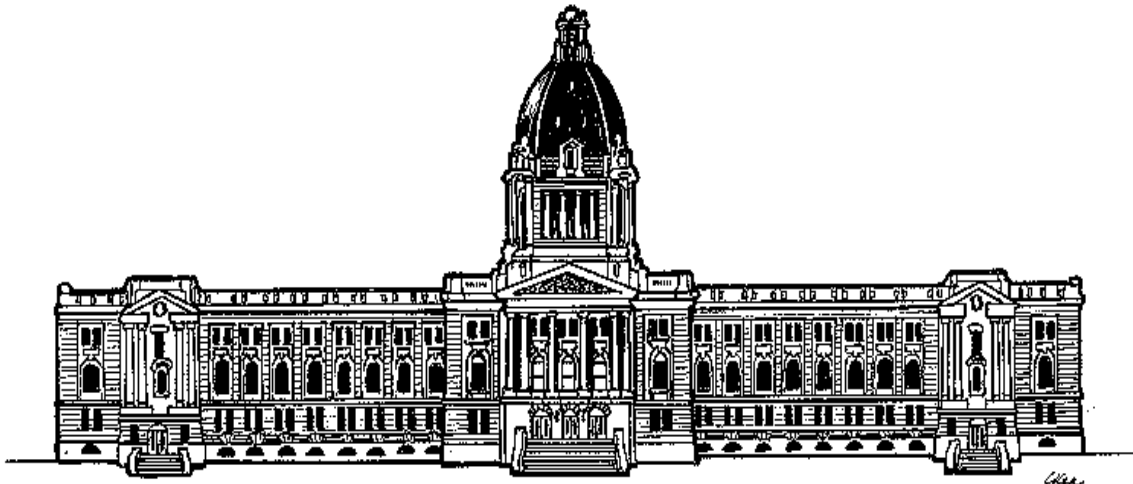




STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair
Cannington

Mr. Warren McCall, Deputy Chair
Regina Elphinstone-Centre

Mr. David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Meadow Lake

Mr. Greg Ottenbreit
Yorkton

Mr. Doyle Vermette
Cumberland

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

Mr. Gordon Wyant
Saskatoon Northwest

[The committee met at 14:46.]

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much. Welcome to the Standing Committee on House Services. As Deputy Chair, it's my duty to sit in the Chair as the Speaker is presiding over the presentation of the estimates under consideration in front of the committee today. My name is Warren McCall. I'm the Opposition House Leader and member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre. We're joined today by committee members, Minister Harrison, Randy Weekes, Gord Wyant, Greg Ottenbreit, and on the opposition side we've got David Forbes and Doyle Vermette. And of course, Mr. Speaker, and various officials that we'll be getting into presently.

On the agenda for today, we're considering the estimates for the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Good to see you today, Mr. Commissioner. For the Provincial Auditor, I believe I saw the Provincial Auditor here. The Legislative Assembly, Mr. Clerk and officials, and the adjoining estimates for the Legislative Assembly and the officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Under consideration at the end of the meeting, if we could go through the rotation with the independent officers and then we'll vote the estimates under consideration at the end of the meeting, which I believe is scheduled for about 3:45. So roughly 20 minutes for each of the independent officers under consideration today. But we have vote 34, Chief Electoral Officer; vote 76, Children's Advocate; vote 57, Conflict of Interest Commissioner; vote 55, Information and Privacy Commissioner; vote 21, Legislative Assembly; vote 56, Ombudsman; and vote 28, for the Provincial Auditor.

We also have some supplementary estimates for consideration under rule 138(5): vote 21, Legislative Assembly. And another round of supplementary estimates: vote 34, Chief Electoral Officer; vote 76, Children's Advocate; vote 55, Information and Privacy Commissioner, which had been referred to the committee earlier on December 12th, 2011. With that let's take it away, and I'll turn the floor over to Mr. Speaker for opening remarks and introduction of officials.

**General Revenue Fund
Information and Privacy Commissioner
Vote 55**

Subvote (IP01)

The Speaker: — Thank you very much. It's a privilege to be here today before the House Services Committee to present the estimates for the Legislative Assembly and for the independent officers. Initially we will be starting off with Mr. Gary Dickson, the Privacy Commissioner. And I don't have a prepared statement so I will turn it over to Gary.

