



**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

**HANSARD VERBATIM REPORT**

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**No. 8 — October 29, 2013**

## **BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair  
Cannington

Hon. June Draude  
Kelvington-Wadena

Ms. Doreen Eagles  
Estevan

Mr. David Forbes  
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison  
Meadow Lake

Hon. Nancy Heppner  
Martensville

Mr. Warren McCall  
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

[The board met at 17:26.]

**The Chair:** — If we're ready, we will call this meeting to order for the Board of Internal Economy. With us we have Minister June Draude, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Doreen Eagles, Minister Nancy Heppner, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison. For the opposition, we have MLA David Forbes and MLA Warren McCall; and myself.

The first order of business is the proposed agenda for meeting no. 8 of 2013. Would someone move adoption of the proposed agenda? Mr. Harrison. Secunder? Mr. McCall. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Okay. Second item of business is the minutes arising from the meeting no. 7 of 2013 that is in your book as minutes. Are there any questions related to the minutes of the last meeting? If not, would someone move that we adopt, approve the minutes? Mr. Forbes; seunder, Ms. Draude. All in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Okay, I wish to table the audit letter from the Provincial Auditor dated October 15th, 2013. Okay, that was item no. 1.

Item no. 2, we are tabling a large grouping of papers, the MLA accountability and disclosure reports for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2013, as well as the New Democratic Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2013 and the Saskatchewan Party caucus audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2013. These documents were also tabled in the House.

Item no. 3, discussion item with the Chief Electoral Officer. With us this evening we have Mr. Michael Boda with a number of items, including his quarterly report. I'd like to welcome Mr. Boda here today. And I would ask that you introduce your officials with you and proceed with your presentation.

**Mr. Boda:** — Thank you very much. You did mention a quarterly report and I had submitted that to your office in September. And I will provide you with another quarterly report the next quarter.

To introduce you to some officials here, I would very much like to do that. I introduce you first to Jennifer Colin who joined Elections Saskatchewan in June as our deputy chief electoral officer for corporate services and electoral finance. She has been an executive director for the Ministry of Education, a director with the Public Service Commission and with Social Services. She has a background in HR [human resources], in IT [information technology], information management. She has a CMA [certified management accountant] and she is a certified internal auditor. And we are pleased that she has joined us and she's been working with me on the facilities file.

[17:30]

I am also pleased to introduce to you Tim Kydd who is not

speaking today but he's sitting behind me. He joined us in late July. He is the senior director for outreach and policy. He's been the vice-president for community relations for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, the assistant VP [vice-president] for marketing communications for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], director of corporate communications for Farm Credit and, as I remember him, many years ago he was an on-air journalist with what was STV [SaskWest Television], now is Global. So we're pleased that he's joined us.

And then Lorne Gibson is here. He has been working as part of my transition team and will continue to work as a consulting expert on key projects through the next electoral cycle. He's been the deputy chief electoral officer of Manitoba. He's been the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, and more recently he's been offering his expertise internationally working in places like Iraq, or on Iraq. He's been in the Seychelles, and of course Zimbabwe sort of is a bookend for him, I suppose. Lorne has been working with me to consider the potential for a permanent register in Saskatchewan and we're pleased to have access to his expertise. So those are the people that have joined me today. Would you like me to proceed?

**The Chair:** — Please.

**Mr. Boda:** — Okay. First I'd like to talk with you about our head office and warehouse facilities. In May you'll recall that I offered an analysis of some options for a new head office and warehouse facilities for Saskatchewan's election management body. Today I want to offer an update on the work our team has done since our last meeting together and provide a recommendation on how Elections Saskatchewan might move forward. I recognize that I touched on this the last time we were together but I do think it's important to reiterate why it's important that Elections Saskatchewan transition to new facilities as soon as possible.

The current office space was converted from a Liquor Board store to office facilities for four permanent employees and it's just not designed to support the staff complement that we're assembling. The infrastructure and layout are having a negative impact on our ability to deliver a modern election.

To offer some specifics, the current facility doesn't meet occupational health standards. It lacks adequate safety systems like even the sprinkler system. It doesn't have proper electrical and telephone cabling, so every staff member doesn't have even a telephone. There isn't fibre line going into the building, which means we only have a 5 meg dedicated connection. The building's heating, ventilation, and HVAC [heating, venting, and air conditioning] system was built for an open concept commercial store so it's become inefficient as we've introduced desks and partitions. And the building has just two outside windows so our staff doesn't have access to natural light. And there's no secure storage so we're putting sensitive personal data collected about registered voters, candidates, political parties, and financial donors at risk.

The situation is only going to get worse as we ramp up for the 28th general election where we'll hire another 15 to 20 additional temporary staff to support enumeration and

administration of the GE [general election]. So since we saw you last, our team has continued to further assess and refine its space requirements and we have worked closely with the Ministry of Central Services on evaluating these options.

In late summer, Central Services was able to identify an additional option at 3303 Hillside Street for Elections Saskatchewan to consider and that's the Saskatchewan Archives is on the main floor there. So we're able to offer three specific options here today.

Option 1 is to substantially renovate and expand the space we currently occupy so that it includes adequate space for both office and warehouse requirements. Option 2 is to relocate the new head office facilities to Harbour Landing and then to secure warehouse facilities off-site. And then option 3 is to relocate and substantially renovate office facilities located on Hillside Street and to secure off-site warehouse facilities.

In the brief that I provided to you, we outlined a series of pros and cons for each of these options. I won't go into those details, but I would like to review the costs associated with each option, and they are summarized on page 5 of the brief in the table that I provided. And then I'll conclude with some recommendations.

Looking at option 1 there, renovating and staying in our current facility is the most costly option over a four-year lease period coming in at just over \$2.7 million, and it would certainly be the most disruptive from an operational standpoint for us at Elections Saskatchewan. With respect to timing, it would take the longest for us to complete, and we would suggest it would be six to eight months.

The new facilities at Harbour Landing require finishing the interior of the space, but the landlord provides a one-time tenant improvement allowance which offsets the total cost of the option, and so the amount is just over 2.5 million over the four-year period. The landlord has estimated that the space could be move-in ready for this by July of 2014. And then additional off-site warehouse space will be required.

Option 3, leasing the space at 3303 Hillside, is the lowest cost option over the four-year period, just over \$2 million. Renovations would be required so as to ensure the most efficient use of the space for our staff complement and operating requirements. You're aware that as an election management body we have to be able to expand and contract our head office facilities that support not just the 13 permanent positions but an expanded team and a field leadership team from across the province that supports 10,000 people conducting a general election. We have to have the capacity to train a large, diverse group of citizens in a very short time frame, and we need to balance public accessibility to the provincial election management body with the requirement to secure and store data and information.

