



No. 63

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Thursday, May 18, 2006

1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Toth, Elhard, McMorris, Draude, Hermanson, Stewart, Chisholm, Hart, Harpauer, Eagles, Weekes, Cheveldayoff, McCall, Huyghebaert, Allchurch, Kirsch, Brkich, Merriman, Morgan and Kerpan.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Deputy Clerk having favourably reported on the same pursuant to Rule 14(7), the following Petitions were read and received:

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary actions to stop the loss of acute care beds in the Melfort hospital.

(Sessional Paper No. 756)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary action to upgrade Highway 27.

(Sessional Paper No. 757)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take all necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that residents along Highway 19 and the Outlook area in Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 4)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Biggar Hospital, Long-term Care Home and Ambulance services, maintain, at the very least, their current level of services.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 5)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 42)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Dept. of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Sask. Highways employees.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 67)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to act upon the recommendations made by the group "Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment".

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 638)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 639)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the steps to resurface and maintain Highway 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 669)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary action to ensure that surgical services are re-instated in the Tisdale Hospital.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 742)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to initiate measures as required to bring parity to all provincial employees' pensions and benefits.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 753)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

The following Bill was reported with amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was considered as amended and read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 28 – The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005

Mr. McCall, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy, presented the Fifth Report of the said Committee which is as follows:

Your Committee considered the Estimates of the following Government departments and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

Main Estimates, 2006-2007:

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2007, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance	\$151,303,000
For Industry and Resources	\$87,138,000
For Labour	\$15,659,000
For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development	\$11,111,000
For Saskatchewan Research Council	\$8,446,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development	\$5,650,000
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Supplementary Estimates, 2005-2006:

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ended March 31, 2006, the following sums:

For Industry and Resources	\$2,000,000
For Regional Economic and Co-operative Development	\$478,000
For Saskatchewan Research Council	\$4,200,000

Your committee reviewed the following Estimates for which no funds were requested or required to be voted:

Main Estimates, 2006-2007:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance – Servicing the Government Debt (Statutory)

Fiscal Stabilization Fund Transfer

For Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Lending and Investing Activities

For Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)
 For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)
 For Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (Statutory)
 For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)
For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)
For SaskEnergy Incorporated (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Finance – Debt Redemption (Statutory)
For Finance – Sinking Fund Payments – Government Share (Statutory)
For Finance – Interest on Gross Debt – Crown Enterprise Share (Statutory)

Your Committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 759)

On motion of Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Weekes:

Ordered, That the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 1102 to 1151, they were answered. (See Appendix)

MOTION REGARDING SITTING HOURS

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hagel, seconded by Mr. Gantefer, by leave of the Assembly:

Ordered, That pursuant to Rule 4 of *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, and notwithstanding Rule 3(1), this Assembly shall recess until 7:00 p.m. later this day, in order to facilitate the meetings of the Standing Committee on Human Services, the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure and the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Assembly recessed from 2:47 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

The Assembly, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Finance to consider Estimates for the Department of Executive Council.

Progress was reported and the Committee given leave to sit again.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:34 p.m. until Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1102, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) How much money has been clawed back from communities that received Centennial grants in 2005? (2) How many communities have been required to pay back money?

Answer:

- (1) Of \$7,564,376 in total Centennial Grant allocations that were supported through the Community Initiatives Fund, \$434,098 has been requested to be returned.
- (2) The total number of grants was 796 and 249 of those involved some kind of return.

Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1103, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Thomson:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) In what year did the Government of Saskatchewan begin participating in the federal EnerGuide program? (2) Why did they not participate earlier?

Answer:

- (1) SaskEnergy first offered promotional support for EnerGuide for Houses in late 1998.
- (2) Natural Resources Canada began the EnerGuide for Houses program in that year.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1104, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

Although Culture, Youth and Recreation was only created on February 8, 2001, all Departments, Crowns and Agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1105, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1106, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed by and followed up in accordance through respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1107, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1108, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1109, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1110, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1111, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1112, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1113, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1114, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1115, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1116, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1117, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

Detail requested in this question is provided through the authority of the Provincial Auditor and reported through the Public Accounts Committee.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1118, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance with respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1119, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001-2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance with respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1120, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

All departments, crowns and agencies work with the Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1121, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance with respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1122, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