Mr. Dickson: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, good afternoon, and members of the committee. With me I have Diane Aldridge, immediately to my right. Diane is the director of compliance in what we refer to as the OIPC, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. And Pam Scott is our director of operations. She's seated immediately behind Ms. Aldridge.

My understanding is that the committee would prefer not to have opening statements. So I'm certainly available to respond to any questions unless the committee instructs me otherwise. Mr. Chairman, you have other presentations to deal with, and I expect you may wish to get directly to the questions.

The Deputy Chair: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Commissioner. And I guess by way of explanation, of course there's a fair amount of work that's done with the Board of Internal Economy in consideration of the estimates under consideration here today. So some of it is redundant, but this is part of our process. And we'd open the floor now to questions from members for the commissioner. The Chair recognizes the member from Saskatoon Centre, David Forbes.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. I just have a few questions. I'm just curious if you can give us an update on the case last year where there were 100,000 files of private health information. That was in the news a lot. What's the update on that?

Mr. Dickson: — Sure, Mr. Forbes. Happy to give you an update. We completed our report . . . I should back up and say we seized the records, and there were over 180,000 pieces of personal health information that included about 2,700 full patient files. We completed our investigation, issued our report — that would have been I think close to 100 pages long — in July of '11. And one of our recommendations . . . There were a couple of recommendations. One of them was to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. We thought that the matter was sufficiently serious, sufficiently egregious that it warranted careful consideration by the Minister of Justice in terms of possibly invoking the offence provision which is available under HIPA [*The Health Information Protection Act*]. To my knowledge, no decision's been made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. So that's the one outstanding matter.

In addition we had provided specific recommendations for notification to patients. One of the things . . . It's not a statutory requirement, but it's in our view a pretty standard best practice that when there's been a breach like this, you have a lot of people anxious: is my health information at risk? What happened to it? How did this happen?

So what we've recommended to the trustee, and that would be the Albert Park Family Medical Centre and the owner, physician Dr. Teik Im Ooi, we'd recommended a process of notification to those . . . Where there were full patient files for approximately 2,800 people, they should receive notification. And we understood that the physician was prepared to undertake that, and then we talked about some form of public notice, newspaper advertisement or whatever, to what may be many, many thousands of other people who may be affected.

My understanding is that a warrant was executed to seize all of the boxes when we completed our investigation. This was at the behest of Government Services and the Ministry of Justice. And I think those records are still in the custody of the Government Services ministry or Justice while they're doing their assessment about a potential prosecution.

I don't know exactly what arrangements have been made to be

able to access the information so notice could go out. We're anxious that there be appropriate notification to patients, but to some extent we're *functus*. Once we issue our report and recommendations under our legislation, we really have no further role. And so it's the Minister of Justice will do what he and his ministry decide appropriate. It's entirely up to the trustee to accept some, all, or none of our recommendations. But our understanding was that they were quite interested in providing notification and I think there's just this hiccup with getting access to the files and the addresses. Sorry to be so wordy, but that brings us up I think to this point.

Mr. Forbes: — Appreciate it. I haven't read the report so it saves me . . . That update's very timely so I appreciate your update and I think you had a couple of . . . My colleague had a couple of questions here.

Mr. Vermette: — I guess just looking at the backlog that you would have as the commissioners in your office, the files in front of you, can you give us an update on that?

Mr. Dickson: — Sure. We have 151 investigations and privacy investigations in the queue in our office. We've actually been quite successful in the last fiscal year, '11-12. We've closed 203 files and only had to issue about 10 reports. So the others were closed by way of . . . In one case it was the death of a frequent requester. In other cases people decided they no longer want the information and that kind of thing. So I'd have to say this: the backlog still continues to pose the number one challenge for my office. We still have too many people waiting simply too long to have this resolved.

To those of you who are not members of the board, you may not have heard me say before, I've been working in this area about 20 years. And my assessment of what would be a reasonable time for a citizen to wait from the time they come to our office to engage our role should be about five months and, say, 80 per cent of all the reviews of access denial, about 60 per cent of all privacy investigations should be completed within that five-month period. Our average length of time to close a file in fact has been 15 months, so obviously much longer than the five months I'm suggesting is a target. And I should just say in terms of the five months, I mean this is something I've talked about since I got here eight years ago, and my understanding has been that the board was comfortable with that target and thought that that was an appropriate target. So we're still a long way, a long way from achieving it. Am I being responsive to your question?

