



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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Prince Albert Northcote

[The committee met at 14:00.]

The Chair: — Well good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome to the Standing Committee on Human Services. My name is Ken Cheveldayoff and I'm the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Willowgrove, and I'll serve as the Chair of the committee this afternoon.

Members of the committee are Ms. Meara Conway, Deputy Chair; Mr. Muhammad Fiaz; Mr. Ryan Domotor; Mr. Derek Meyers; Mr. Hugh Nerlien; and Ms. Alana Ross. Today substituting for Meara Conway will be Jennifer Bowes; and Jeremy Cockrill, MLA, will be substituting for Derek Meyers.

Committee members, I would like to advise you that the broadcast proceedings are not available today. However the audio will be streamed on the legislative channel and on the Legislative Assembly website. The *Hansard* verbatim will continue to be made available at the earliest opportunity.

Because we are still implementing measures to facilitate safety in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, if the minister needs to confer privately during proceedings, he may do so in the hallway or the vestibule at the front of the Chamber.

And as a reminder, please don't touch the microphones. They are fragile and sensitive. The Hansard operator will turn your microphone on when you are speaking to the committee. Cleaning supplies are located at the tables by the side doors for members and officials to use as you require.

If you have any questions about logistics or have any documents to table, the committee requests that you contact the Clerk at committees@legassembly.sk.ca, and contact information is provided at the witness table.

Today our committee is tabling a list from the Law Clerk of professional association bylaws filed with the Legislative Assembly between January 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020, which have been committed to the committee for review pursuant to rule 147(1). The Law Clerk will assist the committee in the review by submitting the subsequent report at a later date. However in accordance with rule 147(3), committee members may also decide to review any of the bylaws of professional associations and amendments to bylaws to determine whether or not they are in any way prejudicial to the public interest. The document being tabled is HUS 8-29, Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: 2020 professional association bylaws filed.

Today we will be considering votes 37 and 169 covering the estimates, lending and investing activities estimates, and supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Advanced Education.

**General Revenue Fund
Advanced Education
Vote 37**

Subvote (AE01)

The Chair: — We will begin with vote 37, Advanced Education,

central management and services, subvote (AE01). Minister Makowsky is here with an official. Minister, please introduce your officials and staff and make any opening comments that you may have at this time.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Pleasure to be here. And hello, colleagues. Pleased to be here to have the opportunity to speak about the Ministry of Advanced Education's '21-22 budget. Mr. Mark McLoughlin is to my right. He's the deputy minister. Chief of staff Tessa Ritter over my left shoulder. And of course as you mentioned, there's a fair amount of ministry staff that are tuned in and provide support via technology.

Certainly a lot has changed in a year, Mr. Chair. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought a multitude of challenges for Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions in '20-21, the sector was remarkably resilient and successful in collaborating in innovative ways to continue serving our students. I'm proud of how the sector and the ministry responded to ensure post-secondary students and staff remained safe and could continue their education during the pandemic.

The pandemic has greatly disrupted the operations of post-secondary education now and into the future. Post-secondary institutions needed to quickly respond to meet the needs of the students while at the same time considering how the pandemic is going to require a shift in delivery of services post-pandemic. That's why there was a significant investment, and that's why it was so important.

This year our government investment of \$735 million in post-secondary education is 34.2 million higher than last year. That's roughly an increase of 5 per cent. For the first time ever, the '21-22 budget provides a unique multi-year investment to assist the post-secondary education sector with funding certainty over the next four years. This commitment was developed in partnership with the sector and is focused on shared priorities. It'll pave the way for the sector to work together to achieve long-term financial sustainability, support growth, meet provincial labour market demand, and be accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

As part of this investment the government is committed to stable annual base funding at '20-21 levels for the next four years. An increase of \$60 million beyond the base is being provided in the next two years. With an additional 30 million this year, on average, institutions, as I said before, will see a 5 per cent increase in '21-22. This approach provides institutions with the ability to respond to challenges created by the pandemic and to help grow financial sustainability over the long term.

It'll also help ensure programming and research remain aligned with the needs of our students, the economy, and Saskatchewan communities. As part of the commitment, every publicly funded post-secondary institution signed a memorandum of understanding, MOU, which outlines the shared priority areas where the additional 60 million will be targeted, including COVID-19 recovery, revenue generation, expense reduction, sector collaboration, and achieving the strategic initiatives set out in the growth plan. Institutions will report on how they use the investment to promote long-term financial sustainability

throughout the four-year commitment.