As we look at this third option, some of the renovations needed would include: a reduction in the size of the current reception area to incorporate the space into office space; reducing the size of the lunchroom, which was designed for student financial services which was on two floors, so had additional staff; creating a specially designed space for GIS [geographic information system] technicians and their equipment;

establishing secure storage areas to house confidential materials; constructing a proper training room and then creating small rooms for use by staff who don't have enclosed offices; and ensuring that there is adequate, there's an adequate number of what you could call hotelling workstations for people who are in and out, for experts and for temporary staff required at election time.

In the end we estimate that this third option could be move-in ready by the end of March '14, and while that's three months beyond our readiness schedule for November 2015 GE, my staff will do what is necessary to make that work.

So based on our consultations with the Ministry of Central Services, further assessment of our institutional needs, and current and cost comparison, Elections Saskatchewan's recommending that the Board of Internal Economy endorse option 3, that is the leasing of office space at 3303 Hillside and separate warehouse.

In this light we recommend that \$683,000 — just over that, \$360 — be allocated to Elections Saskatchewan to cover renovations and relocation costs. And once the timing of the renovation and relocation is finalized, Elections Saskatchewan can determine in which fiscal years the funding should be allocated.

Incremental operating funds of an estimated \$220,000 will be required beginning in the 2014-15 fiscal year to cover the cost of leasing the office space on Hillside Street and off-site warehouse. And those are the recommendations.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Thank you very much. Any questions from the committee? Ms. Heppner.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thanks for your presentation. I'm just looking for some clarification because I've had toured the building on Hillside. I was just wondering about clarification on which space you're looking at, because I've toured the building on Hillside. Are you talking about the second floor — because that's the one with that giant reception area — or the third floor, because the third floor doesn't have the same issues?

**Mr. Boda:** — Yes, the third floor. The third floor is the space that we were looking at. We have looked at the second floor as well.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Okay. Thanks.

**The Chair:** — David. Mr. Forbes.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you for the presentation. I'm just curious about parking and \$50,000 for parking or 46,000. What does that entail?

**Mr. Boda:** — That entails, that entails both parking spaces that are outside and, I believe if memory serves, it was 13 parking spaces. And then there are four other spaces under the building, I understand.

**Mr. Forbes:** — It's the rental fee for . . . the charge?

**Mr. Boda:** — It's just a rental fee for parking. That's the cost.

That's over four years though.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Oh, over four years.

**Mr. Boda:** — Everything on that list is evaluated over a four-year period.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Okay. Right. That's right. Thanks.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Draude.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you. You're talking about training rooms. Can you give me an idea of how long are you going to need them? How many people are you expecting at a time?

**Mr. Boda:** — It will range. How long do we need them for? We're looking at designing a space that can be used in different ways as we go along. So in some cases, we might be utilizing the space for a phone bank. In other cases, we would use it for training. In terms of the size of the training room, I wouldn't anticipate that it would be larger than having 61 returning officers in the building at one time. It won't be a very large space, but it will be an ongoing training space in which we have the flexibility of having a group of 20, a subgroup of 20, but we can expand to the larger group.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — So then after, I would imagine most of it will be used in the six months prior to the election or the three months prior to the election. After the election, what is that space used for?

**Mr. Boda:** — Well the peak period is actually 18 months before the election and then six months after. And in truth, we are already beginning to train at Elections Saskatchewan. So we have supervisory returning officers and returning officers who are coming in and doing work at Elections Saskatchewan already.

So it'll be utilized, well utilized over the electoral cycle, but the peak period is 18 months before and then six months after. And so we need to be able to train on an ongoing basis. And as I've said, we're looking at a flexible scenario. Even now we have but one boardroom at Elections Saskatchewan, and we often find that three meeting areas are booked. And so as a result, people are meeting elsewhere: in the hallways or actually out in the warehouse area.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — When it comes to warehousing, I would think that now that things are a lot . . . You're using a lot less paper than we used to. Are you needing the same amount of warehousing that you used to?

**Mr. Boda:** — If you're willing to change the legislation so we don't have the paper, then we'll move in that direction. But as it stands now, our warehousing space is actually not nearly enough for what it takes to run a modern election, I think I've articulated in the past.

But the assessment that I offered when I came in was that basically Elections Saskatchewan has been running a just-in-time delivery electoral process — which leads to complications, which leads to many errors in the process, and your compliance is reduced in that way — and it actually needs

to be expanded so that you can assemble these things in advance in order to run the election more professionally.

**The Chair:** — Is that it, June?

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Yes, thank you.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Any other questions? I have some.

**Mr. Boda:** — I do have some concerns about whether I was clear with you about the space that we're looking at on the third floor though. And if there's anything you want me to clarify, we can either do that now or later.

**The Chair:** — Okay. In your presentation, you talked about 15 to 20 temporary staff. How does that compare with previous elections?

[17:45]

**Mr. Boda:** — I'm not sure that I could . . . I wasn't here for the 2011 of course, nor the one before. However that would be the norm in an election management body, that as you are ramping up for an electoral process, you would have more than the 13, the 13 permanent people that are there.

You also, in addition you have experts. If you want to use your people wisely, you have certain experts that come in. And they're able to focus on particular projects because they have an understanding of how that should be implemented. So some, a few of those people are experts.

But really, in the advance of the elections, that 15 to 20, when you're supporting a team in the field of 122 on the leadership team alone and then you're expanding to the 10,000, that would be a very, relatively efficient staff.

**The Chair:** — Well I don't know just what the numbers would have been in the last elections, but previous to that, I believe the electoral office operated with seven to nine people is what they were authorized. And then the authorizations increased to I think 13, which 13, 14 is what the present complement is. And so they managed to run the elections at that time. And certainly the elections have changed over that time period, requiring new methods of providing for the election.

You mentioned to Ms. Draude, I believe it was, that you were looking at roughly 24 months for those additional 15 to 20 staff to be in place. Would that have been the circumstance in the last election or previous elections, that those temporary staff would have been hired for two years?

**Mr. Boda:** — First of all, you're right: it's the 24 months, but it's 18 before and 6 after. And what you're doing is you're positioning yourself to get ready for the election and so you're ramping up. So it's, 18 months before you don't have the full complement, but what you're doing is you're getting ready for those people and positioning them at the proper time. Okay?