Mr. Vermette: — Yes. No, that's exactly where I'm at. I've got a few more to go along that line.

Mr. Dickson: — Sure.

Mr. Vermette: — And I guess, and talking about that, do you know if it has increased or decreased over the last few years as far as the backlog? Can you give me an idea on that?

Mr. Dickson: — Well we've made I think some pretty good progress on the backlog. It certainly, it continues to get better year over year. And I think even though I've been singularly unsuccessful in persuading the board for I think five years in a row to get a fourth investigator, the three investigators we've

got now, we have just the strongest team I've ever seen in our office, so what that means . . . And we get better year over year; we get better at doing this. So we've been able to significantly increase the number of files we've closed.

But in terms of active case files, if we have 151 now, last year it was 277. But I'd caution you. Sometimes we get frequent requesters, so you have one individual who will make a significant number of requests. And in the time I've been here, I can think of maybe half a dozen people who would make these requests. And they have a right to do it and most times it's not frivolous and vexatious. They see this as an important part of citizenship, making these requests. So we had one a year ago, one quite frequent requester who certainly would have made a number of requests and that person is now deceased. So you know, the caseload goes up and down.

I just say this, that the caseload now is to a point where we see some light at the end of the tunnel. For most of the past eight years, we've been in a sprint just trying to keep up with what's been a fairly crazy volume of incoming demands for service. Where we are with 151 files, what's exciting is we see some prospect of being able to move significantly closer to that goal of five months I'd mentioned before.

We have a lot of statistics, so if I'm not giving you what you're looking for, Mr. Vermette, please say so.

[15:00]

Mr. Vermette: — No, you are, and I appreciate that. Now go back to this, and I guess you've made some comments about a fourth investigator or assistant to assist in I guess dealing with the caseload and the backlog that you're doing. And is there anything that the province can do to help your . . . I guess with the job that you're being asked to do, is there anything that you could suggest or recommend that the province could do to assist you in making sure that the people of the province get served in a timely manner?

Mr. Dickson: — Well sure. We're the oversight office, but if you think we kind of sit on top of . . . We're the tip of the iceberg. Most access requests get resolved directly by dealing with a school division, a regional health authority, a Crown, a ministry, and so to the extent that those organizations do a better job of being responsive and prompt and transparent to citizens, that reduced the kind of material that ends up . . . We're kind of the place people go to when they've exhausted efforts to try and get information either informally or by dealing directly with the government body.

In my last annual report, a major theme was something I've called open government, open data. And this is a really exciting development. The city of Regina has been developing it. It's really saying, and I say this on the basis of my experience not just in Saskatchewan but other provinces as well, FOIP [freedom of information and protection of privacy], or freedom of information, is the most expensive, the most cumbersome, the most time-intensive way anybody could imagine to provide citizens with information about their public bodies.

So if there's a better way of responding to that, we can actually reduce the number of requests that come to an office like mine.

Open government, open data is something that's been developed now in the UK [United Kingdom] and the United States, at the federal level, Australia and New Zealand, even Mexico. And it's really about taking a lot of government data sets, putting them on a free website where people can go and access this information. It's also a great boost to the economy because people are then able to take that information and mash it with other data and create new products and new services.

Open government is also about if somebody has made an access request to the Ministry of Justice, for example for a report, why should dozens of other people not knowing that that's already been released have to go through the same process of making a formal access request waiting for the time and so on? What would help a lot was once ministries responded to an access request, make it publicly available, put it on a website so anybody can go in and access it without having to go through repeated access requests.

So open government, open data, this was a big theme in my last annual report. The province of British Columbia, interestingly, is the only province in Canada that's embraced it. The new Premier, Christy Clark, made it one of her top three policy initiatives. The federal government in February of '11 made a big commitment to open government. And in fact they've now got something like, I think, 200 data sets which are publicly available.

So this is kind of a long response. But if the Premier or the Minister of Justice were asking the same question, I'd be saying, let's embrace open government. Let's look at this. Let's see how we can be more transparent than we are now. Let's make it easier for citizens to get this kind of information. And you're going to reduce dramatically the number of access, there will still be some access requests.

