



No. 23

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

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: Higgins, Iwanchuk, Forbes, Broten and Wotherspoon.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel having favourably examined the same pursuant to Rule 16(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 commit to work with SaskEnergy to assist their customers' connection to the natural gas line in La Ronge.

(Sessional Paper No. 63)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause government ministers to use fuel efficient vehicles.

(Sessional Paper No. 64)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to significantly increase the provincial portion of education funding.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 12)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 34)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to increase funding for post-secondary students.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 35)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan's senior citizens.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 37)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 58)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Minister, having acquainted the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, the following Bill was received, read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting:

Bill No. 78 – The Victoria Park Capital Inc. (Investment Management Agreement) Act

(Hon. Mr. Stewart)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

The following Bills were reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 58 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Bill No. 48 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the 39th Annual Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Saskatchewan Branch) for the year ended 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 69)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 159 to 167, 174 and 176 to 181, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 175 and 182, the answers were tabled and, by reason of their length, converted by the Clerk to Return Nos. 25 and 26 pursuant to Rule 20(6).
(Sessional Paper Nos. 67 and 68)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 168 to 173, pursuant to Rule 20(5), they were passed by the Assembly as Orders for Returns Nos. 27 to 32, and Orders of the Assembly issued:

Mr. Taylor, for Return No. 27 showing:

The answer to Written Question No. 109 was “no”. Graham Construction had not been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. (1) Any company called Graham Industrial Services, or Graham Construction and Engineering, or Graham Construction, or Graham Construction & Engineering, or Graham Construction and Engineering (1985) Ltd., or Graham Construction and Engineering Ltd., or Graham Group Ltd. that has been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, Ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. (2) The total amount of each contract and which Ministry or Crown the contract is with.

Mr. Calvert, for Return No. 28 showing:

(1) The total severance paid to each of the civil servants that have been dismissed by the government since November 31, 2007, including any top-ups to pensions, travel and car allowances, and any other benefits. (2) For each employee, please provide the following information: (a) the individual benefits each employee has been provided as part of the settlement. (b) the amount of each benefit that was part of the settlement for that employee; (c) the value of the total settlement package for that employee.

Mr. Calvert, for Return No. 29 showing:

The amount of contracts between \$40,000 and \$50,000 this government signed since November 7, 2007.

Mr. Calvert, for Return No. 30 showing:

(1) The amount of severance packages yet to be paid for each of the civil servants that have been dismissed by the government since November 31, 2007. (2) The employees who have packages outstanding.

Mr. Calvert, for Return No. 31 showing:

For each Minister, in total, the amount the office spent on food, travel and accommodations for out-of-province and out-of-country travel for the Minister and Ministerial Assistants since April 1, 2008 to date.

Mr. Calvert, for Return No. 32 showing:

(1) The Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers in each ministry. (2) The areas they are responsible for.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Summary of Resolutions adopted:

GENERAL REVENUE FUND**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2008-2009**

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2009 the following sums:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

1.	For Advanced Education, Employment and Labour	\$106,311,000
2.	For Agriculture	29,445,000
3.	For Corrections, Public Safety and Policing	20,846,000
4.	For Education	9,405,000
5.	For Energy and Resources	2,139,000
6.	For Enterprise Saskatchewan	6,087,000
7.	For First Nations and Métis Relations	19,643,000
8.	For Health	80,000,000
9.	For Justice and Attorney General	3,455,000
10.	For Social Services	11,880,000
11.	For Crown Investments Corporation	240,000,000

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

1.	For Legislative Assembly	\$132,000
1.	For Ombudsman	55,000

LENDING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES

1.	For Highways and Infrastructure	\$ 226,000
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MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2009, the following sums, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for that fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2010:

1. For Highways and Infrastructure Capital \$4,000,000

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Resolved, That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, the sum of five hundred twenty-nine million, six hundred twenty-four thousand dollars be granted out of the general revenue fund.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Resolved, That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2010, the sum of four million dollars be granted out of the general revenue fund.

The said Resolutions were reported, read twice and agreed to, and the Committee given leave to sit again.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2008 (No. 4)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, by leave of the Assembly: That Bill No. 77 – The Appropriation Act, 2008 (No. 4) – be introduced and read the first time.

The question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read the first time.

By leave of the Assembly and pursuant to Rule 72(2), the said Bill was then read a second time and third time and passed under its title.

ROYAL ASSENT

2:36 p.m.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the Throne.

The Speaker addressed His Honour:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

This Legislative Assembly at its present Session has passed several Bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

The Clerk of the Assembly then read the titles of the Bills that had been passed severally as follows:

Bill No. 602 – The National Peacekeepers Recognition Day Act

Bill No. 53 – The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008

Bill No. 42 – The Securities Amendment Act, 2008

Bill No. 62 – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008

Bill No. 64 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Bill No. 58 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Bill No. 48 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then replied: "In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills."

The Speaker then said:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

This Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service. In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour the following Bill, to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent:

Bill No. 77 – The Appropriation Act, 2008 (No. 4)

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then replied: "In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill".

His Honour then retired from the Chamber.

2:38 p.m.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:39 p.m. until Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 159, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: The answer to Written Question No. 109 was “no”. Graham Construction had not been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. On August 15, 2008 the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour issued a news release stating that Graham Construction and Engineering had been awarded a contract. Are these different corporate entities, or the same company with two slightly different names?

Answer:

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction nor did it enter into a contract with Graham Construction and Engineering.