So in terms of how it's worked in the past, again I'm not certain how it would have worked in Saskatchewan in the past. But I can tell you how other jurisdictions work, and other jurisdictions would work consistently with this. For example

Nova Scotia would have a full permanent complement of 19 in their office and then they would expand in the way that I've . . . they would expand with the additional 15 to 20 from there. Manitoba has a full-time complement of I believe it's 18. And they would expand as well, getting ready for that general election.

**The Chair:** — Well it seems to be that the board has provided your office with basically a doubling of staff from two elections ago. And I don't know what they did have at the time for temporary staff, but it strikes me that two years' worth is probably more than was done previously.

And so I wonder if you could outline a little more substantially what the need is for 20 more staff for two years, in comparison to what was being done before. And I recognize you weren't there, but it seems like a huge increase from how the election was run last time in 2011 or in 2007 or in 2003. And those elections, now we may agree or disagree around the table how successful those elections were, but the elections took place rather successfully and the citizens of Saskatchewan were comfortable with the results on a process sense. So what would this two years' worth of an additional 20 employees generate?

**Mr. Boda:** — Well I think the first thing is I'm not sure I agree with the premise that the election was run properly. An election manager's nightmare is a very close election. You've seen some of them. You saw one in Florida in 2000. But an election manager's difficulty and when the problems arise are when there's a very close election. But we didn't experience that in Saskatchewan. And as I've indicated to this board, upon my arrival in evaluating things, my conclusion was that the Elections Saskatchewan was well underfunded in terms of the resources that were available to it.

Now what I've tried to do is stick with the 13 permanent positions, and that seems very reasonable to me to work within that. But when you are preparing for an event and, you know, the event has statutory funding for it, you're required to hire the people that are necessary in order to run that position or run that electoral event. And so what we will be doing is going through the planning exercise of very carefully laying out who will be hired in advance.

In the past, none of that planning was done until the very last minute here. And so it was very difficult to understand what direction the electoral process was going in.

We're trying to transition the institution toward a planning organization in which we ramp up for that process and we know in advance how many people we're going to need. All right? So when I say there needs to be room for people, we have to go through the process of planning to allow for that many people to have spaces to sit in.

**The Chair:** — When you say that many people to have space to sit in, do you mean the 15 to 20 additional or are you talking the 10,000 that you keep mentioning?

**Mr. Boda:** — True that we have an electoral service of 10,000. But certainly not 10,000 will be coming to the head office. That would be somewhat problematic, obviously. What we have to be able to do is support a leadership team in the field that's

made up of 122 across the province. And there's additional people that are there as well and we need to be able to support them as well.

**The Chair:** — If the 15 to 20 additional staff are provided, if the space for them is provided, what do you do with that space the remaining two years and the equipment that you would obviously need, either purchase or rent, for the use of that space?

**Mr. Boda:** — Well the space would remain with Elections Saskatchewan of course and this is the way an efficient election management body operates, that instead of trying to figure out in advance of an election to go out and secure new space and every time shutting it down, there is a lot of efficiency in terms of the people that are involved in terms of keeping that space available.

As you know however, I am working closely with the city of Regina to determine how we can collaborate with them in order to work with them so that they can have access to that space as well during their election which will occur in 2016. So I'm working to collaborate with the city of Regina to make use of that space as well.

**The Chair:** — And what does the city of Regina do now for space during their election cycle, which I believe is now every four years?

**Mr. Boda:** — It's every four years and it's to occur in late 2016.

**The Chair:** — So if you're looking at using that space in late 2016 when we may very well have an election in the spring of 2016, how does that fit into the timetable if they're going to need preparation time in advance of their election and you need post-election time with your 15 to 20 additional employees?

**Mr. Boda:** — I believe we can make it work with them, and I've been working with them to determine how best we can move forward. But the two elections do not overlap one another and some of that space can be utilized by them.

**The Chair:** — Well we do have legislation on the books here that the election could be held in April of '16 and the municipal elections are in October of '16 so if you need six months post-election, then you're going to be running into a conflict there because they're not going to want just-in-time. They don't want the space just that day.

**Mr. Boda:** — Well if they're going to make use of some of the training facilities or the training room, which is not a large training room, but if they're going to make use of that, we won't be using the training room at all times. We use it for other things. But the key is to bring others in who are conducting elections and to make better use of the facilities. That's what we've been aiming at doing. And we are in discussions with them to see how we can even better use the facilities that are there.

This isn't, this kind of facility is not out of the ordinary however for jurisdictions across the country. I don't think I'm doing anything that's outside the box there. Jurisdictions do

have this kind of facility available to them throughout the electoral event. As you are professionalizing your election management body and trying to ensure that it's focused on the cycle rather than the event, this is a natural progression.

**The Chair:** — If we're focusing on the cycle though, we have to keep in mind that the first requirement, since the province is paying for it, is the provincial election process.

**Mr. Boda:** — And it will be.

**The Chair:** — If there's some overlap though, then it becomes a question. Does then, if it overlaps with the provincial elections, then does the additional tenants not have access?

**Mr. Boda:** — If we're interested in collaborating and we're interested in partnering, then this is something that we have to work through together. We have to do some of the heavy lifting that's required in order to move in that direction. And I have made it clear that I'm interested in doing the heavy lifting that's necessary in order to be innovative in that regard. I honestly do feel that we can move forward in a collaborative way and make this work.

**The Chair:** — You have mentioned in your presentation on option no. 3 that there would be an additional cost incurred with commissioners during the election period when Elections Saskatchewan is open for extended periods, extended hours. Is this a requirement just particular to the Hillsdale location, or would this be a requirement at any of the locations?

**Mr. Boda:** — This would be just required at Hillsdale. There were two issues that arose with Hillsdale as we looked at it. We did have a fundamental concern, which I think we've overcome, and that is the issue of accessibility. There isn't an election management body in the provinces that doesn't have main-floor accessibility, and we are very focused on that issue. But I think we've been able to overcome that in that we're confident that there is an elevator there and there is accessibility.

In terms of the commissioner, that was a recommendation that we put forward based on our discussion with Central Services. And it would only be during, you know, in advance of the election period when we're ramping up and more and more individuals are coming into Elections Saskatchewan.

**The Chair:** — I'm not familiar with the building. I've never been in it so I can't . . . I'm not sure of the layout. If you come into the building and access it obviously on the main floor, does that give you some open access to other offices? Or is that other space closed off, and your access would either be through an elevator or a stairwell to the third floor or the second floor?

**Mr. Boda:** — There's not direct access to the facilities on the third floor. So you could very easily go elsewhere if you didn't have that direction. Is that what you're asking?

