



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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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. Gene Makowsky
Regina Dewdney

Mr. Greg Ottenbreit
Yorkton

Mr. Doyle Vermette
Cumberland

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Saskatoon Northwest

[The committee met at 15:01.]

The Deputy Chair: — Welcome, committee members, to the Standing Committee on House Services. Just here today to consider estimates for the Legislative Assembly and the officers of the Legislative Assembly.

We're joined by committee members, Government House Leader, Mr. Harrison; Government Whip, Mr. Ottenbreit; Mr. Makowsky, Government Deputy Whip; Opposition Whip, Mr. Vermette; and Mr. Forbes, great guy all around, caucus Chair as well. And of course we're joined by the Speaker.

We're here pursuant to rule 139(5) to consider the estimates for the legislative branch of government, which were deemed referred. Mr. Speaker is here with various officials, and I will ask Mr. Speaker to introduce his officials if he would.

The Speaker: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Members, it's a pleasure to be here today at the House Services Committee to discuss the budgets of the Legislative Assembly and the officers of the Legislative Assembly. With us today we have the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Michael Boda, and the Acting Provincial Auditor, Ms. Judy Ferguson, and their staffs as well. I will turn it over to them at the present time, starting with Mr. Boda, the Chief Electoral Officer, if you have no questions for me at the present time.

The Deputy Chair: — I believe not, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. And again off the top, here to consider subvote (CE01). But if we could turn it over to Mr. Boda and proceed with questions and on through the agenda.

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

Subvote (CE01)

The Deputy Chair: — Good afternoon, Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. Michael Boda. Dr. Boda, if you could introduce yourself, your official, and any opening remarks that you might have concerning vote 34. And we'll get into the questions and answer after that. But over to you.

Mr. Boda: — Sure. Well I am Dr. Boda, the Chief Electoral Officer of the province of Saskatchewan. I have with me Ms. Jennifer Colin who is the deputy chief electoral officer for corporate services and electoral finance at Elections Saskatchewan. I am happy to entertain your questions.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Dr. Boda. Any questions from committee members? Mr. Forbes.

Mr. Forbes: — I was just curious how we're making progress towards the next election, and I know you refer to it as an event or a cycle, and where we're at. And I was pleased to attend the event where you have the new deputy returning officers. What's happening here? Oh, okay. It's my fault, a little feedback. So if you could bring us a bit of an update on how that is going in hiring, leading up to the next election.

Mr. Boda: — Certainly. As you indicated, a number of individuals attended an orientation program that we had for newly hired returning officers and election clerks across the province recently in which they were sworn in during a ceremony that included the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, and myself. And it was an opportunity for us to do something that had not been done before, and that was to begin the orientation and training process well in advance of a general election. So we were very pleased with the outcome, and we feel that it was a very important event.

In terms of our preparations for the 28th general election, I have things that I'm very pleased about in terms of the preparation. As you know, coming here in June of 2012 as a new Chief Electoral Officer and listening for a number of months, it was clear, it became clear that it was necessary to transition Elections Saskatchewan from an institution that focused on elections as an event, to an institution that focuses on elections as within the electoral cycle over the course of the four years, and becoming an institution which plans in advance instead of reacting at the last minute. And this is a matter of how an election management body is modernized over the years, and that is what . . . I came to Saskatchewan on a reform mandate, and that is the direction that we're moving.

We've had some barriers to making progress that we've been looking at or we've been faced with. One is of course our facilities. Our facilities are not yet in place. New facilities are not yet in place. The building in which we've been since 1996 is simply in . . . It's not possible to run a modern election out of that building. And so we have been making preparations and doing everything that we can in order to facilitate a transition to a new facility in a timely manner. And the delays that we are experiencing at present are having an operational impact on the institution to get ready for the 28th general election.