Our sector is excited to continue working together to support the needs of post-secondary education in the province. The ministry is focused on an accessible, responsive, and accountable post-secondary sector that delivers high-quality education. Saskatchewan students need to successfully enter the workforce.

The '21-22 budget provides strong support for post-secondary students and institutions. More than 674 million will be provided in operating and capital funding to post-secondary institutions, which includes 447 million to USask [University of Saskatchewan], University of Regina, and the federated and affiliated colleges; 164 million to Sask Poly, SIIT, and DTI — I should use the full name, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Dumont Technical Institute; 34 million to Saskatchewan's regional colleges; and more than 29 million for capital projects and preventative maintenance and renewal to the post-secondary sector. This includes providing an additional 6 million to continue the Sask Poly Moose Jaw campus mezzanine replacement project, which will include extensive upgrades to spaces used for offices, classrooms, and storage.

The '21-22 budget continues to provide strong support for post-secondary students by investing nearly 38 million in direct financial supports. Twenty-seven million is provided through the student loan program, ensuring support for students who need it most. This funding will provide financial assistance to more than 18,000 students.

The budget provides 10.6 million for scholarships, including 7.1 million for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, which will increase from 500 to 750 for eligible students. That's an increase of 3.6 million from last year. In addition 3.5 million will support Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship, French language scholarships, Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships, and the Scholarships of Honour.

Our graduates will continue to receive benefits after their studies through the graduate retention program. Eligible graduates who stay and work in the province can receive a rebate on tuition fees up to \$20,000. This program is successful in retaining Saskatchewan graduates to help employers build the economy of tomorrow. Since 2008 the graduate retention program has provided 608 million in benefits to more than 74,000 graduates.

To ensure we're better able to serve students, a series of projects are being initiated to improve technology. This year 3.6 million is allocated for IT [information technology] projects, including the replacement of the student financial assistance system, as well as an enterprise resource planning and student information system for regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute, and SIIT.

Another area of support for students includes an investment of 550,000, a \$150,000 increase in new funding in '21-22 for the Mitacs program. These programs support internships of international research opportunities for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and international students. It also supports Saskatchewan's Growth Plan by developing a skilled workforce and increasing global competitiveness of the economy.

Our government is focused on fostering an inclusive

post-secondary sector, which includes increasing the enrolment and education attainment of Indigenous students. Engaging the province's Indigenous population is an important component of the growth plan. In '21-22 the Ministry of Advanced Ed is investing 18.6 million in Indigenous post-secondary institutions and programs. As part of this total, an additional \$1 million in base funding is being provided to SIIT to further assist education and employment outcomes for Indigenous people.

This year the ministry will continue to provide targeted funding for two specific initiatives. Sask Poly is receiving 581,000 to support its Indigenous student success strategy to address barriers to student completion, and SIIT is receiving 360,000 for its student support services model to assist and advance students from recruitment to employment. Institutions are making positive changes and we're seeing results with growth in post-secondary enrolment and education attainment. In 2019-20 more than 8,400 Indigenous students were enrolled in credential programs at Sask's public post-secondary institutions, and that represents an increase of 19 per cent in the last five years.

With the impacts of COVID-19, international education will be a key driver in the economic recovery of the province while supporting Saskatchewan's Growth Plan. To remain top of mind and a key market for international students, a new post-secondary international education strategy is being developed. The new strategy will focus on positioning the province as a destination of choice for international students and researchers, and it'll highlight Saskatchewan as a post-secondary sector leader in global markets and a destination for trade, immigration, education, and technology.

By working to enhance the already respected international reputation of our province's post-secondary institutions, we will continue to extend our post-secondary footprint into global markets. The ministry is engaging across government, the sector, and global stakeholders to identify opportunities in existing international trade relationships to promote the province's post-secondary program. By developing a provincial approach to international education, we can further build the brand of Saskatchewan and support the growth plan goals.

In '21-22 an investment of 150,000 will support the ongoing development and delivery of a training program for employees at all designated institutions to become certified international education practitioners. The government is renewing interprovincial agreements with post-secondary institutions in Alberta and British Columbia to create opportunities for Saskatchewan learners to enrol in high-demand health sciences programs that are not available in the province. In the '21-22 academic year, Advanced Ed is investing 2.9 million to secure 106 seats for Saskatchewan learners in eight specialized health professions that are of critical importance to the province. This collaborative approach with Alberta and BC [British Columbia] helps ensure our province continues to deliver high-quality health care to the people of Saskatchewan.