**The Chair:** — Okay. Ms. Heppner.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — If I could. When you come in there's a, like a little atrium. It's all glass. And archives is over here, and it kind of wraps around. So there's an elevator right in the middle when you walk in. So when you get off the elevator on

the second floor or the third floor, it's open, looking into the atrium, and then you access doors from there. So the elevator doesn't go directly into the space. You can lock those doors in the other offices on the first, second, and third floor.

[18:00]

**The Chair:** — Yes, that was my question basically. You know, how secure are the other offices in that space?

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — They can be locked up.

**The Chair:** — So they could, if they had criminal intent, break glass or whatever or . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's right, yes.

The \$683,360 that you are recommending for funding this year for this purpose, is that just to cover the cost of renovations that would take place? Or exactly what is that \$683,000 for? And specifically, when is it needed?

**Mr. Boda:** — It would include both the renovation and the moving costs.

**The Chair:** — And that moving cost . . . Moving would be, your expectation is March of 2014 is when you'd be moving into that space.

**Mr. Boda:** — Okay. And it also would include warehouse equipment as we're setting up.

**The Chair:** — Oh that would be at the additional location, wherever that might be?

**Mr. Boda:** — Yes.

**The Chair:** — The \$100,000 for furniture and moving expenses, how is that broken down? It's my belief that there is some, if not all, furniture in the Hillsdale property.

**Mr. Boda:** — The furniture is 25 years old, and it is inappropriate for a modern election. It simply is . . . It finished its life, period.

**The Chair:** — In this building we've been operating with some equipment, desks, chairs, cabinets that are probably closer to my age.

**Mr. Boda:** — Well you're talking to a guy who's done work in Pakistan, Jordan, and all over the world, and by those standards, Elections Saskatchewan is below them. So I would be happy to give you a tour of Elections Saskatchewan to show you the furniture and how bad it is. So it really is. I can't tell you. I can put up with a lot, and my staff has been putting up with a lot. There's some unhealthy stuff that's going on over there, and it's just it's really inappropriate. So what I'm doing is I'm working with staff on a mission and on a vision, and that vision is that we're able to build a new institution and have a 30-year impact, not a 5-year impact.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Heppner.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Just for clarification on the furniture

because there's furniture in the space in Hillsdale. Would you not be using the furniture that's there? If there's issues with the furniture that Elections Saskatchewan currently has in its current space, that's one thing, but there is furniture in the proposed new space which is pretty nice. So I'm just wondering if there was plans to use the furniture that's already there.

**Mr. Boda:** — I'm not sure. Having looked at it . . . I mean perhaps you want to address it, but it wouldn't be appropriate if you're looking for a 30-year, you're building for a 30-year arrangement, and once you've done all your changes . . . that we're trying to set this up properly. But the furniture is a relatively small amount I think compared to the overall project.

**The Chair:** — Ms. Eagles, I believe you had a question.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Yes. When you spoke about . . . First of all, thank you, Michael. When you spoke about the city of Regina sharing the facility, do they pay a portion? Like do they pay Elections Canada or the Government of Saskatchewan something for the use of the building then when they're having their election?

**Mr. Boda:** — Yes, there would be a sublet arrangement, and it would be minimally over at the Hillsdale space, but the warehouse space would be used as well, and it would be a shared space that would allow for them to make use of it during their election. And there would be enough room for both institutions.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay, now I have another question. And excuse my ignorance on this, but how many people do you have working in your office right now?

**Mr. Boda:** — At present?

**Ms. Eagles:** — At present.

**Mr. Boda:** — We would have about . . . There's the permanent 13. I mean I can subtract . . .

**Ms. Eagles:** — No, and that's fine. But . . . And again I'm not . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — We do have experts like Lorne that are working with us as well.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay.

**Mr. Boda:** — But if you saw our annual report, there's a layout of the positions there.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Okay. And I mean I can understand the 18 months going up to the election and, you know, the six months after for the cleanup, but — and I don't understand, and it's ignorance on my part — but what do they do in between? Like what are they doing from the six months after the election, the last election, until the 18 months or two years before the next election? And I honestly don't know, so I'm not trying to . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — No worries there. In between . . . As you know I arrived in June of 2012. And in 2012 we have not only had to work and begin preparing for the next election, the next general

election, but we've also had to do a lot of reform with the institution itself. So part of my, a lot of my time has been focused on that reform.

But what are we doing in between elections? That's a very good question, and it is a question that I would get all over the world. But there's preparation that has to take place because we are guided by legislation, so we have to do an assessment of how the last election was done. Was it done properly with regard to how the legislation told us we needed to implement? And then we need to begin a process of preparing in advance for that election.

So what does it mean? What are we doing currently? Right now we are in the midst of hiring, going through a hiring process of all the returning officers, all the election clerks. That's 122 people that we have to hire, which means you can imagine how many interviews you have to do in order to hire that many people and to have them properly placed.

Then there's an element of training that we have to prepare for. So we have to go back and review the handbooks that were all created and assess them and evaluate how they can be improved for the next electoral process.

As you know, we've gone through a boundary process. Once the boundaries are approved by the legislature, that's only the beginning of the entire process. We have a team that are working on finishing up the boundaries and then distributing all the maps and getting them ready for the political parties. So that's another element to it.

I guess I can say that I know it's a valid question to say, what do you do in between elections? But essentially if you're running a process for 10,000 people, which I continue to mention, think of it in terms of the Canada Games. Think of it in terms of, you know, the winter games, whatever. The fact is you could never begin that process six months before the election and actually do it properly. You have to back up and get your leadership team in place, get your field leadership team in place, train them properly, and then ramp up to get ready for the electoral process which involves assembling in advance 61 entire offices, making sure that absolutely every form that's required by legislation is in there, is done properly, is laid out. If it's not, if there's one change, if the legislation is changed, all of that has to be replaced, reordered, and ready for that general election.

In between we also deal with by-elections of course. And we have to be ready for by-elections at any given time. And so we were not ready when I arrived for a by-election. We are ready for a by-election now, and we've begun to go through that process of getting ready for additional by-elections with the anticipation we might have that.

So the thing is I would be more than happy to go on for probably ad nauseam to talk about election management. Sometimes it's as interesting as paint drying, however I find it very interesting because it relates to democracy, and it relates to delivering you guys to this building so that we can govern the province properly.

**Ms. Eagles:** — I thank you very much for that. You answered it



very well. And I mean I knew this time, you know, with the redistribution and stuff, there would be a lot more work involved. But you've answered some areas that I never thought of, so thank you for that.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. A little bit more on a question that arose from Ms. Eagles's questions. From your comments that there's work to do after the six months post-election to the 18 months prior to the next election, are you indicating then that this 15 to 20 people would not actually be temporary staff but would become full-time staff? Or are these 15 to 20 temporary employees let go after the end of the roughly six-month period post-election?