We also have some uncertainty in terms of the election date, which we've been finding very challenging, because at present the election is, by legislation, scheduled for November the 2nd of 2015. And if you have a look even in the media today, there's confusion over it. Whether it's 2016 or 2015, there is confusion. And as you know, we have asked for legislative clarity in that context so that we would know when the election is to be held. There's a number of reasons for that. But it's principally an issue of efficiency, that if we're unaware of when the election is, if it's possible that it could be held in November of 2015, it will end up costing the public much more than it would if we had clarity in the date. And so I would just ask again that we have a look at how we can offer legislative clarity in that context.

We've also had a challenge with respect to our budget. And our budget that was put forward was reduced by \$800,000 from what was requested. And again going back to the framework and how the election management body has transitioned to an election management body that focuses on elections as a cycle instead of preparing at the last minute for the event, we have been taking steps in order to move forward to do spending that is necessary in advance during the electoral cycle, rather than waiting until the last year before the election. And so as a result, what we've had to do is step back and push off some of the spending that we would normally do, that we should do

according to electoral best practice, at an earlier stage. So we're backing off a little bit but we are able to plan to do that spending in the next budget year.

So those are some of the challenges that we're facing. In general I am very pleased with the progress that we're making and the changes that are being made at Elections Saskatchewan on the front of developing a core of staff which is capable of managing a provincial general election in a professional, efficient, and accountable way.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: — Thanks for that, Mr. Forbes. Chair recognizes Mr. Vermette.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess you mentioned about some training for your returning officers, deputy returning officers. Was it the 58 or 61 constituencies? Did they send someone from every riding, or can you give us details on that? I'm just curious.

Mr. Boda: — Well as I mentioned, this was an orientation program in order to swear in the returning officers and the election clerks from the various constituencies. Over the past number of months we've been going through a process of hiring new returning officers and election clerks, which is part of the process following a boundary delimitation process in the province. We then go through the process of determining who the new returning officer and who the new election clerk will be. And so there were ultimately 54 returning officers who attended this orientation.

As you may or may not know, the hiring of returning officers is not an all-on or all-off scenario. You do your best in order to ramp up to get up to the 61 that will be required for the next general election. However after even the 61 are hired, often a number will resign once they recognize perhaps that the workload is heavier than they anticipated. But what we do is we are constantly pushing to get up to the 61, and we're doing training to familiarize the returning officers and the election clerks with the process.

And that is something that's different for the way things have been done in Saskatchewan before, and it has to do with again modernizing the election management body so that you are training over time. It's not as if the returning officers and election clerks are working on a full-time basis. They certainly are not. But the goal is to train them over time so that they're not thrown off and they're not overwhelmed by the amount of information that they're given. Sometimes that's done, and in this last cycle it was done very close to the election date, and a modern election system would expand that time over the electoral cycle.

Mr. Vermette: — You said that 54 of the ridings or constituencies had people. Is there a way we can get a list of that to see? And I'm curious myself to see what areas and ridings did not show. So obviously we're missing about seven or four, whichever way you look at it, that were not . . . for whatever reason. I'm just curious to see if there is a way to find out.

Mr. Boda: — We can provide you with a list of those who've been hired to date and where we've had some challenges. We are in fact having . . . There's interviews taking place in Saskatoon for example this week with respect to hiring of returning officers. There were some constituencies there that we've been continuing to try to hire in.

Mr. Vermette: — I guess if you could share some information. Sometimes I guess the salaries or wages of returning officers or deputy returning officers, I know there's challenges with that, compensation for them for mileage. How do you determine the rates, and would the rates compare with other provinces and jurisdictions that run provincial elections? Do you have any information on that?

[15:15]

Mr. Boda: — That is determined through a schedule of fees which is in the regulations, the election regulations. It's recommended by this office, but it is not determined by this office.

There are . . . If you were to look at it in a comparative context, what we will be doing over the next number of months is ramping up to do a comparative evaluation of how it's done across the country in order to make those recommendations through regulation before the next election but in the next 12 months. That is our plan, to offer a recommendation on that schedule of fees.

