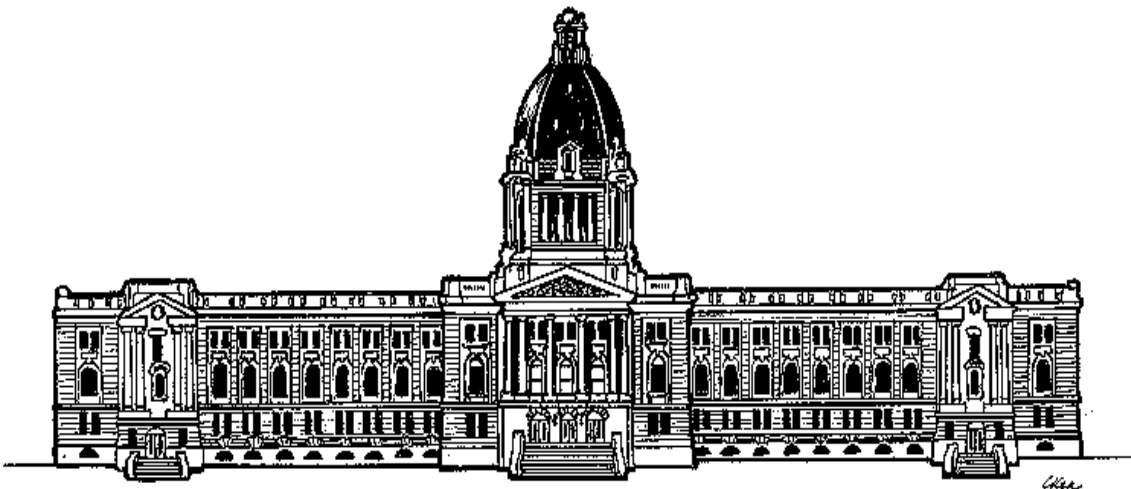




STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES
2004**

Mr. Graham Addley, Chair
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Wayne Elhard, Deputy Chair
Cypress Hills

Mr. Dan D'Autremont
Cannington

Mr. Andy Iwanchuk
Saskatoon Fairview

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Hon. Maynard Sonntag
Meadow Lake

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

The committee met at 16:00.

The Chair: — I call to order the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. The agenda has been circulated, and the first item before the committee is the consideration of Bill No. 19, The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2004. And I welcome the minister and ask him to introduce his officials.

Bill No. 19 — The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon to you and members of the committee. I would like to introduce the officials I have with me here today. On my left is Catherine Benning, who is the registrar of titles, and to my right is Kathy Hillman-Weir, who is the general counsel with the Information Services Corporation.

If I may say, Mr. Chair, this Bill to amend The Land Titles Act, 2000 was first introduced in the spring sitting earlier this year. These amendments are proposed to provide clarification and fine tuning of that relatively new land titles Act which came into force with the implementation of the new LAND (Land Titles Automated Network Development) system in June 2001. The majority of these amendments are the result of ongoing customer feedback and consultations and are included to address customer issues and requests.

These amendments will facilitate the appropriate and efficient handling of transactions by both ISC (Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan) and its customers and are largely, if not entirely, of a housekeeping nature. Thank you.

Clause 1

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister. Clause 1, short title, is there any questions? I recognize Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome to the minister and your officials. Mr. Chair, just to the minister, in your second reading speech, you spoke in length about ISC and what a good job it was doing and how cost effective it was.

And I would just like to . . . I realize we're talking about Bill 19, but I'm just . . . in the basis of what you said in your second reading comments, is how this all works out as far as the net operating loss. I have information in front of me 2000 to 2003 where the net operating loss was \$53 million, and the total short-term and long-term debt was . . . or is nearly \$63 million, for a total of \$107 million. And I was wondering in relationship to this Bill, what is ISC and the government doing concerning this tremendous debt and basically overrun in costs?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — First of all, Mr. Chair, and members of the committee, I'd like to point out that the member is in error when he states that the corporation had a net operating loss of \$53 million last year. I believe that there may have been a net operating loss of \$5.3 million. That is one-tenth of that amount.