**Mr. Boda:** — In 2012 when I arrived, there wasn't much clarity in the building as to what temporary meant and what permanent meant. And what we have begun to do over the course of the past year is to focus on our human resources, and to focus on offering clarity with regard to how different employees are categorized. And so basically what you're talking about is that 15 to 20 in a post-election period. Actually there would be some reduction already in the post-election period of the 15 to 20, but the key is that there's clarity in advance and we're planned out to how it's going to work. We will need a position here to cover this particular element of the process. That individual will sit there. They will be part of the process until election plus 30 days, then their contract is over. Those are the temporary people that are there.

Now there are some temporary people that are longer term, for example our GIS team. Our GIS team are not permanent employees at Elections Saskatchewan. They have a contract through . . . I would have to . . . I can't tell you exactly when it is but it's after the election by X number of months. They know now that their project is laid out over that period of time and that their contract will come to an end at that time. We've been very clear about that.

So we're changing the way we operate and that is that there is clarity in the expectations for the positions and there's clarity as to when those temporary positions will begin and when they will end.

**The Chair:** — The 13 or 14 staff that are permitted at the Chief Electoral office, are they full time? I prefer the word full time versus permanent. Nobody is permanent.

**Mr. Boda:** — Could you repeat that, at the beginning? What did you say?

**The Chair:** — Including me.

And how many of those staff would be temporary, so that they may be here for a one-year contract and then gone and that position is no longer needed? Or are the positions full time but the individual in that position may not be?

**Mr. Boda:** — I guess to begin with, we don't currently have 13 permanent employees because we are going through a process of hiring. So we have that many positions. Those positions are full-time positions that are required by Elections Saskatchewan. There are additional positions that are required by Elections Saskatchewan as well. One of the examples I'll give you, it's a

temporary position, and that is of a warehouse individual, the warehouse manager. And that individual is hired on a temporary basis to get us through the electoral process, and then those hours are eliminated post-election once we've gone through the process of breaking down the materials that come back.

So that's . . . Not everyone is permanent. There's flexibility. Some are part time. Some aren't required through the entire process. But what we're offering is clarity with regard to what those permanent positions are doing, full-time positions. Some of the other people are working . . . I'm having trouble with your terminology, because some are working full time, but they're certainly not permanent. They're on contract for a certain number of months. But what we're working on is offering clarity in terms of the length of time that those temporary positions are with us.

**The Chair:** — So you will have 13 positions at the CEO's [Chief Electoral Officer] office in perpetuity. Not necessarily the same people in them, but the positions are there.

**Mr. Boda:** — The positions that are there are designed as permanent positions throughout the electoral cycle.

[18:15]

**The Chair:** — Okay. The additional 15 to 20 temporary staff, are all of those positions going to be filled, not necessarily by the same individual throughout the entire election cycle, or is that number between . . . in that time frame, six months after post-election to 18 months prior to the next election? Are those positions all going to be full? Or half of them or . . . Because I'm not getting any understanding of what you're doing with that 15 to 20 temporary employees outside of the election cycle, outside of the 24 months of that election.

**Mr. Boda:** — Okay. The 15 to 20 are for that election period, and what we require is the space in order to put bodies in those spaces. That's what we're asking about today. There is an ongoing need for additional space beyond that 13 permanent in the sense that we're doing projects which are stabilizing the system, and then in the next cycle we will innovate in the system. So in order to do a permanent register, for example, that just doesn't happen without the expertise. And so you have to have spaces to put those additional individuals who are working on that particular project in there.

The other thing to keep in mind which hasn't been accounted for, and that is once we get to the permanent register, there are additional spots that are required as well. If you want a permanent register, you require additional staff in order to manage it. But we can have that discussion as well.

**The Chair:** — That'll come up in the next segment.

**Mr. Boda:** — I believe so.

**The Chair:** — How many of those positions would you expect to have staff in over that non-election 24 month period? Five of them . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — Fifteen to 20 that are required during the election

period? My expectation is that none of them would be required. However, there will be others that will be required on a contractual basis that will be doing key projects for introducing innovation. So what we're talking about is a space of 15 to 20 that allows for the flexibility to run the general election yet, at the same time, if two returning officers come in and are working on a particular project for operations, they have a place to land. And these are hotelling spots; they're not the full-fledged spots that are required. But they're hotelling spots so they require a place to sit. So there's a lot of this that goes on. This is how it works in election management. And it's more efficient than having full-time permanent positions there on an ongoing basis.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Forbes.

**Mr. Forbes:** — What kind of square footage, when you say hotelling spots, are we talking about for the 15 or 20?

**Mr. Boda:** — We've been looking at Central Services and how Central Services operates and we're basically following, we are following their . . .

**Mr. Forbes:** — Sure. So it's not like a full office.

**Mr. Boda:** — No.

**Mr. Forbes:** — You're not having 15 full offices sitting half time or half empty. They might be cubicles or one large area with dividers type of thing.

**Ms. Colin:** — What we're looking at doing is designing the space with the maximum flexibility so that, for example, when the training room isn't being used, it could be subdivided into meeting rooms. The hotelling space would be flexible so it could be collaborative workspace for staff if they're working on a project or individual carrels basically.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Would many of the 15 to 20 people that are working during like the 18 months prior and the six months after, would they be doing fieldwork? Would they be out travelling the province doing work? Or they'd be working in the . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — They would be principally focused on head office activities and supporting our permanent team in the field.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thanks.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Back to my questions. I suspect that when the budget comes around for the '14-15 and beyond years, the questions of number of staff positions will be part of that debate, so I'll leave that for now. Ms. Draude.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Who does your payroll?

**Mr. Boda:** — Who does our payroll? The Legislative Assembly does it.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you.

**The Chair:** — I have a question related to the warehouse equipment that you're requesting. What does that comprise of?

**Mr. Boda:** — It's basically the set-up costs of a warehouse in terms of the shelving that's required for that and the, of course, forklift that's required.

**The Chair:** — So it's not a large amount of motorized equipment. It's shelving, etc.

**Mr. Boda:** — And then in addition to that, you have a . . . I've mentioned before that Elections Saskatchewan has followed the just-in-time delivery approach, which isn't consistent with the way it's done professionally, and so you require additional cartage and storage that allows you to shift those boxes to your field offices essentially so they're ready in advance.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Are there any other questions? I think we've all had a good go. Okay. We will then move on to the permanent register of voters for Saskatchewan. Mr. Boda.