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 160, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: The answer to Written Question No. 109 was “no”. Graham Construction had not been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. On November 10, 2008, the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract. Are these different corporate entities with two identical names, or the same company?

Answer:

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction.

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 161, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: The answer to Written Question No. 109 was “no”. Graham Construction had not been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. On February 19, 2008, the Ministry of Highways issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract. Are these different corporate entities with two identical names, or the same company?

Answer:

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction.

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 162, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: The answer to Written Question No. 109 was “no”. Graham Construction had not been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007. On August 29, 2008 SaskPower issued a news release stating that Graham Industrial Services had been awarded a contract. Are these different corporate entities, or the same company with two slightly different names?

Answer:

Graham is an employee-owned, industry-leading family of companies offering general contracting, project management, design-build and construction services from offices across Canada and the central and Pacific northwestern United States. Graham Industrial Services is one of the Graham companies with an office in Saskatoon.

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 163, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On November 10, 2008 the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract: (1) What were the terms of that contract? (2) Was this contract sent out for tender or was it awarded directly to the company? (3) If this contract was sent out, how many people bid on the contract? (4) Has the government re-tendered the contract based on recent global financial circumstances?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 164, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On February 19, 2008 the Ministry of Highways issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract: (1) What were the terms of that contract? (2) Was this contract sent out for tender or was it awarded directly to the company? (3) If this contract was sent out, how many people bid on the contract? (4) Has the government re-tendered the contract based on recent global financial circumstances?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 165, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On August 15, 2008 the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour issued a news release stating that Graham Construction and Engineering had been awarded a contract: (1) What were the terms of that contract? (2) Was this contract sent out for tender or was it awarded directly to the company? (3) If this contract was sent out, how many people bid on the contract? (4) Has the government re-tendered the contract based on recent global financial circumstances?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour did not enter into a contract with Graham Construction and Engineering.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 166, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On August 29, 2008 SaskPower issued a news release stating that Graham Industrial Services had been awarded a contract: (1) What were the terms of that contract? (2) Was this contract sent out for tender or was it awarded directly to the company? (3) If this contract was sent out, how many people bid on the contract? (4) Has the government re-tendered the contract based on recent global financial circumstances?

Answer:

SaskPower entered into a contract with SNC-Lavalin of Vancouver who then subcontracted Graham Industrial Services of Saskatoon.

- (1) N/A
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

Mr. Taylor asked the Government the following Question No. 167, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On August 29, 2008 SaskPower issued a news release stating that Graham Industrial Services had been awarded a contract. On August 15, 2008 the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour issued a news release stating that Graham Construction and Engineering had been awarded a contract. On February 19, 2008 the Ministry of Highways issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract. On November 10, 2008 the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport issued a news release stating that Graham Construction had been awarded a contract. (1) Are all these companies the same legal entity? (2) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Construction"? (3) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Construction and Engineering"? (4) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Construction & Engineering"? (5) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Construction and Engineering (1985) Ltd."? (6) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Construction and Engineering Ltd."? (7) Are any of these companies the same legal entities as "Graham Group Ltd."?

Answer:

- (1) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (2) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (3) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (4) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (5) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (6) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.
- (7) This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained through a corporate name search.

Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 174, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:

To the Minister of Agriculture: Has Cam Swan been paid any moving allowance or other transition costs?

Answer:

Yes

Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 176, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: In regards to health care facilities in this province that are not directly owned by the Government of Saskatchewan or one of the health regions but operate as a part of the public health care sector, affiliated or otherwise, how much has the Government of Saskatchewan paid out in lease fees for each of these facilities from 1982 to 2008 combined?

Answer:

Government Services has a firm policy against releasing lease financial information. This policy has existed for over 30 years. The disclosure of lease financial information could reasonably interfere with contractual or other negotiations of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution, could prejudice the economic interest of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution, could breach confidentiality given implicitly or explicitly by a third party, or could prejudice the competitive position of a third party. This policy is in accordance with section 18 (economic and other interests) and section 19 (third party information) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 177, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: In regards to health care facilities in this province that are not directly owned by the Government of Saskatchewan or one of the health regions but operate as a part of the public health care sector, affiliated or otherwise, what did the Government of Saskatchewan or one of its health regions spend in the last fiscal year to lease each of these facilities?

Answer:

Government Services has a firm policy against releasing lease financial information. This policy has existed for over 30 years. The disclosure of lease financial information could reasonably interfere with contractual or other negotiations of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution, could prejudice the economic interest of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution, could breach confidentiality given implicitly or explicitly by a third party, or could prejudice the competitive position of a third party. This policy is in accordance with section 18 (economic and other interests) and section 19 (third party information) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Mr. Iwanchuk asked the Government the following Question No. 178, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: (1) Have dismissed members of the Labour Relations Board or Workers' Compensation Board (in particular James Seibel, Angela Zborosky and Catherine Zuck) received any severance payments (including pension top-ups or other benefits)? (2) If so, how much did each individual receive?

Answer:

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

Mr. Iwanchuk asked the Government the following Question No. 179, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: What is the average time between a case being heard by the Labour Relations Board and a decision being made in 2007/08 estimated to date?

Answer:

2007/08 Fiscal Year: 107 days.

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 180, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: (1) Which federal government fund did the money for the inter-modal facility come from? (2) How much was the federal government's contribution?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is the lead Ministry for this initiative and questions are better directed to that Ministry.
- (2) Same as above.

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 181, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: How much is the province spending on the inter-modal facility in Regina?

Answer:

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is the lead Ministry for this initiative and questions are better directed to that Ministry.