In terms of the amount that is being paid, it is minimal. It is basically minimum wage. Yet there's an expectation for those who are working on election day that they will work very long hours. So it is paid on an eight-hour day.

And so it makes it difficult to accumulate the number of people that we require in order to run an election. And I've mentioned it on many occasions. There are 10,000 people that are required to run a general election and there are another 3,000 that are required in order to conduct an enumeration. So this is not a small number of people that are required.

At Elections Saskatchewan we're looking at innovative ways that we can attract people to be involved in the electoral process. So it's certainly about the pay for the day, but it is also about being involved in a process that is the most important process in the province's life. Once every four years, all of our voters come out and they vote on election day. It's certainly the largest event that is held in the province by far. And we're trying to determine better ways that we can more effectively involve a very diverse group of people across the province to become involved.

Mr. Vermette: — Okay. I'll turn it over if other members have questions.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Vermette. Thanks, Dr. Boda. I recognize Mr. Harrison.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Great, thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. First apologize for my voice. I have a three- and a five-year-old at home who tend to freely share their colds with their mom and dad, so that's been a challenge.

In terms of the response that you gave, Dr. Boda, to the first question from Mr. Forbes, there's a few items I want to, a few matters I want to put on the record in terms of the election date for instance. You, I know, were asking for legislative clarity. I would submit that we have legislative clarity. We have a fixed election date; that would be November 2nd, 2015. We also have a provision in *The Election Act* that allows for . . . or maybe the executive council Act that allows for, in the case of an overlapping federal election, to put that election date back into April of 2016.

We have no control over when the federal election is going to be called obviously, but we committed to four-year fixed election dates. And I would note that prior to the 2007 election, including the 2007 election, elections were held at the direction of the Premier, who would ask for the writ of election to be issued from the Lieutenant Governor. And that could come at any point in a five-year mandate. So, you know, prior to the 2011 election I know the Chief Electoral office would have to be ready for a campaign to begin presumably at any given point. We do have obviously two potential dates in this case, but we do, I think, have some significant clarity in terms of when that election is going to be held. So I want put that on the record.

In terms of the budget matter that you raised, I would note as well for the record that, prior to your arrival, the budget for the Chief Electoral office was significantly less than it is right now. And I don't have the numbers right in front of me, but we're talking a very, very significant increase that the Board of Internal Economy has granted based on requests from yourself over the course of the last couple of cycles where the Board of Internal Economy has considered these budgets, in the neighbourhood of at least doubling that budget. So I understand your concern with respect to the decision the board had made earlier this year, but I think that you would find, you know, other independent officers that would have, you know, would have loved to have had these sort of budget increases that the Chief Electoral office has had over the course of that last two or three years.

In terms of the office space, I know there's been ongoing discussions. The board actually went to the measure of passing a motion in conjunction with the approval of the budget request during the budget cycle, indicating our desire that the Chief Electoral office work with the Central Services ministry in terms of making that office space — and the board granted a new office space and provided funding for that in addition. But working with the Ministry of Central Services in terms of the costs associated with moving to that new office space, fitting up that new office space.

And my understanding is that there's been a difference of view between Central Services and the Chief Electoral office in terms of the monies necessary to fit out that office space. And I think the board's ultimately going to have to have another discussion around that. My understanding from the Minister of Central Services is that the recommendation from Central Services is that the office space can be brought to an acceptable standard for approximately \$200,000. And I know the Chief Electoral office would be requesting in the neighbourhood of an additional 800,000 over that \$200,000. So that's a matter the board's going to have to deal with.

But I know that there's been that difference of view, which I think has led to some of the delays that you cited in terms of the ability to move into that new space. Also, and I'm not sure if I heard you reference it or not, but I know you had submitted a list — which we very much appreciated — of suggested amendments to *The Election Act*. Those amendments have been under active consideration by government and opposition. And, I would add, acting, working in a collaborative way on these for a number of months.

