



# **Standing Committee on Crown Corporations**

## **Hansard Verbatim Report**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN CORPORATIONS  
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Regina Victoria

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Brad Wall  
Swift Current

The committee met at 9:34.

**The Chair:** — All right, we'll call the meeting to order. The items for consideration are the Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor, chapters 2, 5, and 6. The other chapters — I think 1, 3, 4 — we've dealt with. Mr. Martens, any comments on these chapters? There are no recommendations, but . . .

**Mr. Martens:** — No. Maybe just a few remarks, Mr. Chair. Chapter 2 deals with the Information Services Corporation and outlines the work that at that time we had intended to do at your request, the additional work related to the audit for the year ended December 2001. And we have in fact reported on that and your committee reviewed that special report in June 2002. So there are no matters remaining from this chapter that need to be dealt with.

Chapter 5 on Crown Investments Corporation includes our . . . the summary of our conclusions on our work for the year ended December 31, 2001 on several organizations that are listed on page 47 and 48, and in all cases we concluded that the financial statements of those entities were reliable. The entities had adequate rules and procedures to safeguard and control their assets and they complied with governing authorities.

The one matter that we did report was regarding providing a list of persons who received public money. And this committee had previous to this requested that CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) and our office look again at that issue, and in particular the process that this committee might use to determine what information should be provided and how it should be provided, whether publicly or in some other fashion.

This committee requested CIC and our office to look at that again and report back. And we've been working with CIC on that issue over the months. And on a couple of occasions we've had to request an extension to file that report. Initially we had planned to report in June. And subsequently we asked for an extension to October and finally a further extension until January. And we fully anticipate that the final report will be ready in January 2003.

Chapter 6 deals with the work of this committee. This chapter is similar to a chapter we prepare on the work of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, just highlighting the work of the committee and its any outstanding recommendations. So on page 59 we indicate . . . the final three paragraphs indicate sort of the work that had been done to that point and any outstanding recommendations and requests of the committee.

In the first case the committee discussed whether the law should be clarified to require CIC Crown corps to obtain order-in-council approval before purchasing or selling real property through a subsidiary. And the committee asked CIC to review its procedures and to report to the committee on the pros and cons of changing the legislation. As far as I know that report has not yet been prepared or submitted to this committee and I think the draft report before you today acknowledges that as well.

The second matter deals with the report on payee information

that I just referred to. And the final matter deals with the special reports on the Information Services Corporation that we've also reported on. So that is now completed.

That would conclude my remarks, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Wall:** — I just have a question on chapter 5 with respect to that information that will be coming from CIC, hopefully in January then, of this report that you mentioned.

Can you just be . . . maybe provide some more specifics on what is going to be reported in January? And with respect to this one bullet here regarding suppliers of goods and services who receive more than \$20,000 per year, I'm sure that what we're talking about here is individual contract . . . In the case of contracts for example, it wouldn't be individual contracts that would constitute this \$20,000 threshold but rather a cumulative?

For example, if one company's done six different bits of work at \$5,000 each, that's going to be reported to the committee because the total is 30? Is that, you know . . .

**Mr. Martens:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. What this three bullets are here, are the government's current requirements for all other government organizations to provide. And yes, those are cumulative, aggregated numbers. So the suppliers of goods and services would be an individual supplier that had been paid over the course of the year. Any amount totalling over \$20,000 would be reported as one number. And this information is currently provided for all other government organizations, departments, or other agencies or boards, Treasury Board Crown corporations.

So a recommendation to this committee initially was that Crown . . . CIC Crown corporations should either follow the government's general provisions or this committee should determine some other criteria for reporting of pay information. And we've also provided a process to go through, a flow chart on making those decisions on what information could or should be provided, and also the thresholds and that sort of thing.

And that is the report that we're currently preparing. So we're providing more detail as to the impacts of reporting payee information, what is being done in other jurisdictions, and that type of thing.

**The Chair:** — Are there any other questions for Mr. Martens?

Let me just say that the Provincial Auditor's Fall Report . . . Or let me ask. The Fall Report will be coming down shortly?

**Mr. Martens:** — That's right, Mr. Chairman. The report is at the printers right now and I think we anticipate it being tabled in about two weeks.

**The Chair:** — It would be tabled with the Legislative Assembly?

**Mr. Martens:** — If the Assembly is sitting, yes, it's tabled with the Assembly and if not, it goes to the Clerk's office at which time it's deemed to be tabled.

**The Chair:** — Okay. And would . . . I'm not clear. Would it also then be deemed to be in the possession of the committee for review purposes or . . .

**Mr. Martens:** — That is correct.

**The Chair:** — Okay. Then if there are issues with respect to these corporations — ISC (Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan), Crown Investments Corporation — and also additionally the report that's coming to us from Mr. Wendel and CIC on pay information, I think the committee may want to consider meeting again in January/February, you know, depending on what's in those reports. And if members feel the need to meet then, if there's new avenues to explore, then I think we'll want to do that.

So is there any other questions for Mr. Martens on these chapters? No.

Okay. The next item of business then is consideration of our report. Now I understand that it's normal for the committee to go in camera to discuss the recommendations.

And would someone be prepared to move that? Moved by Mr. Harper. Is that agreed? Agreed. Okay.

**The committee continued in camera.**

The committee adjourned at 10:07.

