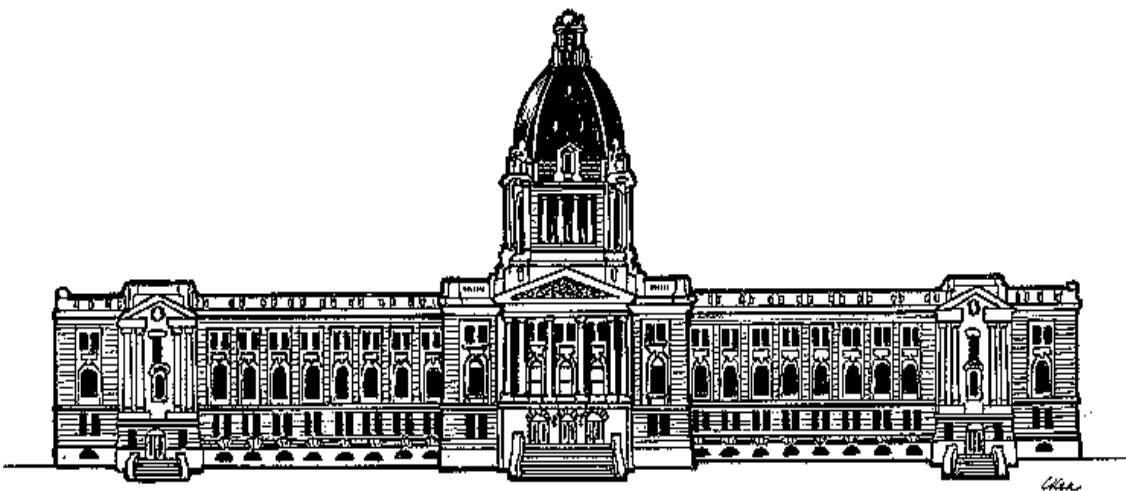




STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Mr. Delbert Kirsch, Chair
Batoche

Mr. Buckley Belanger, Deputy Chair
Athabasca

Mr. Denis Allchurch
Rosthern-Shellbrook

Mr. Fred Bradshaw
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Dan D'Autremont
Cannington

Mr. Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

[The committee met at 19:00.]

Ms. Burianyk: — Good evening members. As you are aware, the position of Chair is vacant. Therefore it's my duty as Committee Clerk to preside over the election of a new Chair. I'd just like to remind members of the process. I'll first ask for nominations. Once there are no further nominations, I will then ask a member to move a motion to have a committee member preside as Chair.

So I'll now call for nominations for the position of committee Chair. Mr. Allchurch.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you. I move:

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

Ms. Burianyk: — Okay. Mr. Allchurch has nominated Mr. Kirsch for the position of Chair. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, I now invite Mr. Allchurch to move that motion, which he has. And it's been moved by Mr. Allchurch that Mr. Kirsch be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. All in favour of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Burianyk: — Opposed? I declare the motion carried and invite Mr. Kirsch to take the chair.

Consideration of Outstanding Crown Investment Corporation Crowns Annual Reports

The Chair: — Okay. I believe we have full committee here, and there are no substitutions. So members have before them tonight's agenda and a list of documents to be tabled, document CCA 326 right through to 337.

First item on the agenda is the committee's consideration of outstanding reports, financial statements, and related documents for multiple Crown corporations. Any discussions relating to this? Mr. McCall.

Mr. McCall: — I guess, Mr. Chair, if I might. It's my understanding that there's been some discussion between the House leaders on this agenda and the work plan before us. From the opposition's standpoint, certainly we have no problem in terms of proceeding in consideration and dealing with tonight the regulations and the annual reports that precede the election.

In some of the regulations that have been presented, for example the regulations that attended the changes to legislation and the changes in the ministries, we of course would like to have a more full discussion of those regulations, with officials if possible. So as such, I don't know if the members have a particular manner in which they'd like to proceed through the pre-2007 election items. But we'd certainly entertain that at this time.

The Chair: — Mr. D'Autremont.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I think with the agreements that we have in place, we can maybe, we can move a motion that would conclude all of the pre-election reports and filings that we need to deal with if that would be acceptable.

The Chair: — That's acceptable. Any other discussion? Mr. D'Autremont.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I move:

That the committee conclude its review of the outstanding annual reports, financial statements, and related documents for the following Crown corporations: Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, Crown subsidies payee disclosure report, 2007; Saskatchewan Development Fund Corporation annual report, 2007; Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation annual report, 2007; Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation financial statements, 2007; Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund II Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund III Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund IV Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund V Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund VI Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund VII Ltd., Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund VIII Ltd.

I so move.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. D'Autremont.

We should now have the vote on this. Or a seconder. We should have a seconder. Sorry, don't need a seconder. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Opposed? Carried.

Consideration of Regulations

The Chair: — The next item on the agenda is the Law Clerk's regulation report. Committee members received a copy of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel report on regulations with no legal issues. There were five reports covering the years 2005 to 2009 inclusive, and one report for 2010 which covered the period January 1st to August 31st. Table these reports as document CCA 331/26 to CCA 336/26. I would now ask the Law Clerk, Mr. Ken Ring, to provide us with an overview of his report and answer any questions committee members may have.

Mr. Ring: — Committee members, Mr. Chair, with respect to the regulations in the documents filed with you, those are regulations that were reviewed in my office by myself, two assistants that I had, Stephen Jordan and Mr. Ron Samways, who assists me in reviewing the bylaws.

On the lists that are provided to you for those years, those are regulations in which I found no legal issues to report to the committee. I did not write letters to the ministers with respect to any of those regulations.

I would like to draw the committee members' attention to the fact that under the new rules with the policy field committees, members may raise issues with respect to the policy behind the regulation, but that is not a discussion or an area that I will concern myself with, as it's outside my jurisdiction.