And we've been in the process of drafting those amendments and working in terms of how we're going to move forward with those. My understanding is you were provided a briefing with respect to those very recently, in the last couple of days. In terms of the draft bill itself, you know, we're going to continue working together on that. We have, I think, a couple of more discussions that need to take place.

But the intention of the government, and I think the opposition as well — I won't speak for them — but I think the intention of all parties represented in the Assembly is that we have those amendments passed prior to the conclusion of this session, which is only 10 sitting days from now. Which I would add is actually quite an unprecedented sort of co-operative arrangement in terms of *The Election Act* and something that I think is important and we work together as well on the last couple amendments that we did to *The Election Act* prior to . . . or in the fall sitting. I just wanted to put those on the record. If you wish to respond, feel free. But that's kind of the government's view at this point.

Mr. Boda: — Okay. On a number of points here, in terms of the legislation, I have to say that I'm very pleased with the process that you're going through in terms of having a serious look at the recommendations that have been put forward. We have been briefed on the work that you have done, and I can indicate that my hope is to get an assessment of it to you as soon as possible so that you can have those in hand beforehand to understand from a technical perspective how we would view the delivery of the legislation. So we want to work very closely with you in order to do that, and we have a team that's working on it right now.

In terms of the facilities, my understanding is that we have worked in good faith with Central Services since January in order to move forward with this project. And obviously you're aware that there were some changes in leadership over at Central Services recently. And we have done everything that we can in order to work with both the planning team that was in place for three months beforehand and the new leadership in order to come to a conclusion on what is a reasonable amount for fitting up of the new facilities over on Hillsdale.

And as far as I'm aware, there has been agreement on a budget of \$1.07 million for that particular project in terms of Central Services. So I don't believe that there's a disagreement, because I know that the acting deputy minister has been involved in this process subsequent to the planning, the project planning committee working on it and have come back to us. So that is why we waited until they were ready in order to put something forward to you.

In terms of the budget, I can only tell you that we at Elections

Saskatchewan, the budget that we're putting forward is linked carefully to electoral best practice. We're not doing anything outside the box, outside of this jurisdiction, whether in Canada or internationally, whereas you know I've worked for a couple of decades.

What we are trying to do is prepare in advance and do any of the spending that you would have seen would have been done, is to be done earlier in the cycle rather than later on in the cycle. And so as a result we've had to delay spending on elements that normally we would do in year three, but we're pushing them off to year four — but under the assumption that we do have a fixed election date, because if you have a snap election then you need to do more of that spending in order to be ready to run an election at any given time.

But at present, our understanding is that we have two election dates that are possible, and the current one is set at November the 2nd of 2015. And if I understand you right — which I'm happy to get clarification on — there is clarity in that it's either going to be held on November the 2nd of 2015 or it will be held in April of 2016. And at present, we need to prepare. If that is the case, then we need to prepare for the November 2nd date, which we have been preparing for. But with the change in the budget, the reduction of \$800,000, it means that we push spending into April of 2016, which should actually be done at an earlier point. It becomes again the last minute spending that has to be done in the very first quarter of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

So where we had anticipated, for example, training in advance during this budget year, we've had to push that off to the very first quarter of the next budget year. And there are other items like that. So I'll leave it at that.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Okay. Great. I just, like I said, my understanding from Central Services was as I earlier stated, so I think we're going to have to do some more work on that discussion between the Chief Electoral office and Central Services. And we'll follow up with CS [Central Services] on that matter with regard to the office space.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Harrison and Dr. Boda. Any other, any further question from committee members? Anything else that you'd like to add to the record to Dr. Boda? Seeing none, thank you very much for that.

This concludes our consideration of vote 34, the Chief Electoral Officer, subvote (CE01) in the amount of \$4,605,000. There is no vote as this is statutory, so again thank you for your time, Dr. Boda, official, and we'll sort that out and await our next guest.

[15:30]

**General Revenue Fund
Provincial Auditor
Vote 28**

Subvote (PA01)

The Deputy Chair: — All right. Thanks very much. We'll come back to order. We're joined by the Acting Provincial

Auditor, Judy Ferguson. If you could introduce yourself, your officials, and make any introductory comments that you might have at this time.

