty-one were released back to offenders after successful completion of john schools, seven released back by the courts, one was sold, one is still impounded, and five are outstanding, still before the courts I guess. There were three convictions and two seizures that have involved child victims.

Now, Mr. Minister, I stood in the House just last week and I was talking to the minister of Social Services during estimates about the effectiveness of this legislation. And I certainly feel that it has been effective from what I've heard from some of the citizens of Saskatoon, as far as there being less activity on the streets and that kind of thing.

But, Mr. Minister, when I look at these stats provided by your department, two seizures of vehicles that have involved child victims. The rest of those seizures, which are 95 in total in the province, I take it were obviously seizures of cars of people that were pursuing women or men in the sex trade that were over the age of 18.

And so it leads me to wonder whether or not this measure alone

is quite enough. I believe it is a good measure. I think it has positive outcome to a degree but two seizures only that have involved child victims. I ask the minister today whether you think that this legislation is effective in addressing the exploitation of children in the sex trade?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I thank the member for the question. In answer to the part of the member's question where she said, I think correctly . . . well she said that this measure of the seizure of vehicles, would it alone be effective in stopping the sexual exploitation of children? I would said no, it alone would not. It has to be part of a comprehensive strategy.

And it is . . . The member indicated that most of these seizures of vehicles have involved adults but it has not resulted in the identification of children being sexually exploited in the vehicles, and that's not a bad thing.

There are a variety of things being done to try to reduce the sexual exploitation of children. This particular measure of the seizure of vehicles was designed to curb the activity of adults who are driving around residential areas wanting to find persons in the sex trade and in particular wanting to find children who may be susceptible to sexual exploitation by adults.

And it was felt by the committee, which the member I think was a member of and knows much about it, and the legislature, it was felt that it was appropriate to have legislation that would say that if you are habitually driving around an area known to be a place where children are being picked up and sexually abused and you have no purpose there — you're not going to your residence, you're not going to a business there; you just seem to be driving around and around — that that's a bad thing for the children who may be exploited and for the residents.

So it gave the police the authority to seize that vehicle if you engage in that kind of activity. And curbing that kind of activity will in and of itself be one part of reducing the sexual exploitation of children.

Also, whether or not one's activity is curtailed, when you have these kinds of law in place, it prevents people from engaging in this kind of activity in the first place because there's a deterrent. And one of the things we know, we know that seizure of vehicles does get the attention of people. Sometimes if they don't pay maintenance that they're supposed to pay, their driver's licences are taken away so they can't drive, and it gets their attention.

And I think it's part of this, that if you are driving around areas known to be the stroll and you know your vehicle can be seized, maybe it's going to prevent you from doing that in the first place. So that's why. And I think it is effective.

It's difficult to measure program success in ways that are easy to quantify because one thing we see, the police report in the major cities, they have noted a significant decrease in vehicular traffic and sex trade workers in those areas known to be frequented by prostitutes and child victims and their customers since program implementation.

So in other words, there's a number of people whose vehicles have been seized, but then we think there are people who aren't

going there any more in the first place. And perhaps that's even more important because the police in the major centres say that there are fewer sex-trade workers and children out there, and fewer cars driving around.

The decreases have been particularly dramatic in Regina where policing priorities have enabled the police service to dedicate significant personnel resources to program enforcement. In other words, where they're doing this a lot they find that the cars aren't coming around like they used to.

So it's successful and it's a good thing. It's not a complete answer. It's one tool in really an arsenal that is necessary to take on the issue of child sexual exploitation.

And we have a comprehensive strategy — not just one thing — but a comprehensive strategy that first of all recognizes that children exploited in the sex trade are victims of sexual abuse and need protection; secondly, that of course expresses society's condemnation of that activity, wants to hold the people that would exploit children in that way accountable through the law; and wants to provide, thirdly, services to those children, residential services and other services, through a variety of government departments, and to try to work with those children to get them off the street and out of that exploitation.

So I'm sorry for the long-winded answer but it is a complex question. But yes, it's effective. No, it is not a complete answer.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, you made a statement in your response to my question that is obvious — and it was obvious to the committee when we went throughout the province speaking to people in different communities, people that have worked with children on the streets, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, everybody that was interested and cared about children — that we need a comprehensive strategy.

So that is a known factor. What is not happening right now, Mr. Minister, that concerns me is, because it's so important that there is a comprehensive strategy, the fact of the matter is there is not a comprehensive strategy in place right now.

We have the legislation which is beneficial. But in speaking with some of the stakeholders, for instance in Saskatoon and Regina, their question is: good, now we have this legislation in, this is going to be a deterrent to the johns and those people that would exploit children, but what happens to the kids? For instance, if a car is stopped by the police and the police determine that there is suspicion, there is really good reason to believe that this person is out to exploit children, and they seize his vehicle or in fact sometimes they charge — depending on the circumstances — but there's not really any, any part of the strategy that addresses what to do with the children at that time. And so that's a great concern as I've mentioned.

Mr. Minister, what does happen? According to what your officials might be telling you or what the police have indicated to you, what happens if children are under the age of 16, 17 years old — particularly under the age of 16 — and they are in the car, what happens when the officer charges or takes the driver of that vehicle to the police station or whatever and the

car is impounded? What happens to the child? Does the child just walk back into the night? What strategies do we have in place to ensure that there is an assessment done of that child's needs at that time, or where that child is, the status of the child? And I'm wondering if the minister could brief me on that.

And in addition I have one more question because I'm going to ask you to respond to that, and I'd like to know how many emergency intervention orders have been placed before the courts prohibiting some of these people that have gone through john school from having contact with children that are in the sex trade?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I can advise the member, in response to the last part of her question, seven applications have been made under The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act to mid-February, I am advised — so seven up until then. Now that is between, the proclamation was October 1, and mid-February — so seven up until that point.

I want to say in answer to the member's question, she said that there was not a comprehensive strategy. Now I want to say there is a comprehensive strategy. The member may disagree whether it's comprehensive enough, that it should go further, but there certainly is a comprehensive strategy. And I want to describe some of it.

The member has quite rightly I think asked, well what if there is a child in a vehicle that is stopped and the police have reason to believe that this child is being sexually abused or may be in danger of being sexually abused? And the answer is that the police have the authority under the legislation to apprehend the child as a child in need of protection.

(15:00)

And then I was saying that there is a need for a comprehensive strategy which I believe we have been developing. I indicated in my previous answer that we have certain principles that guide the strategy. I'll go on to say that to date we have developed police and prosecution protocols — in other words, what should the police do, what should the prosecutors do — training; intervention committees for local service coordination; funding for programs for at-risk youth in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and La Ronge; and safe houses in Saskatoon and soon in Regina.

Sexually exploited young people have complex care and treatment needs of course and 26 spaces in our specialized residential and group home programs have been prioritized for these young people. In other words, if you have a young person who's apprehended or found to be in need of protection, there are 26 spaces for the young people to go to.

Intervention committees have been established in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert to coordinate emergency outreach and support services to sexually exploited youth. As well, First Nations operate a safe house in Saskatoon and a second house will soon open in Regina. In addition we have implemented several pieces of legislation that together hold accountable and deter those who would exploit children for sexual purposes and strengthen protections and support services for victims.

In particular, legislation has been enacted to provide police new investigative and tracking tools to enhance the detection and prosecution of perpetrators, protect victims, and deter offenders. Examples include The Emergency Protection for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act, which has been passed by this House, and two sets of amendments to The Highway Traffic Act which enable the police to deal with people driving around with the purpose of picking up young people.

Prostitution offender intervention programs are now delivered by community-based organizations in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. In other words, what is commonly referred to I think as john school, where if you have adults who are engaged in this activity or may be suspected of such, that, you know, to have them go to john school and have them confronted with the reality of what their activity may mean in terms of harm to children and families.