In closing, I'd like to thank the sector for their tremendous efforts to quickly adapt and shift delivery modes while ensuring minimal disruptions to students in a challenging year. More opportunities have emerged that we'll look forward to build on. The sector is continuing to collaborate on new ways to create a more integrated and sustainable post-secondary system that meets the needs of

Saskatchewan students and communities now and in the future.

Thanks for the opportunity to have those opening comments, Mr. Chair. I turn it back to you and if there are any questions from the committee.

The Chair: — Thank you very much, Minister Makowsky. Ms. Bowes, the floor is yours.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you to the minister who I have not yet met — good to meet you, Mr. Makowsky — and to his officials for being here.

I'm a strong believer in our post-secondary education sector as a tool to build this province's future economy to ensure people young and old have the skills they need to succeed. A healthy advanced education sector is one that has the support of our government, both financially and in principle, and it is one that is allowed to operate free of government influence.

I'm going to start out with just some general questions to begin. I see that with central services funding, it's up 2 million to 11.2 million. And I'd just like to know what the nature of the increase is.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So, Ms. Bowes, what we have here is an increase of 2 million or 4.4 per cent, as you mentioned. Two million for new information technology funding to allow the ministry to replace its aging student financial system, and an \$88,000 increase for accommodation costs billed from the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement — so that's what that totals.

Ms. Bowes: — I'm also wondering if we can get a breakdown of the funding allocation to each university, federated and affiliated college, as well as what the percentage increase is over last year. And then the same for regional colleges just one by one, if you would.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So we found it here. We've got piles and piles of paper here. All the increases are roughly 5 per cent. So I'll start with the USask. First I'll say '20-21 and then I'll go on to '21-22, if that is okay. So USask is, as I mentioned, last year 306,928,200; '21-22 is 322,430,856. University of Regina last year—I'm saying last year is '20-21 — 108,425,800, it goes to 113,902,286.

So for federated and affiliated colleges: St. Thomas More, 6,729,600 now is 7,069,506. Champion College, 3,748,700 goes to 3,938,343. Luther College, 3,688,100 goes to 3,876,382. First Nations University, 3,674,300 to 3,859,885. St. Peter's College, 1,125,400 goes to 1,182,243. Lutheran Theological Seminary, 221,100 goes to 271,100. Briercrest, 204,600 to 254,600. Horizon goes from 149,300, goes up to 199,300. St. Andrew's College, 112,300 goes up to 162,300. Emmanuel and St. Chad, 64,100 goes to 114,100.

Gabriel Dumont goes from 2,310,100 to 2,426,781. And then SUNTEP [Saskatchewan urban native teacher education program] goes from 3,602,900 to 3,784,879. Dumont Technical Institute, 1,937,100 goes to 2,034,941. SIIT, 2,141,500 goes to

2,249,665; Sask Polytech, 116,002,500 goes to 121,861,678. Carlton Trail goes from 2,337,400, goes up to 2,455,459. Cumberland goes from 2,365,000 to 2,484,454. Great Plains, 4,323,100 goes to 4,541,456. Northlands, 8,712,100 goes to 9,152,140. North West College, 4,193,500 goes up to 4,405,310. Parkland, 3,340,500 goes to 3,509,226. Southeast College, 3,290,400 goes up to 3,456,595. And Lakeland goes from 127,000 to 133,415.

I'll also mention that some of our theological institutions who don't receive, you know, a whole boatload of funding from the ministry, the ministry has decided on a minimum 50,000, so that would increase the percentages of those, of Luther and Briercrest, Horizon, St. Andrew's, and Emmanuel and St. Chad. It would be far higher than 5 per cent. And I also note, included in this wasn't an increase of the million on the base to SIIT as well.

I think that was all I wanted to mention towards your question, as well as the numbers I gave you.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. And sorry, what was that last figure for SIIT?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — SIIT in 2021, its base funding — or the operating grant, I should say — is 2,141,500, and then in a year it goes up to 3,249,500. As I said, that would skew the numbers there. So roughly everyone else is in that 5 per cent range. The theological, some of the smaller schools, anywhere from 22 up to 78 per cent increase for Emmanuel and St. Chad. And then for SIIT it's a 51.7 per cent increase. And so you asked about the percentages as well.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thank you. And can you explain sort of the difference? Like why the theological colleges would be so considerably higher, the range, and also for SIIT?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Yes, so on the theological institutions that you mentioned, because they receive a relatively small amount, if we cut them the same percentages as all the rest it would be a very small amount of money. And you know, to have any sort of impact, the ministry and our ... We decided a \$50,000 minimum would be for the multi-year funding COVID relief part of the 60 million over two years.