But I do want to say that we anticipate that the corporation will be operating in the black this year and also that the corporation will pay down its debt in some considerable amount this year as well. So it has certainly turned around. It's operating in the

black. That will be revealed by the Provincial Auditor and the statements of the corporation, and it's paying down debt. And it certainly is doing a good job of providing service to people in the province. Most transactions now that go through the Information Services Corporation are completed within three calendar days, and that is a considerable improvement on the old paper-based system that we had before.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. No, I believe — you can check in *Hansard* — but I was referring to the financial performance 2000-2003. During that time there was a loss in 2000 of nearly 11 million; 2001 nearly 16 million; 2002, 21 million; and nearly 6 million, 2003; for a total of 53.711 million. And when you add that to the short-term and long-term debt over 2000 to 2003, you add another \$62.8 million, which adds up to nearly \$107 million.

Mr. Chair, the former colleague to the minister, Ms. McKinnon, had some serious reservations about SaskTel, with ISC competing with SaskTel, and other private sector companies in the e-commerce sector. Could the minister let us know what he feels about that, and is that going to be continuing? Is that going to be an issue in the future?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — While I understand the member's previous point, I was responding to the member's initial observation, which at least I heard the member say, that for one year the loss might have been 53 million. And I understand from the member's clarification that he's saying over the course of several years a loss was incurred. And the member is correct about that.

The good news is that we're turning that around and making a profit at the corporation and also paying down debt. So that situation is in the process of being repaired and turned around, and I know that the member will be glad to hear that.

In answer to the member's question, I have said on several occasions publicly that we are primarily interested in attending to the core functions of the Information Services Corporation — that is, the land titles functions, the personal property registry, and geomatics, among a few others. We are not interested in working in competition with the private sector, although there are some companies — including EDS (Electronic Data Systems) and ISM (Information Systems Management Corporation), which are private sector companies — where we do work in partnership to use some of their technology expertise.

But our main priority has been to attend to the core functions — that is, the land titles system, the personal property registry, the geomatic system, and those things that have traditionally been done by government.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the minister, there's been a number of problems in the past, and I'd like to just, if you would, address some of those and then comment. One of the problems that arose with the ISC executives jet-setting around on taxpayers' dollars looking for buyers for the system, is the ISC still looking for buyers to sell the system and where does that stand, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — No, we have not been using resources to try to sell the system. It is not our priority. Our priority has been to provide services to customers of ISC, to fix the problems that were identified some time ago in terms of service. And I'm happy to report that in fact we have done that. The level of satisfaction with the service at ISC is completely different really than it was, for example, a year ago or a year and a half ago. And most notably the lawyers, for example, are very happy with the service they are able to get through the corporation, and that service is our priority.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'm wondering of the minister or the government or officials in ISC, have you done any planning or thinking about . . . well I don't know if an expansion would be called, but the developing a base map for the province in conjunction with — say — other agencies, a federal agency, concerning setting up a base map that could include everything from power lines to natural gas lines; that would enable people to do a more of a one shop, one window shopping as far as looking for these different lines. And it could also include water as well as naturally for the oil industry, oil and gas. What I'm thinking about, if ISC developed this base map, it's something that could be sold or given to industry as far as that to encourage economic development. And it would be a map that the industry possibly could overlay their information on and keep it confidential. They wouldn't necessarily give that information out, so that they could do a better job of exploration and development.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes, when I referred to geomatics being one of the priorities of the Information Services Corporation, what we would like to do is to have a system whereby all the information available with respect to each parcel of land would be integrated so that information that SaskTel might have, for example, or SaskEnergy, TransGas, SaskPower, private pipeline companies, members of the private sector, where there was no objection to the public release of information, we would like to have a system whereby all of that information pertaining to a parcel of land is brought together. And ideally we'd like to see people be able to access that information freely on the system. And that is something that we're working towards.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. I asked a written question, and it was converted, but I was wondering if you have the answer at this time. It's concerning the lapse procedure review, and has that been done and do you have the results of that?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes. The lapse review for the fiscal year 2004-2005 has in fact been completed, and it will result in amendments to The Land Titles Regulations, 2001. And they have already been passed, actually, I'm advised. And they were gazetted in the *Saskatchewan Gazette* on November 26, 2004, just this past week. And the new process will come into effect December 6, and we will be communicating the results to the customers this week.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. Will that review be made public?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — In the sense, yes, that the results of the review are reflected by the regulations. The review essentially said that the regulations should be drafted as the amendments now have the regulations drafted, and they were drafted with the co-operation of the legal profession.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. Should the people of Saskatchewan expect another rate increase as far as fees concerning land titles?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I don't believe we have any rate increase contemplated. I can't sit here and tell you that there will never be a rate increase. I mean, you don't know what's going to happen in the future. But we don't have any plans for a rate increase at the present time.