We have suggested amendments to the Criminal Code to the federal government to improve the tools available to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

And based on the reports that we've received, we believe that all of these things that we're doing are having a positive impact on protecting children and youth from commercial sexual exploitation.

We're also continuing a public education campaign to pursue . . . or to convey the pointed message that exploitation of children and youth through the sex trade is child abuse and will not be tolerated. And we continue to work with the police, with First Nations, Métis, and community-based organizations to reduce sexual exploitation of children and youth.

So we are doing a variety of things. We have passed a variety of legislative amendments and we're trying to provide a variety of services, and also take steps to prevent the sexual exploitation of young people.

And I would agree with the member that, have we done everything we could do? Probably not. Are there more things we should do? Probably so. Do we need to develop and enhance this fight against child sexual abuse as we move along? Yes, we do for sure. And this is a topic where I invite the member's comments and we have to co-operate, as we have in the past, in terms of coming up with these strategies because it's too important a subject to be political about.

So we're taking some good steps; there's probably more that could be taken. But I think we do have a comprehensive strategy which, probably like everything else in life, could be improved upon somewhat and we need to try to do that as we move forward.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for those comments. Mr. Minister, again in your comments you indicated to me that police can apprehend a child from a vehicle if they have probable and good reason to believe that the child is in danger of being exploited or has been exploited.

Mr. Minister, are the police obligated under the law to take that

child and to place them in a safe house or a place where they can be assessed? I ask you that today.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The obligation of the police would be to turn that child over to the Department of Community Resources and Employment.

**Ms. Julé:** — So then, Mr. Minister, I take it that because you're part of the government that has these number of departments, which most governments do, that you would have some information on what the process is from that point on, as to when the child is turned over. How are we ensured that the child is safe?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The Department of Community Resources and Employment would do an assessment with respect to each individual child, and what they would do would depend upon what they found.

Each child is different. The needs of each child might be different. The danger that the child may be in will vary from child to child. They may find that the child is a child in need of protection and some kind of court order to place the child in protection. They may find that the child can go home; that the child needs some kind of help, counselling, some resources but is not . . . does not have to be taken into custody by the state, if I can put it that way.

What the child will be provided with or the intervention of the state will depend upon the needs, the level of needs as found, as the people who are trained to work with children and youth in this situation do an assessment of what the needs of that particular child will be.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, most of this activity takes place in the evening or the wee hours of the morning, at night, on the streets, when it is happening on the streets.

Mr. Minister, the department that used to be called Social Services, that is now community services, I don't believe has 24-hour services for . . . If a child is deemed to be in danger by the police and the workers for that child are not around, the department workers, because it is the middle of the night, do the police have other recourse?

Because if they have to wait until the next day or a couple of days before they present the child to the department for assessment, that child could be long gone. It's very difficult to track. And so I believe that it's really very important to have an avenue in place where that child can be assessed immediately or to have a worker with him immediately.

Now to my knowledge Saskatchewan doesn't have a 24-hour service by the department in order to provide for that kind of immediate response to a child's needs.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm advised that the Department of Community Resources and Employment, formerly Social Services, has contracts with mobile crisis services in the major centres so that they provide 24-hour service, and that most of these situations do arise in the larger centres. And while it's true that in the smaller centres they will not have 24-hour coverage,

they also don't have the same type of problem. But if they did have that type of problem, there would be someone perhaps that would be on call for the department, as I understand it. But that really the problem is in the urban centres where they contract with the mobile crisis units to provide services in the off-hours.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, mobile crisis, to my knowledge, doesn't have adequate human resource capacity in order to deal with this issue. And I wonder whether or not there is physical capacity in order to keep a child for a while until assessment is done. And I'm wondering, too, is it up to mobile crisis then to determine whether that child, for instance, has an addiction problem and for them to refer the child on to some addiction services — which I believe there's very little of also in Saskatchewan for youth.

But nonetheless, from that point, I'm thinking that mobile crisis is basically to contain the child or keep the child there until the department can do a further assessment. If that's true, I know that mobile crisis is certainly suffering, at least that's what I hear, from not having adequate human resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'll just say that if there is an emergency, and the mobile crisis centres will prioritize what is the worst emergency, the contract between Community Resources and Employment and mobile crisis centres will be that they are to provide the assistance. And I'm sure that if I spoke to the Department of Social Services or the mobile crisis people — do you have enough resources? Do you need more people? — I think the answer's always: no, we don't have enough resources and yes, we need more people.

But the member asked if there's a system for the off-hours. I said yes there is a system for the off-hours. I've described it.

In terms of the level of resources, whether the system has the right number of people, the right number of resources, that is a question that could be put to the Minister of Community Resources and Employment in estimates, in terms of the level of resources.

And I'm not saying that there couldn't be more. In fact, I think I've been responsible in some budgets of increasing personnel for agencies like that and have been criticized for that by those who say we shouldn't hire more people. So you get into that kind of debate as well.

But I'm sure the member isn't one that would criticize more people being hired in sectors like that, and I appreciate her advice that we need to look very carefully at the level of public expenditure that may be needed in this area.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Mr. Minister. I guess it's how resources are used and I think most of the people in Saskatchewan have that as their concern. We want to make sure that the monies that we're putting towards resources is done wisely and that the resources, both human — well mostly human that we have out there — are directed as to how to do their job effectively and efficiently.

Now I could be wrong in this but the last I did hear, Mr. Minister . . . And I know that this may be a question for the Minister of Community Resources. But I'm concerned that the

children, in the state they're in when they're taken to mobile crisis, that there is a workable situation going on there in order to address the needs of that child in an emergency situation that they're in.

For instance if the child has been beaten, obviously there's always physical harm, but if the child, for instance, has been beaten or is traumatized, are there resources at mobile crisis in order to deal with that?

I don't believe there is right now. I'm not sure mobile resources — I'm sorry, mobile crisis — was set up for that reason. And if mobile crisis is going to be used in that capacity, then there's a whole lot more that needs to be considered at those places.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well I mean these are situations where if a child is picked up in these circumstances, it's obviously a crisis in the child's life and it needs to be dealt with. If the child is in need of medical attention, the child will be referred for medical attention to the health care system.

But I want to say that we do make provision for dealing with problems that children in this position may have. In particular, in Regina there is over half a million dollars per year allocated to three projects — \$223,000 to the Regina Mobile Crisis Service to run a safety service mobile outreach van; and the Action Committee for Children at Risk to provide family-centred intervention with families who have children involved in the sex trade; and \$300,000 for the development of a safe house with a target opening date of . . . well actually this month.

(15:15)

So in other words there is over half a million dollars allocated in Regina alone, so that if a child is in need of intervention the services are there to try to intervene.

In Saskatoon there is budget of \$316,000 on four projects in this area — \$31,000 to Egadz for outreach services; \$74,000 for Operation Help, which is a Saskatoon peer support group of sexually experienced youth for enhanced outreach and follow services; \$186,000 to the Saskatoon Tribal Council to operate a safe house and satellite home; and \$25,000 to Communities for Children to develop a community awareness campaign.

And in Prince Albert-La Ronge, \$228,000 on two projects — outreach and youth-focused activities at the Youth Activity Centre in Prince Albert and the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge.

Saskatchewan Justice will spend about \$238,000 to support programs in three centres. In Regina, \$65,000 to support cultural, recreational, and educational programs provided by the Rainbow Youth Centre for at-risk youth; and \$11,500 to support family healing programming provided by the Regina Indian Metis Christian Fellowship.

In Saskatoon, \$63,000 to support the Saskatoon safe house, as well as \$14,500 to support Operation Help. And in Prince Albert, \$98,000 to support life skills, decision-making, and conflict resolution programs offered by the Prince Albert Youth Activity Centre.



