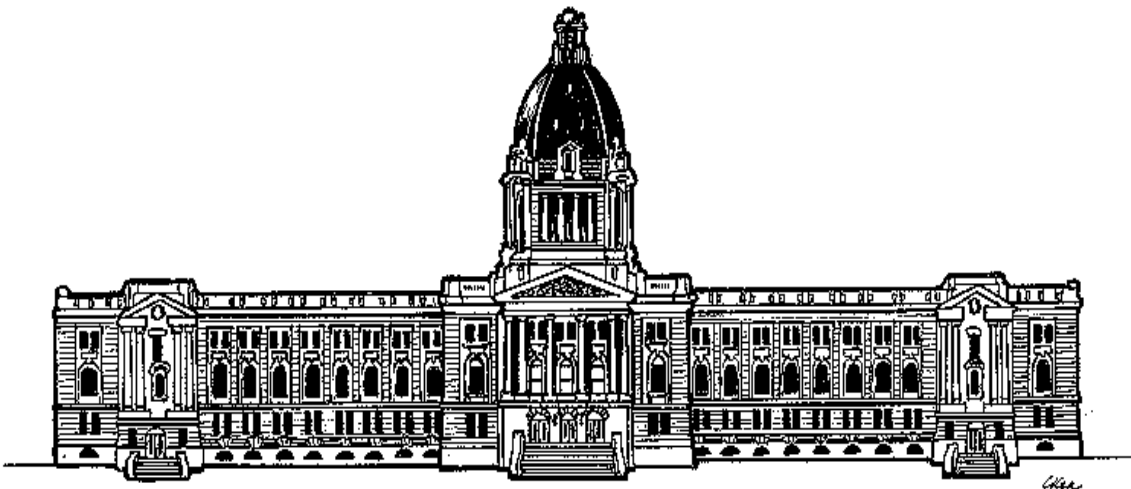




STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-sixth Legislature

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES
2007**

Mr. Dustin Duncan, Chair
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Mr. Kim Trew, Deputy Chair
Regina Coronation Park

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Martensville

Mr. Tim McMillan
Lloydminster

Mr. Jim Reiter
Rosetown-Elrose

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

Mr. Kevin Yates
Regina Dewdney

[The committee met at 09:37.]

Ms. Lang: — Good morning, committee members. As committee Clerk it is my duty to preside over the election of Chair. I will call for nominations for that position now. Mr. Trew.

Mr. Trew: — I nominate Dustin Duncan.

Ms. Lang: — Mr. Trew has nominated Mr. Duncan for the position of Chair. Any further nominations? Seeing no further nominations, I would invite one of the members to move that motion. Mr. Trew.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Madam Chair. I move:

That Dustin Duncan be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Ms. Lang: — It has been moved by Mr. Trew:

That Dustin Duncan be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

All those in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Lang: — All those opposed? I declare that the motion is carried and invite Mr. Duncan to take the Chair.

The Chair: — Good morning, committee members. At this time I would invite nominations for the position of Deputy Chair of the committee. Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — I move:

That Kim Trew be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Chair: — Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, it's been moved by Mr. Weekes:

That Kim Trew be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed. Opposed? Carried. Mr. Trew.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for the record, congratulations on your election as Chair, and I want to, for the record, say we're looking very much forward to working with you. I suspect some things will seem like they're downhill as the universe unfolds, but we're off to a very good start and wish you the very best in your chairmanship and pledge that we will be looking forward to working with you as much as we possibly can.

The Chair: — Thank you for that. Thank you. Okay our next

item of business is the establishment of a steering committee, and I would ask Mr. Yates . . .

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would move:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings, and that the membership be comprised of the Chair and the Deputy Chair; and further

That the steering committee shall meet time to time as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair, that the presence of all members of the steering committee is necessary to constitute a meeting, and that substitutions for the membership of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be permitted on the steering committee.

The Chair: — Okay. It's been moved by Mr. Yates:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings and that the membership be comprised of the Chair and the Deputy Chair; and further

That the steering committee shall meet time to time as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair, that the presence of all members of the steering committee is necessary to constitute a meeting, and that substitutions for the membership of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be permitted on the steering committee.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. Okay the next item on our agenda is authorization of broadcast of committee proceedings, and I recognize Mr. McMillan.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move:

That pursuant to rule 133(2) the committee authorize the broadcast of its public proceedings.

The Chair: — It's been moved by Mr. McMillan:

That pursuant to rule 133(2) the committee authorize the broadcast of its public proceedings.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Okay. Carried.