There will be still thorny issues around cabinet confidences, solicitor-client privilege, trade secrets, and things like that. But a lot of this information that's now caught up in FOIP processes could be better handled, and I think in 2012, you know, other people are there. And I think we've got lots of citizens in this province that would want to see that kind of access to data.

Mr. Vermette: — Okay. At this time, Mr. Chair, I just want to say thanks to the commissioner for giving the information that's been asked and giving us some background information that I know we wanted to know how the commission is doing. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, committee members. I guess with that, we'll proceed to the vote on the estimates before us, starting with vote 55, Information and Privacy Commissioner, page 145 in the document. Information and Privacy Commissioner, subvote (IP01) in the amount of \$1,065,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2013, the following sums for

Information and Privacy Commissioner in the amount of \$1,065,000.

Do we have any volunteers? Don't all rush at once.

Mr. Weekes: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — And the motion is carried.

Mr. Dickson: — Thanks very much, members and Mr. Chairman. Thanks very much.

The Deputy Chair: — Just before you head out there, Mr. Commissioner, thank you very much on behalf of the committee.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Information and Privacy Commissioner
Vote 55**

The Deputy Chair: — Okay. We now have supplementary estimates before us for the Information and Privacy Commissioner, vote 55, appearing on page 15 of the relevant document. Information and Privacy Commissioner, subvote (IP01) in the amount of \$60,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Information and Privacy Commissioner, vote 55, \$60,000. I'll now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Therefore be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Information and Privacy Commissioner in the amount of \$60,000.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Mr. Ottenbreit. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Provincial Auditor
Vote 28**

Subvote (PA01)

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, committee members, for the patience. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are now going to move to consideration of estimates for the Provincial Auditor. If you'd care to do the introductions.

The Speaker: — Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. With us

today we have Bonnie Lysyk, the Provincial Auditor. And I will turn it over to Bonnie and she can introduce her staff.

Ms. Lysyk: — Thank you. Mr. Chair, I have with me here today Angèle Borys. Angèle is our chief operating officer and a deputy provincial auditor in our office. And behind me, we have Heather Tomlin, and Heather is our office manager.

I do have a presentation. Having said that, I know in the essence of time, I can put it aside and go right directly to questions, whatever your preference is.

The Deputy Chair: — The committee members' choice.

Mr. Forbes: — We don't have many questions. So if you're, I'd be very interested to hear . . . If it's a short presentation, I'd be very . . .

Ms. Lysyk: — It's about seven minutes.

Mr. Forbes: — Seven minutes, I think we can afford that.

The Deputy Chair: — That sounds great. Thank you, Madam Provincial Auditor.

Ms. Lysyk: — All right, thank you. And I would like to thank the committee for inviting us here today to meet with you. My office's business and financial plan was tabled with the Legislative Assembly on January 17th, 2012 and is available on our website. The Legislative Assembly referred it to the Public Accounts Committee, and the plan was considered and accepted by the Public Accounts Committee on January 31st, 2012.

As the Assembly's auditor, my role is to help the Assembly hold the government accountable for its performance. As an office, we do this by independently auditing over 270 government agencies every year and reporting our results and recommendations on government agencies to the Legislative Assembly. Our recommendations focus on improving public sector operations and on improving performance information. We assist the Public Accounts Committee and the Crown and Central Agencies Committee in their review of the government's performance.

My office is comprised of about 60 people, mainly professional accountants with expertise in specialty areas such as pensions, insurance, information technology, education, and health. As accounting and auditing standards continue to change, our staff must maintain expert subject knowledge in these accounting areas. We also employ a lawyer, a professional internal auditor, a health care professional, an individual with a master's in political science, and administrative assistants. Historically about five to six professionals leave the office every year. A number of recent graduates from both the university in Regina and the University of Saskatchewan are hired each year, and they article with our office to obtain their accounting designation.