Ms. Ferguson: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker, members, and officials. With me today I've got Ms. Angèle Borys. Angèle is our chief operating officer and a deputy provincial auditor. She's in charge of our support services area within the office. And behind me I've got Ms. Heather Tomlin. Heather is the office manager within our office.

This afternoon I've actually got the privilege of presenting our office's 2014-15 estimates. These estimates are actually based on our business and financial plan for the year ended March 31st, 2015 that's required under *The Provincial Auditor Act* and has been considered by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The plan contains information required by the Act along with additional supporting information to assist members such as yourself in understanding our budget request. In addition it sets out the work required to enable us to discharge our responsibility under the Act.

Consistent with the Act, the request actually includes two separate appropriations that is before this committee here. The first is our main appropriation (PA01). For 2014-15 we are requesting an \$8.205 million increase. Not an increase, that's our total amount. It actually reflects a \$268,000 increase from the prior year, which is a 3.38 per cent increase. It increased in four items, with offset by decreases in two items.

First off we have an increase of \$308,000 for cost of living and market factors affecting the salaries of employees of our office. As an office such as ours, employees are a very valuable resource, and to remain competitive, our salary costs include some market adjustments and general salary increases that match those authorized by the government for the public service. It's 2 per cent at April 1, 2013 and 1.25 at April 1 of 2014.

Next we have a \$14,000 increase for employee pension plan premiums. Again what we're doing there is we're matching the government's authorized increase that they authorized in June of 2013 to increase employer premiums by 0.25 per cent effective April 1 of 2014.

The third area is a statutory increase of \$11,000 in the Provincial Auditor's salary which is encompassed in that (PA01) subvote. And that salary is based on a calculation that's set out in *The Provincial Auditor Act*, along with information that our office was aware of at December 31st, 2013 at the point in time that we're preparing our estimates.

So you might pause and you might think, well geez, a lot of this stuff relates to last year's decision, in terms of the increases that we're asking for this year. And in part that's because we're always preparing our estimates in December, and at that point in time we're not aware of some of the decisions that the government is making in terms of the COLAs [cost-of-living adjustment] and the employer premium adjustments.

The last area of increase is actually a \$10,000 increase for escalation costs included in our lease for our premises. Our office entered into a 10-year lease in December of 2011, and the

lease actually includes some escalation clauses related to the building operating costs, and that's pretty normal for that type of a lease for facilities.

We've got two areas of decreases. One is a \$53,000 decrease. We had one-time costs in our budget last year that related to our office co-hosting the CCPAC-CCOLA [Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees-Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors] conference here in Regina. That was co-hosted with the Public Accounts Committee.

The second area of decrease is \$18,000 decrease that is a result of ... It's a net decrease of the decreased number of government agencies. And so at the point in time that we prepared our report, we identified a number of agencies had wound up and no longer were required for audit.

In this plan, we plan to absorb the costs of changes in audit methodology and the impact of inflationary increases on other than this general salary and benefits, as I just noted.

The second appropriation that is before this committee is actually the appropriation for unforeseen costs. It's the (PA02) subvote. *The Provincial Auditor Act* requires the inclusion of the second appropriation with the estimates presented each year. Its purpose is to provide our office with resources in order to respond to unforeseen circumstances such as unplanned work or unanticipated work. This would include requests from standing committees such as the Public Accounts Committee, pressure to improve the timeliness of our work, and unplanned or unanticipated salary and benefit increases. When the office uses this appropriation, it reports this amount, the amount used, and the reasoning for the use of that in our annual report on operations. All amounts not used are returned to the General Revenue Fund.

Overall for the 2014-15, we're requesting \$547,000 for the unforeseen expenses. Consistent with prior years, our request reflects our previous net financial asset target of one month's salary and benefits.

In closing, with respect to 2013-14, the year that we just completed, based on our unaudited information, we're expecting to return \$526,000 to the General Revenue Fund.