**Mr. Boda:** — Okay. A second topic of discussion this evening focuses on the potential of implementing a permanent register of voters for Saskatchewan. As I very well know, you're aware . . . I'm sure you're aware whether or not a permanent register of voters should replace our traditional enumeration process has been under consideration for about a decade now. In 2012 the board had asked Elections Saskatchewan to analyze the costs and operational impact of implementing a permanent register. Last week I forwarded advanced copies of both a brief and a report on my assessment with respect to implementing a permanent register and would like to briefly present their contents this evening.

As board members, I know that you're not unfamiliar with voter registration. The purpose of any system for registering voters — whether you're talking about enumeration, as we have followed for many years in Saskatchewan; a permanent register, as many other Canadian jurisdictions except Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Yukon have pursued in recent years; or even what's called a civil register, which is popular outside of Canada in Latin American, for example — the purpose of voter registration is to determine whether individuals qualify as voters according to certain criteria.

Voter registration is there to ensure the integrity of the voting process for sure, but it's also there to help ensure that elections are run smoothly, allowing election administrators to prepare for the number of voting stations and election workers that will be needed, while reducing the need for registration on the day of the election.

No matter the system of registration, there are merits and there are shortcomings. The question is how these are measured. For this assessment, we looked at a series of factors that are most often considered, including currency, a measure of decay of the voter information from the time it's collected to the time it's needed. We looked at coverage or the completeness of the data collected, so the number of voters on the list compared to the number of eligible people in the province. And three, accuracy, the per cent of correctly listed names and addresses compared to the total number of names on the list.

Internationally there are . . . These are the primary factors by which voter registration is assessed, but they're not the only ones. We looked at three others: timeliness, the ability to

produce a voters list at any point when preparing for an election; security and privacy, the ability to ensure the voters list is safe from unauthorized use; and the alerting of voters, the extent to which the process of accumulating the list also serves to alert voters that an election is coming.

So within this assessment, we looked at both enumeration and an approach involving permanent registration for how they rated with respect to these factors. And you can see on page 3 to 4 of the brief, there's a table there that'll help, that I'll work through here. Got it? Page 3 to 4.

Currency is one factor and enumeration ranked high, assuming that the list was compiled close to the election. Permanent register rated medium and depended on the frequency of updates. With respect to coverage, enumeration ranked medium and depended on the completeness of the enumeration, with enumerators facing increased challenges for collecting the information door to door. Permanent register ranked high in this case, based on a capacity to access multiple data sources and depending on the quality of those sources.

Let's look at accuracy. Enumeration rated medium. When new data is collected for each election, errors are inevitably introduced. Permanent register ranks higher because the method involves continuously updating and verifying, reducing the error rates.

With timeliness, enumeration actually ranked low because the list is produced just in time for an election so it's not available in between elections for planning purposes. For timeliness, permanent register is rated high because it's always available for assessment by parties, candidates, and election administrators.

Considering security and privacy, enumeration rates medium with this factor simply because there's a high potential for breaches when we involve 3,000 people around the province collecting and compiling data. Permanent registration ranks high because more precautions can be taken to protect the data of voters.

And then finally with respect to alerting voters, enumeration is rated high because enumerators are sent out to the doorstep of voters to remind them, hey there's an election coming. But perhaps surprisingly, permanent register also ranked high, not due to the enumerators being used to alert the voters, but because of the use of advertising that has to be used as part of the process.

Having looked at the factors, the assessment also involved a careful cost comparison of the two approaches to voter registration. We looked at these costs over the course of a four-year electoral cycle in order to get a better sense of the longer term implications. You might look at the table at the bottom of page 5 of the briefing document. Enumeration, looking first at it and its costs over a four-year period, the initial cost of canvassing in 2011 was just over \$2.5 million. A process of revision was also required, and so we included fees paid to revising agents, a portion of the returning officers' and election clerks' salaries, mileage data, entry office and equipment and supply costs. That came out to \$645,000. So the cost for enumeration, including the canvassing and then revisions, was

about \$3.225 million.

For a permanent register over a four-year period, the cost of the initial canvass would be eliminated. But revisions would still be part of the process of improving the quality of the lists, so an amount of \$645,000 would be involved. In addition the process would also include what's known as targeted enumeration, a process of focusing on specific areas where the list quality needs improvement. That's estimated at \$384,000.

There are maintenance costs by which the register of voters would be continuously updated by acquiring data from other public sources, verifying it and integrating it into the permanent registry. And that's expected to be just over \$1.3 million over the four-year period.

So the total amount for a permanent register over a four-year period comes out to about \$2.342 million. Given these figures, we estimate savings in the range of \$900,000. So just short of that would be realized over a four-year cycle if we were to move towards a permanent register.

[18:30]

The development of a permanent register would begin as soon as legislative authority is in place and the proposed staff have been hired. At that time, Elections Saskatchewan would begin to build the register, negotiate data-sharing agreements, develop business rules and data routines, and establish controls.

The approach would involve conducting a final comprehensive enumeration in the fall of 2015, collecting data that would populate the permanent register. After the next general election, whether that's in November of '15 or April of '16, Elections Saskatchewan would continue to update the register from reliable public sources to ensure its currency. Then on an ongoing basis we'd assess the register for its currency, its completeness, and its accuracy. Through this process we'll be able to determine if any gaps exist, and we'll be able to use targeted enumeration to address those gaps in advance of a general election.

So it's important to realize that if we begin now the permanent register would be ready for use in time for the 2019 general election. That's key.

Over the course of the assessment, we've been careful to consider what principles should guide whether or not a permanent registry should be implemented in Saskatchewan. You'll see the series of principles. They're listed on page 6 of the briefing document, and they've been adapted from the '91 Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing report. I won't go into the details, but in each instance the implementation of a permanent register appeared to make sense in the context of Saskatchewan.

So having looked at the factors, the cost comparison for enumeration and permanent register, looking at how the permanent register fared in relation to these principles, what am I asking for today? Well first I'm looking for consensus among the members of the Board of Internal Economy before suggesting anything else. Based on the recommendations put forward here, are you interested in continuing to lay the

foundation for a permanent register?

Second, if there is consensus, I'm asking that the Board of Internal Economy support the Chief Electoral Officer's request for legislative change to *The Election Act* that would authorize the establishment, management, and proper maintenance of a permanent register. And then finally that the board supports Elections Saskatchewan's requirements for additional staff positions that will support that transition and ongoing maintenance.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Thank you. Questions? Ms. Heppner.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you. Thank you for this presentation. I'm very much intrigued by this idea.