Our business and financial plan is comprehensive. In addition to our budget request, it contains information about our office, about our annual work plan, and includes several detailed schedules regarding our expenditures. This business and financial plan was prepared using the reporting principles

recommended by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. It sets out the work required to discharge our responsibility under *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

During 2011 my office went through a strategic planning exercise that resulted in the new strategic plan and the development of an updated mission and vision, an organization chart contained in the tabled document, the business and financial plan. The budget for my office is a reflection of our annual work plan aligned with our strategic plan, and that's explained on pages 51 to 68 of the business plan.

Key to the document is that it must also contain an audit opinion. On page 26 of the business and financial plan, on our financial forecast by the audit firm Virtus Group LLP, Virtus Group LLP has reported that our financial forecast is consistent with and reasonable in relation to our annual work plan and our strategic plan that highlights our goals, objectives, and strategies. And the annual forecast has been provided to the Public Accounts Committee for the last 14 years in response to a 1999 request of the Board of Internal Economy to provide it with independent advice to help assess the office's request for resources.

Consistent with prior years, for 2012 and '13 I requested two appropriations. Our first appropriation was set for \$7.816 million, as compared to \$7.620 million requested in 2011 and '12. This request reflects an increase of \$196,000 from the previous year, and this increase is attributable to three items.

One, an increase in our annual office lease cost of \$130,000. The lease for the office expired on March 31st, 2012. After considering our options, we entered into negotiations with our existing landlord and extended our lease for 10 more years. The increase in annual lease cost is a reflection of the real estate market in Regina. An amount of 123,000 for a general salary increase of 2 per cent at April 1st, 2012 was requested, consistent with the increase authorized by the government for its employees.

And thirdly, a decrease of 57,000 represents the net impact of agencies created and wound up since our office's last business and financial plan. We intend to manage our resources within this budget, taking into account the competitive employment market for our graduated CAs [chartered accountant] and the continuing impact of changes and accounting auditing standards on our work. We plan to manage the competitive salary market impact on our office turnover by continuing to provide our employees with training opportunities and a positive work environment.

As mentioned previously, Virtus Group has provided assurance that our requests for resources is reasonable to carry out our business plan, and we used a risk-based model to set priorities and allocate resources for a work plan. It's based on what we know about the government's 2012 revenues and spending; the number of government agencies; the state of the records, systems, practices, personnel, and the government's use of appointed auditors, as well as external forces and professional standards as at December 31st, 2011.

Legislators also need to know how alternative levels of funding for our office would affect our ability to discharge our statutory

responsibilities, and this information is presented on page 9 and 10 of the business plan.

For the second appropriation, we requested a contingency for unforeseen expenses of \$516,000, reflecting a \$2,000 increase from the prior years amount of \$514,000. This contingency has been consistently calculated as one month's total salary and benefit expense of the office, and this contingency appropriation is required under the provincial audit Act. If this contingency was used, I would report as to why we used the appropriation and the amount we used in our 2013 operations report.

Finally, I will like to note that your approval of the amounts in the estimates will allow me to discharge my duties to the Legislative Assembly. And thank you, and if you have any questions, we will be willing to answer them.

[15:15]

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Ms. Lysyk. I should note for the record that we've been joined by Danielle Chartier, member for Saskatoon Riversdale, subbing in for Doyle Vermette at this point. But welcome, Ms. Chartier.

And back to the matter at hand. Thank you very much for those remarks. And I'd open the floor to questions from the members.

Mr. Forbes: — I have two or three questions. One, how many FTEs [full-time equivalents] do you have?

Ms. Lysyk: — We have 60 FTEs, and we use two FTEs for contracting with firms in our peak periods.

Mr. Forbes: — And then I should know this but, where is your office?

Ms. Lysyk: — 1920 Broad Street.

Mr. Forbes: — How much of that building do you have?

Ms. Lysyk: — We have one floor, the 15th floor.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay, good. Thanks. And then when I was reading your business plan, on page 8 you do talk about the practice of having two . . . a second auditor, two auditors, and I found that an interesting couple of paragraphs, but I was trying to read between the lines. Is that a good practice or bad practice or just the way it is and we should keep doing this?

Ms. Lysyk: — You know, could you repeat that question? I'm not sure . . .

Mr. Forbes: — Okay. I'm talking about page 8, and on the bottom two paragraphs it talks about the practice of having . . . I think the agencies have their own auditors, and so essentially have two auditors going through the books and the costs of that. And I just found it very interesting. I'm trying to read between the lines. Is that a very good practice, is that a very bad practice, or is it just the way it is? I couldn't get a sense of an opinion out of your paper.