Having said that, I would like to add that one of the things that we have been looking at in the last few rate adjustments has been a rate rebalancing, and again I don't believe there are any specific plans for a rate rebalancing. But I would want to put it on the record that one of the things that we have been trying to do is to have the fees in different areas reflect the cost of service in each area. And I'm sure that the people that work in the system must watch the various areas from time to time to see that we're doing that.

So I don't say that there won't be any change in the future, but in answer to the question, we have no specific plans to change the fees.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. I'd like to refer the minister to section 3 of the Bill. The explanation concerning the amendments clarify that an:

Official employee of the land titles registry and of the Information Services Corporation must not act in conflict with his or her duties to the land titles registry or the corporation.

I just want to ask the minister what prompted this. Has this happened in the past within ISC? If so, how many times and were there any discipline actions taken on people that broke this rule?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The corporation has found it necessary to engage the services of lawyers itself from time to time. And at the same time, it has not had the need for all of the lawyers to work for it on a full-time basis. And so, it has wanted to be able to hire lawyers to assist it but have certain rules which would also allow those lawyers to continue in the practice of law.

So the compromise that has been reached is that they may have a lawyer working part-time for the system. But to avoid conflict of interest, they would say that lawyer should not do conveyancing work; in other words, work for other clients that would involve the use of the Information Services Corporation.

So it is simply to facilitate the corporation being able to engage the services of lawyers on a part-time basis and letting those lawyers be free to practise law, but not in such a way that they would be in a conflict of interest position in the sense of both working for Information Services Corporation and using the services of the corporation. And I think you can appreciate that there could be the appearance, I suppose if you did otherwise, that if a lawyer was doing a lot of conveyancing work using Information Services Corporation but also working for the corporation, the allegation could be made at some point that they received preferential treatment. Or in the event of a dispute between parties to a land transaction, questions might arise.

And I don't believe there have been any specific problems in this area. But one of the rules, I guess, in terms of conflict of interest has always been not just to avoid conflict of interest, but to avoid even the perception or the possibility of conflict of interest. And this is what this is designed to do.

So that, for example, if I decide as a lawyer that I'm going to do some work for the Information Services Corporation as a part-time employee, then I take that job knowing that what I have to do is also limit my practice so that I don't otherwise deal with the corporation.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you. The next questions concern time-shares. Is ISC and the system able to handle time-shares up to, well, could be 52 weeks or 52 different time-shares in a year?

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The answer is that the land titles system through the Information Services Corporation can accommodate the registration of an interest in a time-share. And that has been the case under the old system. It's the case under the new system as well. And I'm advised that in terms of the manner in which that's accommodated, it hasn't really been affected or changed by the creation of the Information Services Corporation.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you very much, Minister. That's all I have.

The Chair: — Thank you, members. Members, this Bill has several, many clauses. Is leave granted to deal with it by page?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Leave has been granted.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 23 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 19, An Act to amend The Land Titles Act, 2000 and to make related amendments to other Acts.