Yes, the department has established appropriate programs and controls as part of its operations. Internal controls are an integral part of the programs and operations of the department. They ensure the accuracy, completeness and authorization of transactions. In addition, internal controls are designed, by their nature, to prevent and detect fraudulent activity. All Departments, Crowns and Agencies work with the Provincial Comptroller and Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place. Government values and relies upon the role of the Provincial Auditor, as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly to audit all agencies and report the results of the audits to the Legislative Assembly annually.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1123, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

Yes, the department has established appropriate programs and controls as part of its operations. Internal controls are an integral part of the programs and operations of the department. They ensure the accuracy, completeness and authorization of transactions. In addition, internal controls are designed, by their nature, to prevent and detect fraudulent activity. All Departments, Crowns and Agencies work with the Provincial Comptroller and Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place. Government values and relies upon the role of the Provincial Auditor, as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly to audit all agencies and report the results of the audits to the Legislative Assembly annually.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1124, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

Yes, the department has established appropriate programs and controls as part of its operations. Internal controls are an integral part of the programs and operations of the department. They ensure the accuracy, completeness and authorization of transactions. In addition, internal controls are designed, by their nature, to prevent and detect fraudulent activity. All Departments, Crowns and Agencies work with the Provincial Comptroller and Provincial Auditor to ensure adequate financial controls are in place. Government values and relies upon the role of the Provincial Auditor, as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly to audit all agencies and report the results of the audits to the Legislative Assembly annually.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1125, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

As a matter of ongoing business, the Department has established internal control processes related to all transactions and establishes processes with appropriate segregation of duties. The Department reviews processes and procedures of established programs and renews processes and controls as required. The Department also relies on the Provincial Auditor to review and test internal controls through the annual audit process. The Department reviews and addresses internal control issues raised by the Provincial Auditor.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1126, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

As a matter of ongoing business, the Department has established internal control processes related to all transactions and establishes processes with appropriate segregation of duties. The Department reviews processes and procedures of established programs and renews processes and controls as required. The Department also relies on the Provincial Auditor to review and test internal controls through the annual audit process. The Department reviews and addresses internal control issues raised by the Provincial Auditor.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1127, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

As a matter of ongoing business, the Department has established internal control processes related to all transactions and establishes processes with appropriate segregation of duties. The Department reviews processes and procedures of established programs and renews processes and controls as required. The Department also relies on the Provincial Auditor to review and test internal controls through the annual audit process. The Department reviews and addresses internal control issues raised by the Provincial Auditor.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1128, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

The Department is unaware of any fraud or suspected illegal activity affecting its financial reporting or financial activities, other than the case currently before the courts.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1129, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

The Department is unaware of any fraud or suspected illegal activity affecting its financial reporting or financial activities, other than the case currently before the courts.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1130, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

The Department is unaware of any fraud or suspected illegal activity affecting its financial reporting or financial activities, other than the case currently before the courts.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1131, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Answer:

The Department found controls to be operating effectively as designed. The Department takes the opportunity to assess the controls and ensure they continue to fulfil their intended purpose. As required, controls are adjusted, adapted or changed for new processes and new technology. New programs are implemented with internal controls as part of the process. The case currently before the courts identified certain areas where controls could have, and now have, been strengthened.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1132, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Answer:

The Department found controls to be operating effectively as designed. The Department takes the opportunity to assess the controls and ensure they continue to fulfil their intended purpose. As required, controls are adjusted, adapted or changed for new processes and new technology. New programs are implemented with internal controls as part of the process. The case currently before the courts case identified certain areas where controls could have, and now have, been strengthened.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1133, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Answer:

The Department found controls to be operating effectively as designed. The Department takes the opportunity to assess the controls and ensure they continue to fulfil their intended purpose. As required, controls are adjusted, adapted or changed for new processes and new technology. New programs are implemented with internal controls as part of the process. The case currently before the courts case identified certain areas where controls could have, and now have, been strengthened.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1134, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance through respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1135, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001-2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance through respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1136, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Belanger:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

Allegations are reviewed and followed up in accordance through respective policies and procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1137, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Answer:

Yes.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1138, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Answer:

Yes.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1139, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Answer:

Yes.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1140, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Answer:

All transactions must be authorized in accordance with the "Final Authorization" Policy as approved by the SaskTel Board of Directors. The policy applies to authorization of both monetary and non-monetary transactions including purchasing, contracts, business cases, project expenditures, investments and employee expenses. In addition, SaskTel, through its Internal Audit Program, reviewed its programs/controls dealing with Inventory Management, Purchasing Card and Ploughing Contract Compliance.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1141, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Answer:

All transactions must be authorized in accordance with the "Final Authorization" Policy as approved by the SaskTel Board of Directors. The policy applies to authorization of both monetary and non-monetary transactions including purchasing, contracts, business cases, project expenditures, investments and employee expenses. In addition, SaskTel, through its Internal Audit Program, reviewed its programs/controls dealing with Collection processes, Corporate Purchasing Procedures, Adjustments and Accounts Payable Procedures.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1142, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Answer:

All transactions must be authorized in accordance with the "Final Authorization" Policy as approved by the SaskTel Board of Directors. The policy applies to authorization of both monetary and non-monetary transactions including purchasing, contracts, business cases, project expenditures, investments and employee expenses. In addition, SaskTel, through its Internal Audit Program, reviewed its programs/controls dealing with Final Authorization, Management and Inscope Compensation, Hiring Risk Management and Payroll Time Entry.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1143, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) SaskTel Security investigated an employee regarding the unauthorized use of SaskTel equipment, illegal installation and use of unlicensed and unauthorized software on SaskTel equipment, storage of illegal data (movie, MP3 files, illegal download codes) on SaskTel equipment, use of corporate time and facilities to operate a personal business, and removal of SaskTel equipment from the employee's work location. The employee was terminated. A grievance was filed and proceeded through to arbitration where the termination was upheld. SaskTel Security investigated an employee who was accused of giving two Vista telephones to an individual who in turn sold the telephones. An investigation was carried out but there was inconclusive evidence and the investigation was terminated with no further action.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1144, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An employee on assignment for SaskTel International falsely reported time resulting in the employee being overpaid. The employee was terminated. A grievance was filed and proceeded through arbitration where the termination was reversed on the issue of the ability to discipline employees on international assignments. The employee was subsequently reinstated with the discipline removed from the employee's record. An employee falsely processed a personal expenditure as a corporate expense. The employee did not receive payment making recovery unnecessary. The employee was suspended for two days. A grievance was filed but was withdrawn at the first step of the grievance process.

SaskTel Security investigated the misappropriation of a customer's cellular account payment to an employee's cellular account. At the conclusion of the Security investigation and follow-up investigation by management, the employee was suspended for three days. The funds were removed from the employee's account and properly applied to the customer's account. A grievance was filed and upheld through the 4th step of the grievance process.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1145, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) N/A

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1146, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Answer:

As the result of the Internal Audit Program no fraudulent activity was detected.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1147, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Answer:

As the result of the Internal Audit Program no fraudulent activity was detected.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1148, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Answer:

As the result of the Internal Audit Program no fraudulent activity was detected.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1149, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) SaskTel Security investigated an employee regarding the unauthorized use of SaskTel equipment, illegal installation and use of unlicensed and unauthorized software on SaskTel equipment, storage of illegal data (movie, MP3 files, illegal download codes) on SaskTel equipment, use of corporate time and facilities to operate a personal business, and removal of SaskTel equipment from the employee's work location. The employee was terminated. A grievance was filed and proceeded through to arbitration where the termination was upheld.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1150, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An employee on assignment in England for SaskTel International falsely reported time resulting in the employee being overpaid in excess of eight thousand dollars. The employee was terminated. A grievance was filed and proceeded through arbitration where the termination was reversed. The employee was subsequently reinstated with the discipline removed from the employee's record. An employee falsely processed a personal expenditure as a corporate expense. The employee did not receive payment making recovery unnecessary. The employee was suspended for two days. A grievance was filed but was withdrawn at the first step of the grievance process.

SaskTel Security investigated the misappropriation of a customer's cellular account payment to an employee's cellular account. At the conclusion of the Security investigation and follow-up investigation by management, the employee was suspended for three days. The funds were removed from the employee's account and properly applied to the customer's account. A grievance was filed and upheld through the 4th step of the grievance process.

Ms. Draude asked the Government the following Question No. 1151, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) N/A