Ms. Lysyk: — It's a combination. I think it's the way it is.

There is a protocol that establishes the relationship between our office and the appointed auditors. We audit directly about 53 per cent of the 276 entities in the province. The rest are audited directly by the private sector auditors. So we do believe that as the auditor for the Legislative Assembly, we need to maintain our familiarity with those organizations and also ensure that the work that is conducted by the private sector firms in our view is appropriate. And so we provide oversight. So we review their planning memos. We review their draft financial statements. So we still keep in touch with the entities that we're not auditing directly.

The cost, obviously it's more expensive when you have two auditors involved. Having said that, it's a practice that was established many years ago, and we respect the practice.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay. Thank you very much. I don't have any further questions. I think . . . Do you have a question? Okay. Thank you very much for your presentation and your good work. We really appreciate it and so with that, I thank the officials and turn it back to you.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Forbes. Well I guess with that, I would thank the Provincial Auditor and officials and we'll proceed to the votes on the estimates. So main estimates, vote 28, Provincial Auditor, found on page 153 of the document, Provincial Auditor subvote (PA01) in the amount of 7,604,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Unforeseen expenses, subvote (PA02) in the amount of 516,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2013, the following sums for Provincial Auditor in the amount of \$8,120,000.

Thank you, Mr. Wyant. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

Ms. Lysyk: — Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you.

**General Revenue Fund
Legislative Assembly
Vote 21**

Subvote (LG01)

The Deputy Chair: — Welcome, Mr. Clerk, and officials, Mr. Speaker. I think this is the portion where we really get into it with the calling to order and possibly heckling. But we'll see how things roll on here. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, if you could

introduce the Clerk and relevant officials.

The Speaker: — Okay. Thank you very much. As I mentioned earlier, it's a privilege to present the estimates for the Legislative Assembly here. I expect this is where everyone has been saving their toughest questions for the Clerk. So I would like to introduce our Clerk, Mr. Greg Putz, and our chief financial officer, Lynn Jacobson. As well as there are a number of staff here, and I will leave that up Mr. Putz to introduce.

Mr. Putz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, just a slight correction. Lynn is our executive director of member and corporate services, and you'll recall that Lynn joined the Legislative Assembly Service last fall. We're very grateful for her presence, and she's here to assist me today.

With us as well we have these folks of course who are no strangers to any of you. We have Ken Ring, our Law Clerk; we have Melissa Bennett, our Legislative Librarian; Iris Lang, Principal Clerk; and Linda Kaminski, director of member services. And if I could add for the record that Linda is retiring at the end of June, so this will be her last time with us in this venue. So with Linda is her protegee, Brad Gurash, who has just joined us in April. He'll be taking over from Linda when she retires. So we welcome the opportunity of some overlap so that Linda with her 30-plus years of experience can pass that on to not only Lynn, but also to Brad. We have Dawn Court, director of finance, and Dawn also joined us recently in April. She replaces Marilyn Borowski who many of you know through her 30 years of service here. Marilyn retired in January. And last but not least, Darcy Hislop, our chief technology officer. And I think I didn't miss anybody, did I? No. So that's the staff we have with us today.

I didn't prepare an opening statement. We brought our principal managers with us here today, not knowing what questions you would have. So we have lots of expertise in the room. So as the Speaker said, we're hopefully ready for any questions you might have for us. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. And again I believe we're on record earlier welcoming new folks to the new assignments and certainly thanking Ms. Kaminski and Ms. Borowski for many years of good service to the people of Saskatchewan and to this institution.

I guess at this time I would open the floor for questions from colleagues. Seeing the inquisitive eyebrows of Mr. Forbes being cocked, Mr. Forbes, would you care to ask a few questions?

Mr. Forbes: — Okay, for sure. I'm just curious, first, how many FTEs work in the building here for legislative services, Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Putz: — Sorry. We're wondering whether to include the Speaker's office in that because technically the Speaker's office isn't part of the Legislative Assembly Service. So in total we have 82.7 FTEs, and of those 62 are permanent and the balance is made up of people who are either part-time or . . . I guess just part-time. I might add that during session we also add a complement. We go up to about approximately 120 during the sitting of the Assembly, and that would be Pat Shaw's ushers and all of the Hansard transcribers and editors that we add on

on a sessional basis.