And I would need a member to move the motion that this committee report Bill No. 19, The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment. Moved by Mr. McCall. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That is carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — That concludes consideration of Bill No. 19. Thank you, Minister, and to your officials. Have a good day.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank both of the officials for assisting us today. And I'd like to thank the members of the committee for their co-operation in moving this legislation forward. Thank you.

Mr. Weekes: — I'd also like to extend a thank you to the minister and your officials today. Thank you very much.

The Chair: — We'll take a one-minute recess. The next item before the committee is consideration of Bill 75, The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act. We'll take a brief recess while the minister assembles her officials.

Bill No. 75 — The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act

The Chair: — Order. The next item before the committee is Bill No. 75, The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act. And I would invite the minister to introduce her officials.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left is Tom Waller, president and CEO (chief executive officer) of Crown Investments Corporation; and to my right is Doug Kosloski, the general legal counsel for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan).

Clause 1

The Chair: — I recognize Mr. D'Autremont.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Madam Minister, officials. I have to say in general that we agree with this Bill. I do have a couple of questions, though, related to it.

Under clause 6 it talks about, nothing in this Act is to be construed or preventing or restricting the Crown from operating in normal operations basically so that it can sell or exchange or otherwise dispose of its property. To what extent is this going to be allowed under this particular Act?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I'll ask Mr. Waller, who is a lawyer by training, and he'll respond to your question.

Mr. Waller: — The provision is intended to allow dispositions of property in the ordinary course of business. So that in our mind would allow for the sale of equipment that was out of date.

The Bill is predicated on the definition of privatization that's found in a Saskatchewan Court of Appeal decision, and therefore it directs that a proposed sale be viewed in the context of whether that has an impact on the ability of the corporation to provide the services for which it is intended under the legislation that creates it.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So would this clause then restrict the Crown to the sale of movable assets in the sense of power poles or vehicles, or would it apply to a broader category of fixed assets as well?

Mr. Waller: — The provision would allow for the disposition of fixed assets or real property, depending upon what the situation is. It does not allow for the disposition of what might be referred to as the core assets of the corporation.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I guess it would be interesting then to find out what those core assets are. I'm not sure that they're listed in the Act here at all.

Mr. Waller: — Obviously there's been no attempt in the legislation itself to define what core assets are. The approach taken is to set out a process under which a privatization . . . that the privatization must follow. And what might constitute a core asset or a core business is a matter of fact which would be determined in each particular circumstance.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you. Who might make this determination?

Mr. Waller: — Well if . . . ultimately the courts may well be called upon to make that determination in much the same way that they were in a case called the Saskatchewan Government Insurance and Bury.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So the government itself doesn't have a particular framework in mind that they would be dealing with when it comes to the idea of core assets; that they're simply going to leave that definition for a court decision.

Mr. Waller: — Well the framework itself is defined in the legislation that creates the entity that is described in this Act, so that if you're dealing with the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, the first step would be to look at The Power Corporation Act. And in that Act it will define the purpose for which the corporation is created, the public purpose. And you would then look at the proposed disposition or sale in the context of what the statutory obligation or duty is for that corporation.

Mr. D'Autremont: — So the determination of the term core business would be related directly to the mandate then of the individual Crown, whatever that might be.

Mr. Waller: — You look at the statutory mandate of the Crown corporation.

Mr. D'Autremont: — It's not in the list here, but let's say the Grain Car Corporation. Would that . . . because their mandate would seem to be — I haven't read it for a long time — but to provide transport of grain with grain cars. Would that in . . . somehow impinge on the disposal of a single car or a portion of the fleet then?

Mr. Waller: — The approach that you would take in that circumstance would be to look at whether the disposition of a portion of the grain car fleet impinged or inhibited the corporation's ability to provide, to carry out the public function that it was created for.

So that in that case, certainly the disposition of a single car wouldn't constitute a privatization. On the other hand, if you were to dispose of a significant portion of the grain fleet so that it could no longer discharge the function for which it was created, then that in my mind would trigger a privatization. But as you point out, Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation isn't one of the Crown corporations that are listed.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Good. It had assets, though, that are readily identifiable to people in understanding how the thing would work and what's significant and what isn't, so that's why I chose something like that that . . .