So I'm just making the point that there are a variety of things that we do to get money into the communities to work with young people who are at risk. If the member asks me well, you know, are we possibly doing everything we possibly could do and spending all the money we could possibly spend to meet every possible need, I'm sure that we're not. I'm sure that, like everything else, there are priorities and you're trying to deal with the youth that are most at risk. And we've taken a lot . . . a large number of steps forward in terms of services and funding that are provided in the last few years that were never there before.

We've got legislation in place to try to reduce the number of people driving around picking young people up. We've got legislation in place to place children in need of help in places where they can be helped.

We're trying to do the best we can to deal with a very difficult situation. In part, some of the ideas have come from the opposition. We've tried to work together to do that, so we're making some progress. There's undoubtedly more to be done, but there are many things that are being done because, like the member from the opposition, we're all very concerned about the sexual exploitation of young people and we want to condemn it, and we want to stop it.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, during the committee's proceedings, talking with people of the province it had come to our attention that a large number of people felt that if johns are sent to johns schools as part of their, basically punishment, I guess . . . That's a pretty . . . not enough as far as I'm concerned. But nonetheless if they're . . . done that, that the cost of that johns school should be \$1,000 and that the money from that should be returned so that this money can be put towards recovery services for the youth that had been exploited and offended. And I don't think that your government has taken that measure, and I'm wondering why not.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Chair, I'd like to introduce to the House, sitting right behind me is Ms. Jan Turner, who is the executive director of community justice. And while I'm doing that I should also indicate that there are other officials present in the House, Susan Amrud, the executive director of public law; Rod Crook, the executive director of courts and civil justice division; Keith Laxdal, associate deputy minister of finance and administration; and Gerald Tegart, executive director of the civil law division.

In answer to the question, I can indicate to the member that I'm advised that when someone goes to johns school they do pay a fee of \$400 to the program. And that money is used to pay for the program and goes back into the program to keep paying for the program. And I suppose . . . The member says, well why isn't it \$1,000? Well the committee recommended \$1,000. I believe that what it was intended to be was a balance between an amount that would be a serious matter for people, which they thought \$400 would be, and not so high that it would be prohibitive for some people to be able to go to johns school, which is an alternative measure, in which case they might instead of getting, hopefully, rehabilitated, they might simply end up in court or in jail. That was the thinking.

It is attempting to strike a balance. There are people in our community that, albeit they may be guilty of driving around the stroll in a vehicle, and their vehicle may be seized and they can pay \$400. But there may be people that simply don't have \$1,000 to pay. And so it's that kind of thinking and that kind of balancing.

But I think that certainly we can look at the amount in the future but it was thought that \$400 would be a sufficient penalty. And hopefully the seizure of a vehicle or the embarrassment of having to go to a johns school would also be a penalty in addition to any monetary amount that would be paid.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Chair, to the minister and his officials, I welcome the opportunity to discuss an issue that's very important to me and I think it's very important to many people in this province.

In the last year or so we've talked a lot in this House about people that have been afflicted with a condition or disadvantage because of a condition that's beyond their control and that is fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect.

And in the last while we've seen a lot of judges in the courts talk about the incarceration rate of people that do have this condition, the fact that they are put into an institution that is really not rehabilitating them because it isn't working for them. It's a system that isn't . . . The people that are afflicted with this condition cannot be helped by being incarcerated. Each one of the young people or people that are in this . . . are in jail right now really have been . . . They have been disadvantaged in many ways, and this is just further, this is further disadvantaging them because they're not going to be able to be helped.

The statistics across Canada are 1 in 1,000 children are born with FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) or FAE (fetal alcohol effects) and in Saskatchewan we have startling numbers that could be as many as 10 times that many people that actually have this condition. And in our jail system right now, upwards of 70 per cent of the people that are incarcerated actually are afflicted with the condition.

So my first question to you is, what is . . . Have you been listening to the judges in the court system and what is your department doing to deal with people that have been afflicted with FAS or FAE?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. I thank the member for the question. And I do want to say that this is largely a matter of corrections policy in the sense that the treatment of people who are found guilty of various offences, various circumstances, will fall under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety. I'm not saying that the Department of Justice is uninterested in the topic — we are concerned about it, certainly, as is the Department of Health — but some of the detailed questions may be addressed to the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety in his estimates.

But I do want to say to the member that one thing about FAS/FAE, which we're taking some steps to try to prevent, is that it is extremely variable, in that one of the problems is that it impacts different individuals in different ways. There are many

degrees of the effect of FAS/FAE so that what may be appropriate as a defence, say, for one person or a mitigation of sentence, may be inappropriate for another person with FAS or FAE, in the same way that many people will have mental disabilities, but the degree of their mental disability or the effect of it will vary quite remarkably and the treatment that they need will vary remarkably as well. So it's very difficult to come up with a system of just saying, this is how we should treat FAS and FAE individuals because they in fact need individualized treatment.

Having said that, I would say in a general way that, yes, I have actually . . . I've spoken to some of the judges, some of the police, and my own officials in Justice about this in a general way and sometimes more specific. And there is a feeling that it is sometimes inappropriate to have a person who really has this kind of problem — not all people with this problem but some people with this problem — going through a court system that they don't understand, being incarcerated or treated in a correctional centre that they don't understand, and the purpose of what's happening in the court and the correctional system is questionable in the sense that we don't know if that's the most effective way to deal with that person.

So we need to seek out in the courts, with the police and the courts — which by the way are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice — and also in the correctional centres, well are there different ways that different people need to be dealt with? And of course this is a problem that is being worked on across the country and perhaps in other parts of the world even as we speak, that people are trying to develop knowledge as to how these people should be dealt with.

So we're committed to trying to work with the police always to find alternative ways of dealing with people, to divert them away from the justice system. That's quite common already in Saskatchewan but we think we need more of that.

We need to work with, after the police are involved we may need to work with prosecutors and the courts and other personnel to divert people away from the court system — mediation diversion type approaches. And finally in Corrections, which the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety can address, there may be a need for adaptation there.

But the answers are not easy because, as I've said at the outset, each individual may be different — may be different — and so what is appropriate for one may be in fact inappropriate for another.

Finally I just wanted to say that the sad and tragic part of FAS/FAE is that it is a 100 per cent preventable condition, as the member knows. And what we need to do as a society is drill into everyone's head that it is just wrong, you know, to drink while pregnant. It's just wrong because of the devastating impact it can have. And so that's the first objective, to try to prevent.

But of course the member's question is right. We haven't totally prevented it, so how to deal with it? And in particular, she asks, are we considering it? Do we talk to the judges and other people about it? Yes, we're considering it. Yes, we talk to people about it.

Do we have all the answers worked out right now? No, we don't. I don't think anybody else does either but we're searching for better answers and better ways to deal with people who have this condition.

(15:30)

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chair. You're quite right. Everybody who has been inflicted with this condition are unique just like every individual. And then when I talk to the parents and the people who are dealing with FAS and FAE, people describe them as snowflakes because every one of them is very unique. And of course there's not such a thing as a one size fits all.

But I've been watching with increasing interest the number of judges who are talking about incarceration and the fact that they are reluctant to give a sentence to someone who has this condition. They know that putting them into that system is not going to help them at all.

The minister indicated that they are doing some things to divert people from incarceration. Could you explain what you're doing?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well I should, I should indicate to the member that some of the people that are, I've use the word, diverted from the system will never end up in front of the judges to begin with because they'll just be diverted. Now what do we mean by that?

For adult offenders and young offenders sometimes somebody is charged with an offence but it isn't a very serious offence let us say, and it makes more sense to just get them sitting down with their victim and you know talking it out and trying to resolve it and maybe having them make restitution. And Saskatchewan is in fact a leader in diverting people away from the justice system. We divert more young people away from the formal courts and incarceration than other places do. But I'm sorry to say we still have more young people going through the courts and jails than other people . . . other provinces do. So it's we divert a lot but we still have a lot of problems.