Mr. Forbes: — So the Speaker's staff then would be . . . Where is it funded out of?

Mr. Putz: — If you look at the estimates, there's a separate appropriation for the Speaker's office and that's where his staff as well as the Board of Internal Economy is funded out of, the Office of the Speaker.

Mr. Forbes: — I will follow up on that. I guess I just have a couple of questions because we're always asking questions, and I really appreciate the staff. And if there's a question, I feel like I can just phone. I don't have to wait for a committee meeting. And I have a couple of those, but I think I'd rather just phone them because sometimes they're kind of silly. But I do have a question about the garden and the statue, what's happening outside. How's that progress, and what's the timeline for that?

Mr. Putz: — Well we're not actually involved in that, Mr. Forbes, just in a kind of a peripheral way. That's a project that was funded under the Office of the Provincial Capital Commission, and I believe that was in their appropriation for this year.

We do have some joint projects for the centennial, and that's probably why you were thinking that maybe we had an involvement in that one. But our main involvement has been the . . . We had an event where a number of school groups came to the Assembly, and a number of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on both sides of the House participated in that. We're going to have an event later this fall on the actual anniversary, but of course, as you know as board members, you approved the purchase of a carpet. And that's one of our legacy projects, as it were, for the centennial.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay. And that answers my second question. I mean I just have to say how much I appreciate you folks because everything seems so seamless. And then we can kind of wander off on to other topics, and I appreciate being brought back. And so we'll follow up with the Capital Commission on those questions for sure.

But other than that, I think it's all relatively straightforward and I know that many of us have heard the plans and things like that. So I'm good with this going forward as it is.

The Deputy Chair: — Okay. I think the Government House Leader had referenced a few questions possibly about the temperature in the Assembly today. And if he isn't, I think I might. Are you just trying to turn the heat up on us or what's going on there?

Mr. Putz: — Well I know that's an old House Leader's trick, but it's usually the Government House Leader that does that. But I, for two questions in a row, I have to say that's somebody else's responsibility. That's the Minister Responsible for Government Services controls the heat in the building, other than the members themselves in the Chamber sometimes, but that's totally at your discretion.

The Deputy Chair: — You fit right in here so well, Mr. Clerk. Okay. I guess one other question is the clock and tracking the

timing of members' statements and on and making sure that each side has their fair allocation. Is that being sorted out in the immediate, in the, I guess in the off-season or what have you?

Mr. Putz: — If you're talking about the mechanical failures we've had with the clock, yes, we'll be sorting that out. We've had Darcy's people have a look at that, and one of the buttons, the channels was freezing on us. So we hope to get that replaced. I mean there's not much we can do with just a week left in session, but that has . . . You're right; that is an issue that's kind of plagued us at least the last half of the spring part of the parliamentary calendar here. And we hope to remedy that.

I'd like to have some kind of software solution where we don't have an old mechanical process. But we'll just see what we can come up with in consultation with Darcy and the people in his shop.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you for that, Mr. Clerk. And of course, when one of my members has seven minutes left to go in their member's statement, it's fine. But of course . . . Anyway, we look forward to the remedy.

Mr. Putz: — If I could just add to that, that again isn't our responsibility. That's Mr. Speaker's. He's the one who controls, actually, the time that you have and when you're cut off. So maybe I'll redirect that to . . .

The Deputy Chair: — Like I said, a seasoned veteran. Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

The Speaker: — Tomorrow I will bring in my egg timer and we will have an accurate clock.

The Deputy Chair: — Well we'll try to make sure that all of our questions are hard-boiled, Mr. Speaker.

I guess with that, seeing no other questions at this time, we'd move to the consideration of the votes. But again, our sincere thanks to the hard-working staff of the Legislative Assembly for all the great work that they do on our behalf but on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

That being said, first vote, main estimates, vote 21, Legislative Assembly, page 147 of the relevant document, central management and services, subvote (LG01) in the amount of 3,399,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Office of the Speaker and Board of Internal Economy, subvote (LG07) in the amount of \$422,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Legislative Assembly services, subvote (LG03) in the amount of 4,877,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Thank you, Kathy.