Mr. Waller: — . . . grain cars to begin with and I think we've been fortunate that the vast majority of those original grain cars are still on the tracks.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Okay, thank you very much. Those were my questions.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Chair, just before we leave I want to make it clear that we are guided by the Bury versus SGI decision. We believe that it has set out in case law in the province the kind of conditions and tests that any company would have to meet in order to dispose of its assets.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 8 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, and by and with the consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 75, An Act respecting the Continued Public Ownership of Crown Corporations.

I would ask that a member move the motion that this committee report Bill No. 75, The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act, without amendment. Moved by Mr. Iwanchuk. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That is carried and that concludes the consideration of this Bill.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — I would thank the minister and her officials.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you. On behalf of the government I'd also like to thank Mr. Waller and Mr. Kosloski for all of the work that they have done on this Bill, and I thank them for being here this afternoon.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you. I'd like to also thank the minister and her officials for coming in today and providing the answers. Thank you.

The Chair: — We'll take a brief recess while the next minister brings in her officials. Thank you.

Bill No. 77 — The Public Works and Services Act

The Chair: — Order. The next item before the committee is consideration of Bill No. 77, The Public Works and Services Act. And I would invite the minister to introduce her officials.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. This afternoon I'd like to introduce to you and members of the committee the six officials that are here from Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation and Saskatchewan Justice, who are with me today.

To my left is Ms. Deb McDonald, president of Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation; and to my right is Donald Koop, vice-president of commercial services with SPMC. And

to my far left, Mr. Rick Hischebett, Crown counsel for SPMC. And also sitting behind us, here with us today, is Ms. Debbie Koshman, vice-president, corporate support services; Mr. Glynn Mitchell, SPMC's legislative officer; and Ms. Shelley Reddekopp, financial services.

Clause 1

The Chair: — I recognize Mr. Brkich.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll welcome the minister here and the officials, dealing with public works and service Act. I take it this, dealing with the employees, turning it over into a different agency, I think we asked you before if there would probably be any effect to workers and I think you had said no. But just out of curiosity, how many part-time workers do you have working for SPMC, that work on a part-time basis?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — To the member, we don't have the exact numbers with us but you would . . . we would be dealing with staff numbers of about 850 in total with Saskatchewan Property Management. And out of those, about 300 would be considered temporary or non-permanent. This would be cleaning staff within buildings would be probably the largest contingent of these.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Minister. And I imagine some of them would be hired by Wascana Authority or park in the summertime for maintenance, along like that, would they? Oh, she's shaking her head. You don't hire extra; that falls under different . . .

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Wascana would do the hiring for within the park here for summer students, and SPMC would hire summer students throughout . . . or for the summer throughout the province for work in our buildings throughout the province, but not within the park.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you for that piece of information. On the part-time staff — and I imagine you have a few maybe disabled people that work there — with this new labour legislation if it's proclaimed, on seniority hours, will that affect a lot of the part-time students that maybe want to work here through the summer and disabled people that may not . . . won't be getting extra hours or probably won't be hired on that end? Will it affect them with this?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I would say no, for an initial answer. And what I would say to you is that what this deals with is additional hours that come into a work site. And it has to do with the way scheduling is done. And that actually brings into question a number of the opportunities that may be within a workplace, depending on when your busy times are and when those additional hours are needed or where they come from.

So there's many questions that aren't answered yet in the regulations that we're establishing to have a look at to see if the additional hours piece is doable and if it's applicable. But I would say, from my understanding of scheduling and how it's done and the summer students that are hired within the park, it wouldn't have any effect on that.

Mr. Brkich: — Okay. Thank you for that answer. I would imagine that they do need some flexibility because students will only go working part-time, so some of them won't be able to work certain hours. They're also going to university, so there might be . . . may affect them some.

But like you say, that's something that . . . on your opinion, my opinion on that. And I hope that you do more consulting on that and actually get out there and talk to some of the part-time people that only want to work part-time and still want to be able to work part-time and not be out of the labour end of it.