**Mr. Boda:** — It wasn't as interesting as paint drying?

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — No, this one's a little bit more interesting than paint drying.

I have two questions, one for the actual technology behind this. Do you have any kind of cost estimates or is there off-the-shelf in other provinces? You listed a few provinces that don't have a permanent voter registry. Is there some off-the-shelf product that we can use, or is this going to be some large in-house kind of IT project? It's obviously not kept on paper.

**Mr. Boda:** — Elections Saskatchewan has been preparing for some time for the option of pursuing a permanent registry. In fact it has a misnamed program but a system which includes permanent registry in the name — it was there when I arrived — Elections Saskatchewan permanent registry of electors, ESPREE [Elections Saskatchewan permanent register of eligible electors].

So what has been prepared is that we would be able to move forward using that system which is in place. Now again moving back to collaboration, this is a very good example of election management bodies collaborating within the country. And there are four election management bodies, Saskatchewan is one of them, there are four election management bodies that have been collaborating together in order to produce this system. The code is generated by one company and then it is shared at no cost with the other election management bodies. And so we benefit greatly from this. So to answer your question in short, the system is already moving ahead and in place. And we would be able to move forward with it with some additional work on it, but it's in place and ready to go.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Okay. I have one other question. It's the list of guiding principles — in the brief it's page 6, in the actual document it's page 22 — about voters should have the right not to be included on the register or to have their names removed at any time. I read through the information here. I'm not clear on the explanation as to why we would do that because they can obviously still vote, which seems to be a work generator if they have their name taken off the list, then show up at a polling station saying I want to vote, and then there is additional work to be done there. So I'm just wondering about the rationale behind people being allowed to have their names removed from a permanent list.

**Mr. Boda:** — It's a valid question. It relates to an individual's privacy, that quite simply individuals have to be in control of the data that's collected that relates to them. And as a result they can be, they should be removed if they ask to be removed.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — I actually had a lady from my constituency office about two weeks ago demanding that we take her name off of any kind of voter registry that exists in the province. So apparently those people are out there.

**Mr. Boda:** — They are out there, and you can certainly direct them to us and we will honour their wishes.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you.

**The Chair:** — Mr. Harrison.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, thanks, Mr. Speaker. No, I read this through, Michael, with interest. I think this is some good work that's been done. And I know this has been a long-running discussion. I can tell you in principle the government is supportive of this. The opposition can speak on their own behalf, but I think you'll find a consensus on moving forward on this in principle.

I have a couple of questions with regard to some kind of specific matters in here, but data sharing, a part of it . . . it's obviously important for maintaining the currency of the permanent voters' list. We put this in place. What sort of arrangements exist in other provinces? What sort of entities are you going to be acquiring data from, and I mean how will that kind of reflect itself in terms of the accuracy versus what we have right now?

**Mr. Boda:** — Other provinces will have arrangements with certainly Elections Canada to begin with because we're in the same business. And so they have arrangements where there's the data sharing goes back and forth, and that's the beginning, sort of the pivot of the relationship to begin with.

Where does other data come from? We would begin with Health, with SGI with driver's licence, and then begin to look at other opportunities for data, for data sharing. The initial list, in this particular situation, would come from that last enumeration that we do in 2015. And it's from there that you begin to improve on the quality, and so you bring in another list. And these are very skilled people that you hire to manage databases and ensure their quality. And you begin to improve the quality, and then you bring it in, you work on another data source such as the health system and you begin to bring in that data and improve the quality. But you start with that particular enumeration that's going to occur in 2015.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — With respect to the final enumeration that will be done in the fall of 2015, one of the options, option 4, using the data from the 2011 campaign and also the most recent, and it will be up-to-date data from the most recent federal campaign. Would that preclude then having to do a door-to-door enumeration in that election cycle for the 2015-2016 provincial election?

**Mr. Boda:** — That would not preclude . . .

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — So you would still do it, door-to-door enumeration, along with the federal enumeration and the pre-filled voter information from 2011?

**Mr. Boda:** — That's correct. We would need to do that, that last one, in order to get our data in place. And it's from there you begin to improve on the quality.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Right. So the feds have had this . . . How long have they had their permanent voter's list in place for?

**Mr. Boda:** — Oh, I think it's been more than a decade . . .

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Right. So why we would still have to do a door-to-door enumeration if we have the feds, basically, with a permanent voters' list that's been in place for a decade, will have just been used for a federal election campaign only six months before. Why would we still have to do it door-to-door?

**Mr. Boda:** — Well I'm going to let Lorne add to this. But the initial issue is that when you are transitioning a major system like this, this is an absolutely fundamental part of the system, the voter registration system, that you have to do it slowly. I've used the metaphor before that we're not running a speedboat here. We're running a ship, and that ship has to slowly turn. And as a result, you want to make sure you're ramping up slowly, properly, using good methodology. And so to suggest that we would have a permanent registry ready to go within the next two and a half years, I wouldn't recommend moving ahead because of the difficulties that could be introduced.

**Mr. Gibson:** — I was just going to add that there are different eligibility requirements for voting in federal elections than there are in Saskatchewan provincial elections, and the major difference is that there's a six-month residency requirement in Saskatchewan, which of course Canada doesn't have a requirement for that. If you're a Canadian, and you're living here, over 18, you're eligible to vote in a federal election.

However, you do raise an interesting scenario which is that if the federal election is held in October of 2015, ours would be six months later, in which case those people that were on the federal list would have met the six-month residency requirement in Saskatchewan. It would be a possibility to do something like that. However, currently the legislation in Saskatchewan requires an enumeration prior to the election.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well what if we were to change the legislation in the next two months?

**Mr. Gibson:** — It's always a possibility. Right now we don't share data with Elections Canada. We don't have the national register for Saskatchewan. There is no data sharing agreement for that. But again all those kinds of things are possibilities.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well I guess I would ask if you could do some more work on it and consider that possibility. If we were to change the legislation to allow for all of this to occur in a short period of time, we could . . . What I'm seeing is saving two and a half million dollars in a door-to-door enumeration. And if we could make that happen with a 90 per cent accurate list, that would be a pretty good, I think a pretty good outcome.

**Mr. Boda:** — Well what we will do then is we will look at it carefully, analyze the risks. As I mentioned, there are risks — right? And so what it would essentially do is we would base it on the previous list and then begin almost . . . We'd have to do it immediately in order to begin the process. But we can do an assessment, and we will come back again.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, and if you could maybe, Michael, send to both Warren and I the LDI [legislative drafting instructions] drafting instructions that you have in terms of the changes that would be necessary.