Payments and allowances to individual members, subvote (LG05) in the amount of \$14,985,000. There is no vote as that is statutory.

Committees of the Legislative Assembly, subvote (LG04) in the amount of \$470,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried. Caucus operations, subvote (LG06) in the amount of \$1,938,000. There is no vote as this statutory.

And amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$114,000 for information purposes only. There is no amount to be voted.

Whipping right along, Legislative Assembly, vote 21, \$9,168,000. I'll now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2013, the following sums for the Legislative Assembly in the amount of \$9,168,000.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Mr. Harrison, thank you. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

General Revenue Fund Supplementary Estimates — December Legislative Assembly Vote 21

The Deputy Chair: — All right, we're on to some outstanding supplementary estimates from December 2011. Vote 21, Legislative Assembly, page 15 of the relevant document. central management and services, subvote (LG01) in the amount of \$625,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried, Legislative vote \$625,000. I'd now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for the Legislative Assembly in the amount of \$625,000.

Mr. Weekes: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Legislative Assembly
Vote 21**

The Deputy Chair: — All right. And one more round of supplementary estimates from March 2012. Vote 21, Legislative Assembly, page 5 in the documents, central management and services, subvote (LG01) in the amount of \$205,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Office of the Speaker and Board of Internal Economy, subvote (LG07) in the amount of \$35,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Committees of the Legislative Assembly subvote (LG04) in the amount of \$120,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for the Legislative Assembly in the amount of \$360,000.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Ottenbreit. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Chief Electoral Officer
Vote 34**

The Deputy Chair: — All right. In consultation with the Government House Leader and determining the agenda for the meeting, there are a number of other estimates that are to be brought forward at this time.

I guess we'll say thank you very much to the Clerk and officials. I'm sure you've got other things to attend to but, Mr. Speaker, we'll, I'm sure, require you to be here for the votes on the final remaining estimates. So again, thank you very much, Mr. Clerk.

Main estimates, vote 34, Chief Electoral Officer, page 139 of the estimate documents. Chief Electoral Officer subvote (CE01) in the amount of \$2,471,000. There is no vote as this is statutory.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December**

**Chief Electoral Officer
Vote 34**

The Deputy Chair: — Supplementary estimates, December 2011, vote 34, Chief Electoral Officer, page 14 of that document. Chief Electoral Officer, subvote (CE01) in the amount of \$1.5 million. There's no vote as that is a statutory amount.

**General Revenue Fund
Children's Advocate
Vote 76**

The Deputy Chair: — Moving on to the Children's Advocate from the main estimates, vote 76, Children's Advocate, page 141. Children's Advocate, subvote (CA01) in the amount of \$1,738,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2013, the following sums for the Children's Advocate in the amount of \$1,738,000.

Mr. Wyant: — So move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Wyant. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — December
Children's Advocate
Vote 76**

The Deputy Chair: — Also with supplementary estimate from December 2011 for the Children's Advocate, vote 76, page 15 of that document. Children's Advocate, subvote (CA01) in the amount of \$160,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Children's Advocate, vote 76, \$160,000. I would now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for the Children's Advocate in the amount of \$160,000.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — So move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Harrison. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Vote 57**

The Deputy Chair: — Main estimates, vote 57, Conflict Of Interest Commissioner, page 143. Conflict of Interest Commissioner, subvote (CC01) in the amount of \$145,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2013, the following sums for the Conflict Of Interest Commissioner in the amount of \$145,000.

Mr. Weekes: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Ombudsman
Vote 56**

The Deputy Chair: — Carrying on in the main estimates, vote 56, Ombudsman, page 151. Ombudsman, subvote (OM01) in the amount of \$2,863,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Amortization of capital assets in the amount of zero dollars for informational purposes only. There is no vote needed.

I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2013, the following sums for Ombudsman in the amount of \$2,863,000.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Mr. Ottenbreit. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. I would now entertain a motion to present the main report to the Assembly. Committee members, you have before you a draft of the second report of the Standing Committee on House Services. We require a member to move the following motion:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Mr. Weekes.

Mr. Weekes: — I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Weekes. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. And with that I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Thank you, Mr. Harrison. And thank you all.

[The committee adjourned at 15:40.]