I'm advised that with respect to the FAE/FAS people, that the most important thing that they need is some structure in their lives, and that there are a variety of things that can be done through family conferencing and counselling to bring about structure in their lives.

Sometimes the problem will be what they really need is to be helped get some kind of education or training and get a job, that's what they need in their lives. And the focus of the new federal Youth Criminal Justice Act is in part, to do just that; to take, in this case especially young people, and concentrate on their needs and whether some structure can be put into their lives which will get them off the path of offending, while at the same time, if society is in need of protection, dealing in a punitive way, punishing people that need to be punished and put away because they could be harmful to other people.

So what we're trying to do is seek ways to divert people away from just getting them through court and putting them in jail. We want to say to the person well, what is your problem? I

mean is your problem a lack of support at home? Is your problem a lack of education? Maybe the person can't read. And that's what needs to be done.

And we are engaged in work with communities right now to help build a network of instructors across the province in every community, that will be available to work with . . . I should have said a network of structures, not instructors, that will be available to deal with young people who find themselves in trouble with the law.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act is quite new. And we're developing a network of structures across the province to try to intervene and find people, find young people especially, the resources that they need in order to stop offending.

And as I say, it may be they need to learn how to read in some cases. That's very basic. It may be they need some training; they need a job; they need some kind of counselling for some addiction problems they have. It could be a variety of things.

But we're going to do that. We're doing that quite a bit now. We're going to be doing it more so under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, I'm well aware that prevention is, of course, what we're all looking for. That involves education. But with people that are already . . . have this condition, I know that there are a number of government departments that are dealing with them right now. We have Corrections, and Justice, the health care system, and Social Services.

Each one of these departments is spending some money on the programs. And it seems to be a piecemeal attack at an issue that's growing in Saskatchewan. I'm going to be asking every one of these departments, as they come up, how much money they are spending on the issue. And so I'm going to be . . . I'll ask you to answer that question as well.

But I think, Mr. Minister, what we need is a comprehensive plan, something where we know that your government is looking at this issue as something that's affecting not only every department but most of the Aboriginal people — the fact that we need some coordination between the FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) or their government and our government. We need to ensure that people are looked at as individual and their needs are looked at.

So besides telling me how much money you are spending within your department on this issue, could you also tell me, between your various departments, who keeps track of the number of people that you're actually diverting away from the justice system through other initiatives?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I can advise the member, Mr. Chair, that we agree that a coordinated strategy is needed and we have an interdepartmental committee working together. We have representatives from the departments of Health, Learning, Justice, Corrections and Public Safety, and Community Resources and Employment, sitting down to try to coordinate all of their efforts so that we can have a coordinated strategy.

In answer to the question, how much money do we spend on FAE/FAS, all of our efforts throughout the department are dedicated to, among other things, FAE/FAS. But it's impossible to say, well this much is spent on FAE/FAS, in the sense that we know that we need to work with police and so police are provided by communities, with some support from the province. But police don't just work on FAE/FAS; they work in other areas as well.

And generally speaking for all of the programming, whether mediation-diversion, youth workers, etc., they're dealing with FAE/FAS and other issues. So I can't say that, well this much is spent on FAE/FAS. Everything we do has to be geared toward dealing with that problem and other problems. But we have people working with . . . working on a variety of issues and problems at the same time.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Minister, I am quite happy to hear you say that there is sort of an intergovernmental department that's actually dealing with the issue. You're sitting down with various stakeholders and talking about what can be done.

So can you please outline for me the structure of this committee. When do you meet, how often do you meet, and more importantly, what are your goals and your outcomes? How are you measuring them? How are we going to know what you're actually learning and where you're going and what you're going to be deciding to do in the next short time to be dealing with this huge issue?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The committee is chaired by someone from the Department of Community Resources and Employment. They have been meeting for over two years, I am advised, and they get together every few months and discuss the progress they're making.

In terms of their overall goals and plans, each department publishes a strategic plan each and every year now where they set out their goals, things they want to achieve. And certainly reduced crime and incarceration would be amongst the sorts of goals they would set out. And we will report to the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis as to how the departments are doing with respect to their goals.

I do want to say to the member that . . . Now these figures are a bit dated so they would be higher today. But for the year 2000-2001 — so these figures are actually a couple of years old now — 2,312 Saskatchewan youth were referred to alternative measures programs. And in that same year 2,227 Saskatchewan adults were referred to adult alternative measures programs. In other words — and those figures would be higher now — that thousands of people are referred to appropriate programs to get them some help and away from the justice system.

Those numbers are . . . Well for youth in that year it would be higher now. It was 242 youth referrals for 10,000 youth in the province, which is much higher than the national average which is 98. So we do have a lot of programming but undoubtedly much more is needed.

But we're trying to get the people from the various government departments together — well we have got them together — to try to talk about how we can coordinate our efforts to do even a

better job.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Minister, is the report that this integrated group has worked on, has it been finished for the last year, and is that report public domain?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm advised that the committee came up with some preliminary recommendations, ideas, that they thought were appropriate. They have been consulting with people in the outside communities, outside of government. And that consultation process concluded in one sense — I mean there'll always be ongoing consultation — but this idea of consulting in a formal way concluded on April 30.

The committee will provide a report internally to government as to the public service saying, these are the things that we should do. Whether or not the report will be a public document, I don't know whether it will be prepared that way. But certainly once we get the report and we know what is recommended, we'll of course be discussing what steps we're going to take as we move along.

But we've had the people working at it quite diligently to try to come up with a coordinated response. They've been consulting with the community, they're coming up with a report to advise the government, and the government will then have to make decisions in terms of what steps we should be taking. And of course when we make decisions and take steps, those have to be made known to the public at large, and we want them to be known to the public at large, so we'll be discussing it further.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Minister, if the report is just finished, I guess a week or so ago, that's encouraging to hear that there is actually something written down, something that's been decided. But I would think that if it was done by people that work for the province of Saskatchewan it should be public domain. It should be something that should be available to the large group of people who are interested.

I imagine you're aware, Mr. Minister, of the number of conferences that are taking place — Yellowknife and British Columbia and here in Saskatchewan next week — on fetal alcohol syndrome. And it seems to me that there are a very large number of groups and organizations and even bands that are holding conferences to determine what they can be doing about this issue. But everybody seems to be doing it in isolation.

(15:45)

And whenever I look at the conferences I don't see the opportunity to see the goals and the go-forwards that we should be working on. And it's disappointing to see the government not there to actually talk about what their plans are. If you've got the opportunity, if you've got the reports that your people have worked on to say that they have got ideas, are those ideas going to be brought forward so we don't try and reinvent the wheel whenever people get together to talk about FAS and FAE?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well I should clarify for the member that there isn't any report as such that was completed a week ago, and I didn't mean to suggest that. The departments have been

working on a strategy, they've been consulting with communities, they've put questions out to communities, they're getting feedback from communities. Then they . . . That will assist them in recommending to government certain policies. And that's simply the job of public servants — they look into serious matters, they obtain information, they come up with ideas, and they advise government what steps should be taken. And they're earnestly trying to come up with the most important priorities for government to take.

And there may be some conferences that they're going to or not going to. They can't go to every conference that occurs. They've got their jobs to do and work to do at their offices and so on. But I'll just say that they are diligently trying to work and they're dedicated people trying to come up with solutions. And that's what they're doing.

And I'm not concerned about whether they're attending some particular conference or whether they're publishing some particular report. I'm concerned about whether they're doing their job, which is to figure out what to do, and then advise government what they think government should be doing as we move forward. And that's what we're doing and I support it.

