



Government
of
Saskatchewan

From: Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister
Energy and Resources

Date: August 27, 2019

Phone: 306-787-0804

To: Ms. Colleen Young
Chair
Standing Committee on the Economy

Fax: 306-787-2009

Re: Questions from Energy and Resources 2019-20 Estimates

I am writing to you today to provide a list of questions and answers from the Ministry of Energy and Resources consideration of 2019-20 Estimates on April 15, 2019.

1. As per page 760 of the Economy Committee Hansard, what was the length and value of the agreement of the North West Communities Wood Products Ltd. (NWCWP) Funding Agreement?
 - The Government of Saskatchewan entered into a 15-year agreement effective Aug 1, 2012 to April 30, 2027. The value of this agreement is \$365,000 annually with a one-time initial payment of \$150,000.
2. As per page 760 of the Economy Committee Hansard, the NWCWP was receiving an annual operating grant of \$325,000 per year, do they still receive these funds?
 - As noted above, NWCWP receives annual funding of \$365,000. Below is a historical breakdown of the operating grant from the Provincial Government from 1999 to 2005. There was no annual operating grant given to the NWC prior to the 15-year agreement mentioned above.

Government of Saskatchewan Funding to NWC 1999-2005	
1999-00	6,250.00
2002-03	239,250.00
01-May-2003	337,500.00
05-Nov-2003	112,500.00
31-Mar-2004	28,500.00
31-Mar-2004	675.00
12-Jul-2004	112,500.00
14-Oct-2004	56,250.00
21-Feb-2005	56,250.00
05-Oct-2005	50,000.00
Total	999,675.00

3. As per page 763 of the Economy Committee Hansard, of the 8,400 direct and indirect jobs in the forestry sector, what is the breakdown of First Nations and Metis employees in the workforce?
 - Approximately 31% of the workforce in the forestry sector is Indigenous. Data to differentiate between First Nations and Metis employees is not available.
4. As per page 763 of the Economy Committee Hansard, what frequency are payments made on the allocation made for the NWCWP agreement?
 - Payments are made semi-annually to the NWCWP.
5. As per page 765 of the Economy Committee Hansard, what are the number of jobs in the potash sector eligible for the potash corporate office allowance?
 - The Corporate Office Allowance is a deduction for legitimate corporate expenses in the calculation of profit used in the Potash Profit Tax calculations. There is no payment from government to industry. The structure was put in place to support corporate office job growth and to acknowledge corporate expenses in the profit calculations. Currently, approximately 800 jobs are eligible for the allowance.
6. As per page 769 of the Economy Committee Hansard, how many hearings did the Surface Rights Board hear last year, and how does it compare to years previous?
 - The past three years are listed below, which comprise the total number of hearings held by the Surface Rights Board of Arbitration.


Surface Rights Board of Arbitration			
	2018	2017	2016
Total Hearings Held	55	11	48

7. As per page 769 of the Economy Committee Hansard, what was the value of fines issued last year, compared to years past?

The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act (Act) does not provide the Surface Rights Board of Arbitration with authority to issue fines or penalties in relation to matters under its jurisdiction. The Act gives the Board's authority to:

- Determine compensation payable by an operator to the surface owner or occupant for the acquisition of surface rights for wells, facilities, flowlines and service lines;
- Periodically review and adjust annual compensation payable to surface owner or occupant under the terms of a surface lease agreement or previous board order;
- Award compensation for losses, damages or costs incurred by surface owners or occupants resulting from the activities of an operator; and
- Determine compensation payable by an operator to a land owner or occupant where land cannot be restored to its former state after abandonment.

Sincerely,



Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources

cc: Hon. Dustin Duncan, Minister of Environment
Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade and Export Development