That concludes my presentation, and we'd be pleased to respond to any questions of the committee.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much for that. As we consider vote 28 for Provincial Auditor, any questions from committee members? Seeing none, I guess we'll proceed through the subvotes. But thank you very much for all the work you do and for the work that the office does and for joining us here today.

But we'll now proceed to Provincial Auditor, subvote (PA01) in the amount of 7,983,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — That is carried. Unforeseen expenses, subvote (PA02) in the amount of \$547,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — That's carried. So Provincial Auditor, vote 28, 8,530,000. 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, 2015, the following sums for the Provincial Auditor in the amount of \$8,530,000.

Mr. Harrison. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried. Thank you very much.

**General Revenue Fund
Advocate for Children and Youth
Vote 76**

The Deputy Chair: — All right. Welcome back, Mr. Speaker. Moving on through the estimates for the other officers, we come to vote 76, Advocate for Children and Youth, found on page 123 in your Estimates book. Advocate for Children and Youth, subvote (CA01) in the amount of 2,291,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried. Further on, non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$180,000. Non-appropriated expense amounts, expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted, just to bring that to committee members' attention.

So Advocate for Children and Youth, vote 76, \$2,291,000. 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, 2015, the following sums for the Advocate for Children and Youth in the amount of \$2,291,000.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

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

The Deputy Chair: — Whipping right along, moving on to vote 57, Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Conflict of Interest Commissioner, subvote (CC01) in the amount of \$150,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — 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, 2015, the following sums for Conflict of Interest Commissioner in the amount of \$150,000.

Mr. Makowsky. Very good. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

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

The Deputy Chair: — Carrying on, vote 55, Information and Privacy Commissioner, found on page 129 in the Estimates. Information and Privacy Commissioner, subvote (IP01) in the amount of \$1,147,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — 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, 2015, the following sums for Information and Privacy Commissioner in the amount of \$1,147,000.

Mr. Forbes.

Mr. Forbes: — I'll move it.

The Deputy Chair: — So moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Legislative Assembly
Vote 21**

The Deputy Chair: — Possibly the one with the most anticipation around it, vote 21, Legislative Assembly, found on page 131 in the Estimates. First up, central management and services, subvote (LG01) in the amount of 3,271,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried. Office of the Speaker and Board of Internal Economy, subvote (LG07) in the amount of \$387,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Legislative Assembly services, subvote (LG03) in the amount of 5,540,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Payments and allowances to individual members, subvote (LG05) in the amount of \$15,686,000. There's no vote as that is statutory. Just bringing that to committee members' attention.

Committees of the Legislative Assembly, subvote (LG04) in the amount of \$373,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Caucus operations, subvote (LG06) in the amount of \$2,012,000, there is no vote as that is statutory.

And non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$114,000, again, non-appropriated expense adjustments or non-cash adjustments, presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

So 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, 2015, the following sums for the Legislative Assembly in the amount of \$9,571,000.

Mr. Vermette. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Very good. Thanks very much.

[15:45]

**General Revenue Fund
Ombudsman
Vote 56**

The Deputy Chair: — Vote 56, Ombudsman, page 135 in the Estimates. Ombudsman, subvote (OM01) in the amount of \$3,178,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$120,000, again, no amount is to be voted. This is for information purposes.

So Ombudsman, vote 56, \$3,178,000. I'm asking a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2015, the following sums for the Ombudsman in the amount of \$3,178,000.

Mr. Harrison. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Motion is carried.

Okay. So concerning the report to the Assembly, Standing Committee on House Services seventh report. Committee members, there is a draft before you of the seventh report of the Standing Committee on House Services. We require a member to move the following motion:

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

Mr. Ottenbreit: — I'll so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — The motion is carried. And with that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Makowsky: — I so move.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Makowsky. We're of course all looking to the Speaker for instruction, but well put, Mr. Makowsky. The meeting is adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 15:47.]