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Minister, can you tell me then what is your plan and your goal for outlining some solutions to the situation that we have? You've got departments working on it, you've got information coming back to the people in your department, and into . . . and through various government departments. Is there one comprehensive plan and is there a time frame that you plan to bring forward to the people of Saskatchewan to deal with FAS and FAE?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I will advise the member, Mr. Chair, that actually it was several years ago that the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Department of Health, working in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Institute for the Prevention of Handicaps, came up with the most important plan to deal with FAE/FAS. And that was a plan to educate people and to try to prevent FAE/FAS. That's the number one thing we need to do.

I have said in my answers to the member's questions today that with respect to people who have not been prevented from having FAE/FAS, that we seek in government appropriate ways to deal with those people to provide them with services to deal with problems they may have in order to keep them out of the justice system.

I have advised the member that there are thousands of people that are being diverted away from the justice system as we try to, as we try to deal with their problems, and that we will seek ways and are actively seeking ways to find out how we can enhance effective services to get people out of the justice system and to keep them from reoffending.

That is our plan; that is what we're working on. In terms of a timetable, it's an ongoing plan. We've been working on it up until now. We'll continue to work on it in the future, and we'll try to do a better, more effective job each and every year as we move forward.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Minister, I have a

few questions that deal with highway speed limits and rules of the road and enforcement and so on. We'll shift it to that area of Justice.

I've had a number of people ask me about the amber speed signs that are posted around . . . usually they're in conjunction with amber flashing lights, usually before you approach a fairly busy intersection. There are a number around the city and they're usually posted fairly high. And citizens have asked me, do these, does that speed . . . Like quite often it'll be like on the ring road around Regina where the posted speed limit is 100 kilometres an hour, and then as you approach a busy intersection there are these smaller signs posted that indicate 80 kilometres in conjunction with amber flashing signs. And people have asked me whether they apply to trucks or do they apply to all vehicles, and so I thought I would ask and get clarification on that.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Chair, I'd like to be helpful to the member with respect to what is a very good question but that is a question that is a question for the Minister of Highways and Transportation. It is not a question for which the Department of Justice has responsibility. And so I would suggest the member might want to ask those questions when the Minister of Highways and Transportation is up for his estimates.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Minister. And I certainly will ask the Minister of Highways.

A question I have for you today is the number of RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) officers that are part of the highway patrol. How do the numbers that we have today in the province compare to the number we had five years ago?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Chair, I don't have the numbers of the RCMP of five years ago with respect to traffic enforcement. And we will answer the question; we will get back to the member within the next few days with the answer.

But I can tell the member that the total number of police officers, I believe, RCMP today is 1,089 in Saskatchewan. Of course there are non-police personnel that work with them too, but I won't go into that. And then municipal police officers in the municipalities that have their own police forces, there are another 874 officers. So 1,089 RCMP, 874 municipal. This would be as of right now, I would think — yes, as of right now.

And the numbers from five years ago, I will undertake to get those numbers both for the RCMP and the municipal to the member. Whether or not we have it broken down how many are on the highway patrol and how many are not, I'm not sure. But if we can break that down to the extent that we can, we will as well and we'll answer that in written form.

**Mr. Hart:** — Minister, did I hear you correct in saying that you don't have the breakdown as to how many of those 1,089 RCMP officers are devoted to highway patrol? I understand, I've been told, that the number is somewhere around 60. Now I just wanted you to . . . I'd like you to confirm that number.

And then I guess the second part of my question is: are there any plans in the immediate . . . to immediate term future to increase the number of officers whose duties are highway

patrol?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm advised, Mr. Chair, that although I don't have the figures in front of me, that the number of about 60 RCMP assigned to traffic patrol would be accurate, that it must be about that.

And in terms of plans to increase, I would say that it is a question of prioritization, that the RCMP and the government in consultation must decide every so often what is the most important thing to do. Is it traffic patrol or is it drug enforcement or is it violent crime, that kind of issue.

And it may be that the number of traffic officers has gone down in the last number of years but the number of officers assigned to other things like violent crime may have gone up. And we'll endeavour to get more information to the member about what has gone down, and also what has gone up, because that then reflects the prioritization and . . . Thank you.

**Mr. Hart:** — Minister, one final question along this subject. I wonder . . . You may or not have these numbers at your fingertips — perhaps your officials may have them — but I'll ask the question anyway.

The cost to the province for a RCMP officer out on highway patrol, what is the total cost? And I don't know . . . I'm not sure if there is a cost sharing between two levels of government. If you could provide that, the information as far as the total cost and the cost to the province, I would appreciate it.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The average cost of a police officer in the RCMP to the province would be about \$80,000 per year, but that would not be the total cost. The province pays 70 per cent of the costs and our share would be \$80,000. So then you'd add another 30 per cent on top of that. And it's because you're not just looking at the salary of the police officer but also the vehicle, the detachment, the administrative support, the radio system, and so on.

And with that, Mr. Chair, I understand that we'll be . . . the House will be moving on, so I want to thank the members of the opposition for their questions today and the very cordial manner in which we've had this exchange — which of course for me is how I always like to have exchanges. And also I want to thank my officials for their very able assistance, not only today but indeed every day throughout the year.

So with that I move that we report progress, and thank you very much.

(16:00)

**General Revenue Fund  
Culture, Youth and Recreation  
Vote 27**

**Subvote (CR01)**

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the minister and ask the minister to introduce her officials.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. To

my left is Angie Gelinias, deputy minister. To her left is David Debono, president and CEO (chief executive officer) of SCN (Saskatchewan Communications Network). To my right is Dawn Martin, executive director of culture and heritage.

Directly behind me, Chris Martin, director of corporate services; and beside him Dylan Jones, executive director of strategic policy and youth.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. And thank you, Madam Minister, for agreeing to do this this afternoon, and also to your officials. I'd like to welcome you all here and extend my thanks as well.

The line of questioning I have today, Madam Minister, is regarding the announcement you made this morning on the Provincial Youth Advisory Committee. And there's just a few things I'd like clarified with that.

And could you give us some background details about this advisory committee and what components are involved?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, if I could go back to the history of this. We used to have a body called Youth PACE (Provincial Action Committee on the Economy), which was intended to be largely dealing on economic issues and advisory to the ministers of Economic Development and Learning — Education as it was called at the time. And what happened is that particular group evolved.

The young people gave us feedback that they felt that their participation was too narrow in the sense that it was directed at the economy. But also it was . . . They wanted to have a larger role in setting the agenda for the discussions and wanted to be able to spend more time in discussion of decisions before they were made, not so much as dialogue about decisions that had been made. And so what we decided to do, with their concurrence, was to shut down that committee.

But in the meantime there had been two or three other significant youth bodies in the province who had submitted reports to the province. One of them is the advisory group to the youth . . . I'm trying to remember just the right . . . well the ombudsperson. And the other two were the northern community vitality group that had done a considerable amount of work, sponsored by Cameco, on what would meet the needs of youth in the North. And the *Mind The Gap* report, and as well the youth ACRE (Action Committee on the Rural Economy) report which were the young people that were involved in the ACRE report generally, but as the youth component of it.

And basically all of them said that they would like to have more involvement in decision making. I think the way it was put by the *Mind the Gap* group was probably the most significant. It was, don't talk about us without us. And so we felt that to take in mind what those youth were saying . . . And one of the very specific recommendations they made was the creation of a youth Web site, which is why that was chosen as one of the first things that we'll be putting on the agenda for this advisory body to give advice on.

The fact is, we were getting some pretty strong messages from youth that they wanted more concrete involvement but also

wanted to have more role in setting the agenda. So this group was constructed by trying to find a representative group of youth across regions, across gender, across diversity, across interests. And all of the youth that have been selected are in their own areas, either already have a track record in terms of youth leadership, and are high-achieving youth.