But dealing with this particular Bill, on 850 workers, give or take a few and about 300 part-time, this Bill basically sets out . . . well new legislation. It creates a new department. And there will be no changes at all in the working status with this particular Bill?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — No. And just for clarification in your kind of comments with the question, the 300 are included within the 850. They're not over and above.

Mr. Brkich: — Yes.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Okay.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Minister. This Bill I think also, if I'm right, outlines the government's ability to export, trade land and property deemed necessary for public works, and also sets out some guidelines for public tenders. Is that any change from the legislation that was in there before dealing with them two items?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — No, it isn't.

Mr. Brkich: — Pretty well exactly the same? On this particular Bill then, it's more just of what we'd call, I guess, a housekeeping Bill is, I guess, what you're trying to tell me, just changing names?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Yes. You could put it under that category of housekeeping to move us over into a line department.

Mr. Brkich: — Okay. But yes, but from what I understand and reading it and trying to . . . (inaudible) . . . last Bill there doesn't seem to be much change to legislation. I will ask you that because I haven't really found any, but there is going to be . . . the legislation in this particular Bill won't be . . . there won't be any changes in it?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — I believe that when we see Saskatchewan Property Management, as opposed to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, we will deliver the same services that we do currently to government departments and agencies. Those services will be ongoing, and you will see us much the same as what you do now.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Minister. What necessitated the change then to change the Bill?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well if you look at back in 1986 when Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation was first

created as a Treasury Board Crown, governments and executive government didn't have the flexibility in the ways that they could operate financially. So when you look at departments now are able to amortize capital expenditures, which means that the cost of acquiring or upgrading an asset is spread out over the span of its useful lifetime. When we were formed as a Treasury Board Crown back in 1986, departments didn't have this option.

So now that we've seen recent changes in The Financial Administration Act, it now gives departments more financial flexibility. And they have . . . the more flexibility in offering services and recovering the costs of the services, so there's really . . . now that the departments have that opportunity and that flexibility, there's not the need for SPMC to provide that role that we did previously.

Mr. Brkich: — So there basically is no change except to moving it out of the Crowns. Why not just leave it there the way it was?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — With the flexibility that the departments have and with the financial changes that have been made to allow for this type of financing within government departments, there's no reason for Saskatchewan Property Management to remain a corporation and a Treasury Board Crown.

Mr. Brkich: — I guess one last question then. In the status it won't be coming up . . . Will SPMC be coming up under estimates any more into the House, or will that change?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — No. No, we will still be appearing before the committees for estimates. Just actually for a bit of a clarification though, when we were talking about the legislation, I don't know whether it would be accurate to call it strictly housekeeping. While it is, but we're also streamlining and updating the legislation that's there, so it might be a little more than what you would normally classify as housekeeping. But it's technically the same.

Mr. Brkich: — I believe at this time that's all the questions I have.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 15 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 77, An Act respecting Public Works and the Provision of Supplies and Services.

And I would ask that a member move that this committee report Bill No. 77, The Public Works and Services Act, without amendment. Moved by Mr. McCall. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — And I would thank the minister for her attendance on Bill No. 77.

Bill No. 78 — The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Repeal Act

The Chair: — And the next item before committee is consideration of Bill No. 78, The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Repeal Act.

And I see there's no new officials, so we'll get right to the Bill. Clause 1, short title. I recognize Mr. Brkich.

Clause 1

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe this Bill just is conjunction with the other Bill and there is no changes to the legislation that . . . This is a new piece of legislation isn't it, if I understand it right?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — That actually repeals the old legislation.

Mr. Brkich: — And basically you're dealing with a name change?

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Yes.

Mr. Brkich: — I guess with that I guess I have no other questions.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 78, An Act to repeal The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Act and respecting certain matters associated with that repeal.

And I would ask that a member of the committee move consideration — pardon me — move that this committee report Bill No. 78, the Saskatchewan property corporations repeal Act without amendment. Moved by Mr. Iwanchuk. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That is carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — And I would thank the minister and her officials for being here today.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much.