I look at them purely from a legal point of view under rule 145(2) of the rules whether there's . . . [inaudible] . . . whether they have been promulgated properly, and those types of issues. So this gives the committee members an idea of which regulations are properly before the committee if they would like to bring any of those forward.

The Chair: — Are there any questions? Being there are no questions, the committee should consider each report at a time as per the agenda. Report 2005-2006 and parts of 2007. After each report has been discussed and there are no further questions, committee members, can we agree that we have concluded consideration of the Law Clerk's report on the 2005 regulations, no legal issues?

An Hon. Member: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Committee members, can we also agree to have concluded consideration on the Law Clerk's report on the 2006 regulations?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agree. And committee members, can we also agree that we have concluded consideration on the Law Clerk's report on the 2007 regulations?

Mr. McCall: — Again as itemized here, that's not the conclusive list of 2007 regulations.

The Chair: — That's per the agenda, yes.

Mr. McCall: — Per the agenda. If you could clarify that.

The Chair: — Per the agenda, yes, so we'll clarify that.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you.

The Chair: — You are welcome. Mr. Ring has another report to present.

Mr. Ring: — Yes. Committee members, this report, it's two pages and it's organized into a . . . Stacey is just distributing them now. It's organized into groups of areas with respect to the regulations, and I'll speak to each of the areas generally so committee members will have an idea of what they're looking at.

You see there the first item is the first five regulations. The files were closed and you see the years on the right-hand side as well as the title of the Act and the title of the regulation on the left-hand side.

The second set of regulations are regulations that we are awaiting a response from by either a Crown corporation or a government ministry. There are three of those and all three fall under alcohol and gaming regulations. One falls under *The*

Government Organization Act, The Snowmobile Act, and The Traffic Safety Act.

With respect to these regulations, we have written a letter to the ministry or the department and have not yet received a response, or we have received a response and I had a follow-up correspondence with the ministry or corporation and have not yet received a response to that correspondence. None of these are what I would call requiring immediate assistance at this time. They have not been outstanding for a significant amount of time.

The third box that just contains two regulations are . . . And it's entitled regulations files to monitor for corrections/changes. Those two, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (General) Regulations* and *The Condominium Property Amendment Regulations*, we have received a commitment by the ministry or the Crown corporation to make the changes that we suggested. They were minor editorial changes. That's just the nature of the beast when you're drafting legislation. And when something like that comes to my attention, I think it only fair that I bring it to the ministry's or the corporation's attention. So they have committed to make the changes that we suggested the next time those regulations come up for amendment.

And the last group are the professional association bylaws. We have written the three groups — the architects, the chartered accountants, and the Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians — and we're awaiting response from those three organizations. None of those are outstanding and require immediate assistance. Thank you.

The Chair: — Are there any questions on that?

Mr. McCall: — I guess, Mr. Chair, if I could. Is there any sort of characterization that you might be able to provide as to the reason on the holdup for response, Mr. Ring? Or is it just a variety of factors?

Mr. Ring: — I would say, Mr. McCall, it's a variety of factors depending on the ministry or the corporation. I think with the professional associations, they don't have . . . It's not like a ministry or Crown corporation, so they don't have necessarily that much . . . a large administrative staff to be able to be dealing with something like that.

And the professional association bylaws mainly are editorial, grammatical cross-references that don't seem to be correct. But we're not sure what the cross-reference should be, so we've asked them to look into that. And generally those letters say, the next time you're amending the bylaws you may wish to consider these areas for changes. And so I think that's why we wouldn't have received a response to those letters.

Mr. McCall: — In particular, the response that has awaited around the changes to *The Government Organization Act* concerning the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. What was the nature of the concern that you'd flagged there, Mr. Ring?

Mr. Ring: — That one, I'd need to consult the file. And so if I could just have a few minutes, I'll look at the file.

Mr. McCall: — Certainly.

[19:15]

Mr. Ring: — Committee members, having reviewed the file, the issue there was under the regulations for the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. The reference in the regulations made reference to the *Young Offenders Act* Canada which was repealed and replaced by the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* Canada in 2002. So that is a suggestion for a change in the title of the federal Act that I'm suggesting they make so that it is abundantly clear, and anyone who's using the regulations who may consult them over the Internet will be able to find the proper or the new title for the legislation it currently deals with, with offenders under the age of 18 years of age.

So that really is a readability for users issue. Citing the former Act is covered off by *The Interpretation Act, 1995*, but that is really a technical legal argument and someone reading them who doesn't know that may look at the *Young Offenders Act* and say it doesn't apply any more; it was repealed. And that's not the case. So this really is a question of readability for the general public.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Ring.

The Chair: — Any other questions? Oh, Mr. Allchurch.

Mr. Allchurch: — Under regulation files waiting response, *The Snowmobile Act*, I see it was *The Snowmobile Amendment Regulations, 2006*.

Mr. Ring: — Mr. Allchurch, with respect to these regulations, the letter that went out concerned clause 6.9(4)(b). And the regulation mentioned, "may invest any moneys in the fund that is not presently required for the purposes of the fund . . ."

Our suggestion was that for grammatical correctness, perhaps "that is" could be removed from the clause and it could be amended to say, "may invest any moneys in the fund not presently required for the purposes of the fund . . ." It was a grammatical change again, but when something like that comes to my attention when I'm reading through the regulations, it's very difficult for me then to not raise that with the ministry. Thank you.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you.

The Chair: — Are there any other questions? If not, we can conclude discussion on those. Agreed? Carried. And if there's no other business, can we have a motion of adjournment? Mr. Bradshaw.

This meeting is now adjourned. Thank you, one and all.

[The committee adjourned at 19:18.]