So we are still leaving some positions vacant for people to apply directly and be considered — to add some appointments midsummer to bring the number up to about 25, I think is the thought. And they met this weekend to talk about how they're going to keep in touch and how they're going to communicate with each other.

So we don't know exactly all of what will come out of this but I know even in the informal discussions that we had on Saturday certainly they were already starting to focus on some things they thought were particularly worth looking at.

So if you have additional questions, certainly we're willing to answer them.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Now I understand that the youth on this committee were nominated by community leaders and such as that. How were the community leaders and just the general public, how were they made aware that this advisory committee was ready to accept nominations?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Over 1,000 letters were sent out to youth organizations and youth groups, and as a result of that, people's resumé's came back and they were looked at again for the factors that I mentioned earlier — regional balance, gender balance, etc. So these were solicited in a very open way from the community. And actually I think there was only one or two youth on the committee I've ever met before but I think they did a very good job at going through all the applications and selecting this group.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Madam Minister, were there any notices of nominations put in local newspapers?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — No, but the intention is to, you know, get them off to a start. Like I say, five more will be done through the open process, and then one of the things that we will be asking them to be involved in is making a recommendation of how we would then put people on to a body like this in the future.

And their terms of appointment are staggered with one-year and two-year appointments so that there will be continuity but also opportunity to renew, bringing new people on to the committee.

**Ms. Eagles:** — What would determine, Madam Minister, whether you have a one-year or a two-year appointment? Is it just certain areas of the province, those coming from perhaps an odd number RM (rural municipality) will be on for a two-year term, or just . . . Could you explain to me how that will be?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well I am myself amazed at how fair all of this is. The ones who have been involved in the previous committee — I guess you'd call it the continuity members — and as well ones that have had more opportunity to do this, only have the one-year appointments, and the ones that are brand

new have the two-year appointments.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Any idea when the first meeting will be? And also, will the meetings be taking place throughout the province or will they be just set in Saskatoon and Regina? Could you enlighten me on that, please?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — At this time one of the things they discussed at their first meeting on Saturday was the matter you're raising. And they decided that they'd like to alternate for the moment between Regina and Saskatoon, although they may decide to go further afield. But they're going to be setting up a way of communicating with each other on a, you know, a listserv or a Web-based connection of some sort.

And as well they're hoping I think to have their second meeting, I would think, sooner rather than late, but I would suspect likely in August other than the contact they're going to have by other mechanisms.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you. Madam Minister, I certainly hope they do go out into the rural areas and not just stick to Regina and Saskatoon because sometimes the people in rural Saskatchewan feel that they don't have quite the advantage that you do in a larger centre. And, you know, I think they need to be given a little bit of an extra incentive for reasons to stay in the province. So I think if the committee, without, you know, telling them what to do, if they would, you know, take the committee and travel out into the rural areas, I think it would be a very, very wise move on their behalf.

Now could you tell me the estimated annual cost of administering this committee?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — At the moment it's 6,000. And I mean I suppose in the future one could look at other suggestions but you'd want to have something to support why that was necessary to spend more.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Now do the members of the committee receive a per diem or is it strictly voluntary from their perspective?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, we're having this little debate just to see if we can be sure what the exact amount is. But it's the Treasury Board minimum allotment for per diems. But they do receive that in addition to their expenses.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. I note that there are 19 young people comprising your new advisory committee and that the individuals range in age from 14 to 29, and you have said that you hope to have probably six more people appointed to this board. Now already 19 seems like a fairly large number and I would just like to know why you chose to go with that number and possibly 25?

And do you feel that that will lead to some scheduling problems as, you know, the more people there are the harder it is to get them all in one place? Or do you plan to have subcommittees? Or how are you planning on organizing that?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Actually I'd already had a bit of a discussion with them on Saturday that if they find in fact that there's three or four that are interested in one thing, and two or

three that are interested in another thing, they may decide to do some subgroup work.

So I think what having a larger committee like that does is give you a range of skills and interests to draw on. And I think that was why it was harder to make it smaller, was in order to get the broad representation of both interests and regions and whatnot, it just seemed that you needed a larger number of people.

But my hope would certainly be that they wouldn't try to have everybody discuss everything, other than reporting to each other, but that they would maybe pursue their interests a bit in smaller working groups.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. The age range also seems fairly extensive and . . . like it's 14 to 29. I have a hard time imagining that a 14-year-old is going to have the same interests and same views or even interest in the same category as someone that's 19 or, pardon me, 29 years old. Why did you strike the committee up with such a wide range in ages?

(16:15)

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I think it's just, I guess six of one, half a dozen of another. It was an attempt to have a bit of continuity towards people that are moving forward in their education, in their choices about education, work, families. And as we've all noted, it doesn't take very long to move through the various age groups.

And I think because of the maturity and the skill levels of the particular youth that are chosen, I don't think it'll be as much of a problem as it might be if you had I guess a less carefully selected group of youth. This is a group of youth who are already demonstrated a fair bit of self-discipline and focus and whatnot in what they're doing. So I think they'll have more in common than you might normally think from a group that wide.

However, if some are more interested in issues that might affect young parents and some have other issues, again I think if they adopt working in a bit of a subgroup type of model, they'll be able to accommodate that range of difference.

**Ms. Eagles:** — From your answer, Madam Minister, I take it you're saying that you don't see any problem in the reconciliation of difference with the different age groups?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — No. We hope they'll be like every other large family that has lots of age groups and work it out.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. In your news release, you indicate that the committee will:

... focus on key priorities such as promoting and enhancing Saskatchewan's opportunities for young people.

You also stated that:

The mandate of the . . . Committee will include making recommendations to the government on issues of concern to youth, producing concrete proposals to enhance and promote opportunities for youth, and launching a new

youth-focused website.

Madam Minister, when I look at this focus and the overall mandate, I can't help but think that it sounds very much like your job description, and isn't that already the responsibility of your department under your direction?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I'll use the same example actually I used when I was speaking and hope that no one's offended by it. They, because of the very fact of being young, will receive information we don't receive because we're older; they'll receive information from people who are targeting that age group.

And one example I would give, I had an e-mail from a young man who . . . his fiancée and himself were both graduating and they were hoping to get employment in Saskatchewan but they wanted to convey to me the experience they had with being recruited.

Without mentioning the field they were being recruited for, I will just say that three months before they graduated, they had had . . . or she had had contact from Alberta, a personal phone call asking if she might be interested in working in Alberta, and actual — over the course of the three months before she graduated — she actually had three personal phone calls recruiting . . . trying to recruit her.

And the Saskatchewan employer waited until she had graduated, sent a letter, didn't phone, and basically invited her to a mass recruitment session. So this very different style of recruitment even is sending very different messages to these youth.

And obviously the recruiter from out of province I think was being much more aggressive in their attempts to connect with this youth and to encourage them to leave than we were — and when I say we as being Saskatchewan we because it wasn't the government in this case that was the employer — but certainly making an effort to get that young person to say that, well here's somebody who's obviously interested in me and really wants me to work there and I think that's where I'll go.

So that kind of stuff even can be very helpful, and we wouldn't necessarily know that if someone didn't tell us that. And I think the same thing happens in the area of scholarships and other things. Those are the kinds of things young people have mentioned to me that, again, when you're older, you might not know that because I'm not the one they send a letter to.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Madam Minister, but does your department not have a policy and development people already in place for programs such as this? Was there really a need to strike a committee? Couldn't people that are already existing within your department manage this job?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Let me put it this way. My goal is not to build a huge . . . a bureaucracy of professional youth whose job it is to be youth. I think this is an appropriate role for an advisory committee from the community. Because very quickly too, once you're part of an organization, it's different than being out in the community. So I think it's important that these youth are speaking from a position of being out in their

communities and not necessarily employed by the department.

