

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

October 21, 2004

MINUTE NO. 11

10:00 a.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Mr. Addley in the Chair and Members D'Autremont, Elhard, Iwanchuk, McCall, Toth*, Weekes and Yates*.

Substituting Member

Mr. Yates for Mr. Sonntag

Mr. Toth for Mr. Weekes (for consideration of Investment Saskatchewan)

Provincial Auditor's Office

Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Andrew Martens, Principal

Appointed Auditor

Bruce Willis, KPMG

2. The following documents were tabled:

CCA 76/25 Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan: Addendum to CCA 71/25 - SaskEnergy Inc. - TransGas Limited (page 7).

CCA 77/25 Provincial Auditor: Report to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies Regarding Disclosure of payee information, October 2004.

CCA 78/25 SaskTel: SaskTel's investment in Retx, Inc. (Retx) – (significant transaction).

3. It was moved by Mr. Elhard:

That the Minister responsible for each crown corporation attend all meetings of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies when the crown corporation or agency for which the Minister is responsible is being considered by the standing committee.

A debate arising, the motion was negatived.

4. A point of order was raised by Mr. Yates, stating that it was not in order for the Member to use the term "purposely misled" as it is unparliamentary and imputes motive. The chair reserved his ruling.
5. The committee resumed consideration of Crown Investments Corporation 2003 Annual Report and related documents. The following Crown Investments Corporation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Pat Atkinson, Minister

Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister to the Premier

Witnesses (continued)

Tom Waller, President and CEO
Blair Swystun, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Doug Kosloski, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Kathy Buitenhuis, Acting Senior Vice-President, Crown Corporation Services
John Amundson, Corporate Controller
Karen Schmidt, Acting Executive Director, Communications

6. The following document was tabled:

CCA 79/25 Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan: Crown Sector Strategic Plan.

7. The committee adjourned its consideration of the annual report of Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan.
8. The chair ruled that the point of order raised by Mr. Yates earlier today in regards to the use of unparliamentary language was well taken and advised Members that a Member cannot do indirectly what is not permitted directly and cautioned Members that the use of the term “purposely misled” is unparliamentary.
9. The committee recessed from 12:01 p.m. to 1:03 p.m.
10. It was moved by Mr. D’Autremont:

That the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies summon Mr. Fred Zinghan of the law firm Olive Waller Zinghan & Waller, and any other lawyers of that law firm, as well as any previous lawyers and or law firms related to Spudco and the subsequent law suit to answer questions and provide evidence required by this committee.

A debate arising, it was moved by Mr. Yates:

That this debate be now adjourned.

11. It was moved by Mr. Elhard:

That the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies call Fred Zinkhan of the law firm Olive Waller Zinkhan & Waller to appear before the committee to answer questions with regard to the Spudco law suit.

The Chair ruled the proposed motion of Mr. Elhard out of order because it was the same question as another motion currently before the committee.

12. It was moved by Mr. Elhard:

That the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies recommend to the Legislature that a full and independent public inquiry pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act* be held into the actions of the government with regard to the failure of Spudco that resulted in the loss of \$28 million dollars and subsequently the payment of an additional \$7.9 million to settle a law suit related to the Spudco affair.

A debate arising, it was moved by Mr. Yates:

That this debate be now adjourned.

13. The Committee initiated its consideration of the annual report and related documents of Investment Saskatchewan for the year ending December 31, 2003.
14. Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Martens provided an overview of the Provincial Auditor's review of the annual reports and financial statements.
15. The following Investment Saskatchewan Minister and officials appeared before the committee made an opening statement and answered questions:

Witnesses

Hon. Eric Cline, Minister
Janet Wightman, President & CEO
Laurie Powers, Chief Financial Officer
Heather Forbes, Director, Investments
Guy Roy, Director, Investments
Heather Collins, Manager, Investments
Ladette Fuchs, Manager, Corporate Services

16. The following document was tabled:

CCA 80/25 Investment Saskatchewan: PowerPoint presentation to Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, October 21, 2004.

17. The committee recessed from 2:31 to 2:50 p.m.
18. The committee resumed its consideration of the annual report and related documents of Investment Saskatchewan.
19. It was moved by Mr. Elhard:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

20. The committee adjourned at 3:58 p.m. until Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Iris Lang
Committee Clerk

Graham Addley
Committee Chair