The Chair: — The next item before the committee, and the one we've all been waiting for, is the consideration of Bill No. 72, The Traffic Safety Act.

And Mr. Sonntag is making his way to the witness stand. We'll take a brief recess while he assembles his disassembled officials.

The committee recessed for a period of time.

Bill No. 72 — The Traffic Safety Act

The Chair: — Order. The next item before the committee is consideration of Bill No. 72, The Traffic Safety Act, and I would ask the minister to introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. First of all with me here today, first of all to my right, Jon Schubert, president of SGI. To Jon's right is Bernadette McIntyre, assistant vice-president of driver and vehicle safety services. And to my immediate left is Elizabeth Flynn, legislative advisor and . . . No. She's coming? Oh, she is, okay. Betty Weigel, manager of government and corporate affairs is supposed to be sitting back here.

Just a very brief summary. The Traffic Safety Act is a new Act that consolidates The Vehicle Administration Act, The Highway Traffic Act, and The Motor Carrier Act. Combining these Acts is a clear and more efficient way to administer the rules and regulations involving road safety, driver and vehicle licensing, and motor carrier compliance issues in Saskatchewan.

By consolidating the road safety legislation, relevant departments and stakeholders need only look to one Act where all the necessary information is centralized. It is also, we think, a more efficient approach for law enforcement, making it easier to understand and enforce the laws as they continue their important work of making Saskatchewan communities safer places to live and to work.

We'd now be very pleased to entertain any questions related to the Act.

Clause 1

The Chair: — Are there any questions? Ms. Harpauer.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the officials for coming today. This Act, I notice, has a lot of clauses in it of course that we had gone over in the spring session because one Act was passed then. We've sent the Act to a number of stakeholders, and no one has raised any concerns with what's in the Act or anything.

So the only question that I have is: can the minister identify if there's any significant changes to the three Acts that are being consolidated here, or are they just the same contents, same regulations just being consolidated?

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Just to be clear, with the consolidation of the three Acts, there's no significant change at all. But do remember that the role of the Highway Traffic Board was changed in the previous legislation. That's now being rolled into the new Act, and there's no changes at all in that regard.

Ms. Harpauer: — I thank the minister for that answer, and I have no more questions.

The Chair: — Thank you, members. Bill No. 72 is a lengthy Act with over 300 clauses. Is leave granted to deal with it by parts? Leave has been granted.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 307 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Schedule 2 agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 72, An Act respecting Traffic Safety, Vehicles and Drivers, Owners and Operators of Vehicles and making consequential amendments to other Acts.

And I would ask that a member of the committee move that Bill No. 72 . . . that this committee report Bill No. 72, The Traffic Safety Act without amendment. Ms. Morin. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That is carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

**Bill No. 73 — The Traffic Safety Consequential
Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 sur les modifications
corrélatives découlant de la loi intitulée
The Traffic Safety Act**

The Chair: — The next item before the committee is consideration of Bill No. 73, The Traffic Safety Consequential Amendment Act, 2004. And I see there's no additional officials. Clause 1, short title. No further question?

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 73, An Act to make consequential amendments to certain Acts resulting from the enactment of The Traffic Safety Act.

And I would ask that a member of the committee move that this committee report Bill No. 73, The Traffic Safety Consequential Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment. Moved by Mr. Iwanchuk. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — That concludes the work for the committee. I'd like to thank the minister and his officials for being here today.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much. And I just say as an aside, our president wants to know if this is the way legislation goes all the time. This is the first time he's ever been here.

I'd also like to thank the opposition for their very thoughtful question. Thanks very much, everyone. I appreciated the

opportunity to be here.

The Chair: — Thank you very much. Members, I just want to pass on our best wishes to Mr. Elhard as he recovers from some health issues in Cypress Hills. And I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. McCall: — So moved.

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. McCall. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That is carried. Thank you, members.

The committee adjourned at 16:58.