We do have young people in the department and we do have people who are responsible for these issues, but I think the best kind of research you can get is to talk to thoughtful people who are out there doing the things that we're wanting to, I guess, have added intelligence about. I think in this particular instance this is the right way to gather this information.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. I'm just going to ask a couple more questions, Madam Minister, and then I'm going to turn it over to my colleagues.

You've been quoted as saying that your government has, and I'll quote here:

. . . has several plans for young people in the future, including naming them to the boards of Crown corporations.

Now, when we're talking about youth here — and again it's a very broad range, 14 to 29 — can you tell me in what capacity a 16-year-old, for example, might serve on a Crown corporation board?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — The age groups for Crowns is designated at 18 to 29. And I actually think that's quite suitable because there's not many youth past the age of 18 who aren't users of some Crown corporation services, and even some under that age. And so I think it's important also to get people who have a customer perspective.

But there also there is a learning exercise and to hear the discussions, to be part of those discussions, and to become prepared, I guess from a point of view of succession planning, to become thoughtful; hopefully some of the areas that'll relate to their area of career study, and they will then be able to assume leadership roles as they get older.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Madam Minister, were there any specific roles you had in mind for young people to serve on a Crown corporation board, keeping in mind that these positions can often be challenging, that require extensive knowledge in the subject area, and the commitment of making one's self available for meetings and other events?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I'm not imagining that that would be a problem because I think the youth would not say yes unless they were able to carry out their job as it's described.

And as on any board, people may take on specific responsibilities on the board but other board members are essentially members at large whose basic role on a board is to read the materials, listen thoughtfully, and then using their own experience, background, and common sense, ask those questions that will create the accountability and good thinking that moves a board forward in its decision making.

And all the boards also receive training. In fact our Crown corporations received an award for their board training processes — a national award. So I'm confident that they would have the supports they need to do this work.



**Ms. Eagles:** — Madam Minister, did I hear you correct? Did you say that they would be members at large on the boards . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, I'm sorry. Could you just clarify that.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — No, I said on any board of directors you have board members who take on specific responsibilities and others who act more as members, board members at large. So for example, if you had a young person whose background was financial administration, they may well take on a specific role to be concentrating on some of the financial aspects of the board work. But you wouldn't know that until they were actually at a meeting and they were working on dividing up board responsibilities.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Minister, last time we were discussing the spending estimates of your department in the Assembly, I had asked you some questions with regards to the Community Initiatives Fund and how those funds were allocated. And you'd indicated that there were a number of local committees that allocated funds for human services type programming, but there was also a provincial fund consisting of eight people for . . . that allocated funds under the capital grant program.

My question to you is how many of these local committees are there in the province? And what . . . I'm assuming that there may be a standard number of members on each committee. If in fact that isn't the case, could you indicate the makeup of these as an example, give me an example of the makeup of a local committee?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — We're going to bring back the answer for you on exactly how many RICs (regional intersectoral committee) there are. The reason that it's a little bit tricky, they're a little bit like REDAS (regional economic development authority), where a RIC will get active somewhere there hasn't been one before and then the work just gets divvied up to that area. So we'll find out exactly for you.

But as to the number of people, again it varies on who's willing to sit in the local area and the range of specific priorities there. It's usually about 8 to 15. And you know it's possible that they can add people or not as they need them to represent an area.

But these committees, these RICs were really the coming together of the people in health, social services, education, justice, the United Way and so they have representatives from all those broad kinds of social envelopes. I know sometimes the Multicultural Council will be represented on a body like that. So it's really, I guess, who the local social development movers and shakers are in a particular region.

**Mr. Hart:** — Minister, each local committee would administer funds within a given area or region, is that what you're saying? And each committee would then have a budget that they would allocate over the course of the fiscal year?

And I guess further to that, under the CIF (Community Initiatives Fund) fund I see there's about approximately \$8.6 million allocated. I wonder if you could provide me with a breakdown as to how much of that 8.6 million is allocated to the local committees and how much is allocated to the provincial

committee?

(16:30)

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — What would happen is the projects from an area would come into the RIC that covers that region and, like I say, if there was only one RIC covering a larger region they may at some point end up having more localized RICs. But at this point they would look at those. But they don't actually make the final decision. They prioritize them and then it goes to the CIF board of trustees who gives final approval to the projects.

So largely they make the recommendations. And I would imagine that their recommendations would be followed more often than not unless someone had a compelling reason why an organization had not been responsible or something.

So about 2 million of the dollars would be done in that particular way. About \$1 million goes directly to the hospitals foundation and to problem gambling. And then about another 1.25 million would be the money right now that would be going under the infrastructure fund directly to the small eight-person board that would be making decisions about the infrastructure money.

So that would be basically the breakdown of the parts that the Community Initiatives Fund people are involved in and that central decision-making body.

**Mr. Hart:** — So if I understood you correctly, Minister, you said about \$2 million go to the local committees and they aren't the final authority then. They make a recommendation to the board of trustees. Is that a provincial body? And if so, how many members make up that board of trustees?

And then if I heard you correctly, you said about \$1 million goes to the hospital foundations . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Problem gambling. And then one and a quarter million to an infrastructure program.

That still leaves over \$4 million. What is the rest of the money used for? And who allocates that and who administers it?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well we'll keep going. We're chipping away at this here.

Four hundred and eighty-five goes directly, based on agreements, to exhibitions who had funding displaced as a result of the casino development.

You would have heard the announcements recently as centennial initiatives: the In Motion fitness program which is 1.792 million; the Aboriginal participation in sport, culture, and recreation initiative which is 1.833 million; the initiatives for the centennial which is in total, let's see, three, five, six, seven, eight, a thousand . . . or 1 million and 83 dollars in total.

So those are particular amounts that are sort of targeted for goals that we hope will be achieved by the centennial.

**Mr. Hart:** — Minister, the million dollars . . . or one and a quarter million dollars for infrastructure, that would be

administered by the provincial committee that it's made up of eight people? Is that the total budget for that particular committee, of which I believe, as I indicated in the last time we discussed your department's spending estimates, \$491,500 went to Aberdeen. So are you saying that almost half of the infrastructure money went to one community?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — The money that Aberdeen got was under the Centenary Fund. I don't know if you'll remember, maybe you will, but there was one year when we had a bunch of surplus money because we did very well in oil and gas. And at that time 120 million was allocated to the Centenary Fund which was divided up into five areas: municipal, housing, you know, education infrastructure, community infrastructure, etc. So that was the program under which the Aberdeen thing was done.

This is a new amount of money and the amount you're looking at is one year. The maximum people can apply for is 120,000 on this particular program, and it'll go over several years for a total of 5 million over three years in that particular fund.

**Mr. Hart:** — Minister, I'm a little confused. I'm looking at the news release and it says that the money came from the Community Initiatives Fund. Now it may have come out of last year's budget, and you'd indicated that this year's budget for infrastructure is \$1 million, and this announcement was made in January 25 of this year. So it doesn't say anything about coming out of the centennial fund.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Aha, there was one more fund that I, myself, was not clear on. So I'll have to thank you for your investigative reporting work here today.

But there was, previous to this particular new infrastructure money for the centennial, there was 6 million over three years previously that was not part of the centenary money but was actually the predecessor of the 5 million that's coming through the pipe this time.

And one of the reasons why Aberdeen probably got as much as they did was because the Centenary Fund took a lot of pressure off of funding requests.

**Mr. Hart:** — Well I'm not sure, Madam Minister, if I'm any clearer on this. So what you're saying is that there was this Centenary Fund and it evolved into the Community Initiatives Fund and so on. I think maybe what we need to do is have a flow chart of where these monies came from and how they ended up in these various funds. And perhaps you may want to give us an undertaking that you would provide a schematic and a diagram as to how these funds all . . . where they came from and what funds they ended up in.