Okay. The next item on our agenda is consideration of supplementary estimates. We have three to consider and I advise the committee that, pursuant to rule 145(1), the supplementary estimates for the following ministries and agencies were deemed referred to the committee on December 13, 2007: vote 18, Finance; vote 74, Information Technology Office, and vote 33, Public Service Commission.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Public Service Commission
Vote 33**

Subvotes (PS01), (PS06), and (PS03)

The Chair: — Okay the first estimates item that we have is Public Service Commission. I want to welcome the Hon. Wayne Elhard, Minister for Public Service Commission and ask him to introduce his official at this time.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And before I introduce my guest this morning, I'd like to congratulate you on the appointment or election that you have just undergone to become chairman of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee. This is an important committee, and it does substantial work. And I think, on behalf of the citizens of the province, we can look forward to some comprehensive and insightful consideration in this committee.

And that's why we're here this morning. We have a brief opening statement that we'd like to make because of a changing role for the Public Service Commission. To my right is Clare Isman, the current Chair of the Public Service Commission, and I'm happy to have her here to address any questions if the need arises.

The Public Service Commission has submitted a request for supplementary funding in the amount of \$9.4 million. Supplementary funding is required to cover salary and operating expenditures flowing from cabinet decisions regarding the human resource consolidation and the human resource administration and payroll service delivery changes approved before mid-year.

On May 29, 2007, the cabinet then approved the consolidation of human resource services within executive government under the Public Service Commission. Effective July 1 this past year, human resource branch employees transferred to the PSC [Public Service Commission]. A decision was made to freeze funding in departments equivalent to what they would have expended on human resource service delivery between the months of October 1, 2007, and March 31, 2008. That freeze on funding for the balance of the year is a fact now and will allow the PSC to overexpend by a comparable amount in the dollar figure of \$7.02 million.

So what we're here basically asking is for an overexpenditure on behalf of the Public Service Commission which would be offset immediately and specifically — it would be a wash — by a human resource funding freeze in the various ministries. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Okay. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Okay. We're on to Public Service Commission, vote 33. Are there any questions at this time?

Central management services (PS01) in the amount of \$918,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Human resource information services (PS06) in the amount of 1,692,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — And human resource client services (PS03) in the amount of 6,771,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Okay. I'll ask a member to move the following motion:

That be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ended March 31, 2008, the following sum, 9,381,000.

Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — I so move.

The Chair: — It has been moved by Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Vote 33 agreed to.]

The Chair: — Okay. Thank you, Minister.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Finance
Vote 18**

Subvotes (FI05) and (FI09)

The Chair: — Okay. We'll just take a moment for the Finance minister and his officials to come forward.

Okay before us we have the Ministry of Finance and the Hon. Rod Gantfoer, Minister of Finance, is here. And I would ask the minister — welcome him to the committee — and ask him to introduce his official.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's a great pleasure for us to appear before the committee. I believe, in the reorganizing of the committees that the Legislative Assembly has entertained, that this the first time that Finance has appeared before the Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, and we are very pleased to do it. With me today is the deputy minister of Finance, Mr. Doug Matthies. We don't have an opening statement, but we stand ready to be at the disposal of the committee.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister. Before us today we have Finance, vote 18, revenue. Members, this on page 14, it's Finance, vote 18, revenue (FI05). Are there any questions? And that is in the amount of \$408,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And pensions and benefits (FI09) in the amount of 3,682,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And I would ask a member to move the motion:

That be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ended March 31, 2008, the following sum, \$4,090,000.

Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — I so move.

The Chair: — Okay, it's been moved by Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. Thank you, Minister Gantefoer, and to your official.

[Vote 18 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Information Technology Office
Vote 74**

Subvote (IT01)

The Chair: — Now our final item on the agenda, members, is Information Technology. And I see we have the minister, the Hon. Dan D'Autremont, and if he could introduce his official this morning.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Well thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me congratulate you and all of the members for being a part of this committee. This is the committee I am most familiar with, having sat on the committee for a number of years myself. So I look forward to participating with you and answering your questions.

My official with me today is Deputy Minister Don Wincherauk with the Information Technology Office. And we look forward to any questions you might have.

The Chair: — Okay committee members, on page 16 we have Information Technology Office, vote 74, central management and services (IT01). Are there any questions . . . In the amount of \$43,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And I would ask the member to move the motion:

That be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ended March 31, 2008, the following sums for Information Technology Office, \$43,000.

Mr. Reiter: — I would so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Reiter has moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Vote 74 agreed to.]

The Chair: — Carried. And I thank the minister and his official for their time this morning.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you very much.

The Chair: — Okay. Our last item of business is the adoption of a report and Mr. Reiter.

Mr. Reiter: — I would so move, Mr. Chair:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

The Chair: — Are there any questions? Seeing none . . . Okay it's been moved by Mr. Reiter:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And I want to make a note to members that they would have received a number of documents that have been tabled today, and they will have copies of all of those. And at this time I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — I move to adjourn.

The Chair: — Move to adjourn. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — And we stand adjourned. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 09:54.]