**Mr. Boda:** — For this specifically, you're saying.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well for the permanent voters list in kind of a general sense. I noticed it had said in the notes somewhere that . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — We do have some initial drafting instructions in place, yes.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes. If you can get that to us . . .

**Mr. Boda:** — The broader . . . [inaudible] . . . we're continuing to work on, but we can do that.

**The Chair:** — Lorne had a comment.

**Mr. Gibson:** — I was just going to say, one complicating factor with just directly importing the federal list and using it in Saskatchewan of course is that we all have different polling divisions, boundaries. The federal boundaries are very different than ours and it would require that we'd have to geocode all the information and put that information into the polling subdivisions which we're in the process of creating right now. So it's not that easy.

It would be a very easy solution if we all came to one central place and voted and we had one master list. But because the list is broken up all over the province in different ways and we want to get the right people in the right polling subdivisions, it makes it very complicated.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well just take a look at it and let us know.

**Mr. Boda:** — I am more than willing to do that. You know that I have some concerns about the risks and we want to make sure we get this right because it could be problematic. But let's look at it and we'll get it to you. Okay?

**The Chair:** — Mr. Forbes.

**Mr. Forbes:** — I think you answered the first question I had is, how would the election in 2015 look different . . . [inaudible] . . . had a sense but now I don't. But we'll work through that.

But the second one, it sort of is around the targeted enumerations. But I'm kind of concerned about those who are difficult to enumerate and I'm in one of those ridings — Saskatoon Centre — that had problems last time getting actual enumerators to come in. We had to hire people outside and get them to come in.

So two groups that I'm curious about. First Nations reserves, how effective a permanent registry is on First Nation reserves. And the second group . . . Well I guess there'll be three groups. The other one would be in inner city where it's very difficult to enumerate because hard to get people to do that and very hard to get people to come to the door. But also with the reality in Saskatchewan too, that might be a unique one, with new Canadians and language issues and that type of thing. How you would meet that? So if you could elaborate on that.

**Mr. Boda:** — Well I guess if the question is how would 2015, as it currently stands within the plan, how would that be different than the last election, the answer is that it wouldn't be any different than how we did it the last election because we would be doing one last enumeration.

Over the long term though, how would that impact those communities? Well the difference between the enumeration and the permanent register is that the enumeration is done every single time and you have to access those people in order to get them on the list. Whereas the permanent register, we do it one last time and then it is constantly updated from other public sources and monitored. So as a result, once you get them on the list and they've agreed to be on the list, they stay on the list. So it's not a matter of coming back and saying hey, do you want to get on the list again?

So in our view, the quality of the list, well the permanent register leads to a better quality list over the longer run. And so those individuals, once they're on the list, they would be on the list for sure. Does that make sense?

**Mr. Forbes:** — Yes. Well I guess I'm . . . And I won't. I'll let Warren speak for us but I'm intrigued by this idea and I guess the idea is that they can actually get on any time on the voters list over the four-year cycle as opposed to that narrow one-week window. And if they've moved into the community or whatever, it's something that I think is an important exercise. And it's interesting that the member from Martensville picked up on that. I had that question around the principles too about removing your name, but I'm more interested in making sure all the names are on.

**Mr. Boda:** — In time in this context what we would hope to do was introduce online voter registration so that if you want to register, you can simply go to the Elections Saskatchewan website and add yourself to the list in that context. So it is a more, methodologically, it is a more advanced way of doing things. It takes a certain amount of skill. The other took a lot of skill but you have to have certain individuals who are capable of managing the site. But I think it's been demonstrated across Canada that this is a very effective way of managing your voters list.

**The Chair:** — Warren.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Michael and officials, for the presentation. Just to sort of chime in where my counterpart had been before, we're definitely in favour of a permanent voter registry in principle. Along with our colleagues opposite, we'd be interested to see if there is some kind of expedited plan forward, such as our enthusiasm for the permanent voter registry. But just wanted to

make that clear on the record and be interested to see the work coming back.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Thank you. We are running out of time here and I know that both caucuses wish to discuss some of these issues that we have been discussing amongst ourselves. So I think we need to come back here in the not too distant future and carry on with these two particular items for discussion. And perhaps at that point in time we'd be ready to make some decisions.

And so if there are no other questions, because I have some but I'm going to hold them in abeyance but . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, yes. So if not, I would like to thank you for coming forward, Mr. Boda, and presenting us with these items. I think the latter one especially is very interesting and the first one I know is very critical to you as well. And we will have our discussions amongst the caucuses and then come forward in the not too distant future for another meeting for decisions. Thank you.

Okay. Item no. 4, a decision item regarding the special warrant request from meeting no. 7, 2013. Item no. 5, minute no. 1893.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Yes, and I had discussions on this, Mr. Speaker, and I would just like to move the motion:

That the Board of Internal Economy minute no. 1893 regarding the special warrant funding for the Advocate For Children and Youth is rescinded.

**The Chair:** — Seconder? Mr. McCall. Any questions? If not, all in favour? Carried.

Okay. That, I believe, wraps up our meeting, although we will need to get together for another meeting shortly. Also I have a request of you for the budget meeting on Monday, January 27th, 2014. I have received confirmations of that date and meeting from Mr. Forbes, Ms. Draude, and Ms. Heppner. I wonder if the other committee members could make a commitment to that date, January 27, 2014. It's a Monday.

**An Hon. Member:** — It's like the day before my birthday so . . .

**The Chair:** — Yes, you get to spend it with your best friends.

**An Hon. Member:** — Awesome. A board meeting for my birthday. What time?

**The Chair:** — We are proposing that it would start at noon with a refreshment break, otherwise known as lunch . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And this may well carry on to 9 o'clock in the evening.

**An Hon. Member:** — Why does it take that long?

**The Chair:** — Because we have six independent officers to go through. We have the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] to go through.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — And this would hopefully get us through everybody. Right?

**The Chair:** — Everybody. Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — That's how we did it last year.

**The Chair:** — Yes.

**An Hon. Member:** — One shot.

**An Hon. Member:** — Rather than two days.

**The Chair:** — Yes. Rather than doing it over two days. Are you confirmed then, Mr. Harrison?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — I'm confirmed.

**The Chair:** — Okay. And Ms. Eagles.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Yes.

**The Chair:** — And how about you, Mr. McCall?

**Mr. McCall:** — I'm in.

**The Chair:** — You're in. Okay. Thank you very much. If I could have a motion of adjournment.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — So moved.

**The Chair:** — I don't think Ms. Eagles has moved a motion tonight, so Ms. Eagles. Seconder? Mr. Forbes. All in favour.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. This meeting is adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

[The board adjourned at 18:53.]