I'm looking at the, as I'd indicated earlier, the total funding under the Community Initiatives Fund and in the estimates document it says it's based on a share of the net profits of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation. Is there a formula that's used to establish this fund? And if so could you explain exactly what the formula is and how it's applied?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — The CIF receives 25 per cent of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation's profits, and that would be

now entirely from the casinos in Regina and Moose Jaw.

**Mr. Hart:** — You said it's based on the profits of the two casinos in Regina and Moose Jaw. And I'm sorry I didn't hear whether you said it's . . . whether you said there was a percentage of the profits. What is the percentage?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I'm happy to repeat that. The percentage is 25 per cent.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the minister and her officials for coming in today. I wanted to start a question with regards to the subprograms outlined in the budget on page 44, specifically with regards to the Saskatchewan Arts Board. I was hoping the minister could give me kind of an outline where this \$3.7 million is spent, what kind of programs. Thank you.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Okay, we're cooking here. There's the artist in residence grant programs which you may be familiar with in your community. Quite often there's artists that come and reside in communities and provide arts programming and services. The artist in residence grant program is 300,015 for nine resident artists.

There's the gallery grant program that supports small local galleries. The grants were 152,500 to support the operations of 11 not-for-profit art galleries.

The global grants program tends to support the arts organizations that are the foundations of our arts operation in the province — people like the professional theatres, Globe, Persephone, 25th Street Theatre; the publishers Coteau and Thistledown; the Regina and Saskatoon symphony orchestras; film co-operatives; there's some periodicals; galleries such as the Mendel Art Gallery and the MacKenzie Art Gallery — in total, 1,866,433 to 36 arts organization under the global grant program.

Under the individual assistance grant program — this is sort of the R&D (research and development) of arts and culture — it's 81 grants totalling 550,000 to individual artist projects.

There's a project assistance grant program which is short-term specific activities which benefit the arts or artists. That was 46 grants and a total of 141,645.

Then there was the provincial cultural organization global grant program. Now you would be familiar that under the Sask Sport lottery there's three globals: there's SaskCulture, Sask Parks and Recreation, and the sport area. And they administer . . . The total there is \$1,615,340.

And then there's the permanent collection of art that we have and the . . . I don't quite know how to express that financially. I'm looking at the value of the collection, but in fact they do generate revenues out of that area through the Arts Board art rental program which if you take advantage of that program in your office, you'll have some very beautiful works by Saskatchewan artists. Little bit of a plug there.

And then there's consultation and advisory services that they pay for as well when they're involved in partnerships with, for

example, tourism or museums or other people.

So that gives you broadly — now we can get into more detail — but that gives you broadly the areas of funding.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. With regards to the money that comes from the lottery for cultures, you said it was a little more than \$1 million. Could you tell me where this money goes, to which arts boards, and how it's determined where it goes?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Now I just want to be clear. Your question is which money from the lotteries goes to the provincial cultural organization grant program — is that your question?

**Mr. Dearborn:** — No, Madam Minister, you outlined before in your answer that it went to three different places. There was part for sport, part for parks, and part for culture. It was with regards to the aspect that goes to culture, which I think you said was one point something million dollars, is how . . . Where that money goes specifically, does it go to boards, and how it gets allocated was my question.

(16:45)

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Now why I took a second on that was I was trying to . . . Because I know this can be tricky when you're first trying to figure this stuff out, what the organizational structure is.

We've got the lotteries, which is Sask Sport lottery, and underneath all the different people they fund. There's the three PCOs: (provincial cultural organization) Sask Sport, Sask Culture, Sask Parks and Rec. But then the arts part is a separate stream because it's the professional arts. The Sask Culture is more community arts.

And the Arts Board has 2 million that goes towards the provincial cultural organizations that are at the level, I guess you'd say, the fine arts. Provincial cultural organizations, the artist in residence program, and the gallery grants would be the three main things that they're involved in.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Actually again I'm interested in the community cultural programs, so with Sask Culture and how the money is allocated and where it goes to. If there's divisions for example around the province, different community arts boards, what the allocation is and how that's determined.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — The Sask Culture portion of those three globals gets 35 per cent of the overall money. And they get that by, every three years we sign an agreement with them as to what portion of the lotteries money they'll get, what the licence fee is, etc. And they get 35 per cent of the total amount of the agreement.

Now they have an elected board that's elected by their members and they create an annual spending plan, which they would be responsible for doing their own audited financial report and whatnot. And as well they elect a Cultural Advisory Committee, which actually adjudicates the grants. So they have two elected

boards. The one that runs the whole operation and develops the budgets and whatnot, and the one that actually looks at grants and decides who gets it.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. With regards to the 33 per cent that it's going to receive this year as opposed to last year, would you be able to comment on the fluctuation between — this money is coming from lotteries — what the fluctuation would be from one year to another in, just in a broad percentage?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — This is actually . . . You've cottoned on to one of what the discussion points always is in the lottery agreement, is whether they want a fixed amount or whether they want a percentage. And they've chosen, themselves, to stay with a percentage because they feel that if they do better marketing, they have a chance of making more money and thereby increasing the amount of money that they get.

So even though they could bargain for a fixed amount, they've tended to want to have a more open-ended amount where their own marketing efforts can produce a higher result for them.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Turning to youth now, I have some questions with regards to the special youth advisory committee the minister has just entered into. And I have some questions with regards to members that could possibly be appointed to Crown corporations to sit on there. Could the minister confirm that it would be possible that youth from the age of 18 to 29 would be potentially able to sit on Crown corporation boards in a full capacity as a voting board member?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, you're right. That is what's contemplated.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Madam Minister, how would these individuals be chosen? What qualifications would they require to be sitting on such a board?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, basically I think with any board you try to look at the mix of skills on the board. But I think that you would have to be a pretty exceptional youth — which we have many — to be on a board because you know there's only going to be one youth member per board and you would want someone who can, I guess, hold their own in the discussion.

But you'd be looking for youth with a high level of educational achievement, you know, probably likely have won awards in different areas, active in the community. You'd be looking for all those things and then looking at a mix that complements the existing skill base on the board. So I think we would likely see . . . And also youth for whom likely whatever experience they gain here would be taking them in a career direction as well, because I think you want people who are leaders in your community not just for the short-haul but for the long haul.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Madam Minister, as you alluded to, and I agree, we have many talented youth in our province. Would it be possible for a youth to be appointed to more than one Crown corporation board? Would it be possible or is it anticipated that a youth could or would be appointed to more than one board, that could sit on multiple boards?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I think that would be unlikely because there are so few opportunities you would want to spread them around.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. The next question I would ask was with regards to youth sitting on Crown corporations boards, would their remuneration be equivalent to what everyone else would be receiving?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes it would.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Madam Minister. Further to that, would the youth have full voting rights on that Crown corporation board?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, they would.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — It would be possible then, Madam Minister, that a larger board that votes on hundreds of millions of dollars that we had . . . A Crown, at the end of the day, a vote could pend on an 18 year old's appointment to the Crown. Is that correct?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well let me put it this way. There's no point giving someone power unless it's real. And so, yes, they would have real power and authority. I would suspect there wouldn't be very many situations where that would be that one member's vote that would make or break the day. I would hope that decisions are a little more clear than that.

But at any rate, I would just say that we anticipate them being completely full-fledged members of the board.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Minister, with regards to the nine artists in residence, I was wondering if the minister would be able to tell me how the nine artists in residence throughout Saskatchewan, what their geographic disbursement would be and, secondly, how they're determined. How is artistic merit rated so that they're actually appointed to be one of the nine?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, the artists in residence, the different communities apply, they get approval, and then they go through a hiring process at the local level and they pick the person they want.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.

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