And then with SIIT, that was kind of outside of the increase in the year one and two. You know, we looked at it and they of course, like every institution, they do good work meeting the labour market demands. But compared to other similar institutions they were quite low compared to what AE [Advanced Education] had provided per pupil. And so I think we felt that we're able to find a million dollars for that beneficial institution that's done good work in our province. So it's more of a, sort of an equity thing there to try and bring them up a little bit. And it's something they had raised with us in the past and sort of did a bit of a comparison and that this made sense.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. Thanks. And with the increase to SIIT does that then bring them ... like where does it bring them in the pack of sort of comparator institutions? Like you've mentioned they were sort of behind in the pack, and where would they sit now?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So just in general it's not a, you know, a perfect straight-line comparison. But just based on Advanced

Education's funding, it brings it I think on a per-pupil basis, similar to what GDI [Gabriel Dumont Institute] and FNUC [First Nations University of Canada] are receiving from our ministry.

But I asked Mark to talk a little more about some of the good work SIIT is doing and maybe some of the rationale behind that and then what, you know . . . They get some funding from the feds as well, and you know, we'd certainly like to see more there. But I don't know if you had anything to add at all, Mark.

Mr. McLoughlin: — Okay. Thanks, Minister. Thank you for the question. What we were seeing in respect to an imbalance with our Indigenous institutions would align, as the minister mentioned, would align SIIT in line with FNU [First Nations University] and GDI, and to support some of their labour market activity with their Indigenous students, particularly on the ABE [adult basic education] side of their activity. And so we feel that that's creating that balance, especially in this environment, it was quite conducive.

And some of the work that they can then in turn leverage some of that with the federal government to increase their continued federal support as well. We feel that's a good opportunity.

[14:30]

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you. And I wanted to ask a few questions about the multi-year funding. Of course, you know, we were happy to see that. That's something that I understand, you know, post-secondary institutions have been asking for. It was a top priority for them. So it's very good to see that stability. I guess my first question there is, when was the first request made to the ministry for this type of stable funding?

Mr. McLoughlin: — Thank you. So when I came into this role in late 2018, I came from the sector, and I had been in both environments in Alberta and British Columbia that were recipient of multi-year funding. And understanding the benefit of what multi-year funding can do in respect to long-term planning, investments, and strategic initiatives led to a number of conversations that we were having with the sector around the value proposition of that.

In turn, our conversations with our colleagues at Finance and of course our conversations with the minister from a timing standpoint — given where we were at and the need relative for additional supports around COVID impacts — really put the institutions in a good place to be accepting of a strategy around this. It is very welcome as you are well aware. It ties into what we've been working with the sector on, and again in collaboration and in partnership with them in developing a performance framework where we can collectively be identifying strategies and initiatives to continue to drive a positive narrative on the return on investment in post-secondary education to the province.

And so in establishing that, it tied in well with the multi-year funding opportunity, and we obviously established an MOU with each institution in respect to deliverables, which they have . . . are in the process now of gathering that input and that feedback. The process then will be reporting twice a year on those outcomes and initiatives to the ministry. We'll continue to work, you know, with our sector in assessing the impacts of those.

So you know, the conversations, you know, for our team today go back to 2017 when I arrived, and I'm sure preceded me as well, because I know that the sector has very much had an interest in a multi-year approach for quite some time.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — I would mention that — now of course I've been in this chair not very long but — my understanding is this has sort of been an interest of the sector for quite some time. You know, they're large, complicated institutions with a lot of moving parts and, you know, to be able to have sort of that runway available to them is something that was very much an interest to them. You know, like I said with all the things that's normally going on and certainly in this environment, it was something that was certainly welcome, but I don't think, you know, it just started from the sector. It's probably been there for quite some time.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. And, Mr. McLoughlin, I have just a few follow-up questions. When you're speaking about a performance framework, can you elaborate on that a bit? Like, what does that look like? And you're talking about as well reporting twice per year on outcomes, and can you let me know a bit more about that?

Mr. McLoughlin: — Yes, certainly. So as you're aware, our ministry works with our sector around five sector expectations. Those are accessibility, responsiveness, sustainability, accountability, and quality. And so in working with our sector to establish strategic priorities that they may have relative to working within the confines of those expectations, those sector expectations along with the ministry around the assessment, allows us to be able to move forward collectively together to establish what we're calling the performance framework. So the institutions would identify strategic initiatives with us together that would fit into those sector expectations, and then we would assess those throughout the course of the academic year with a reporting twice a year on the outcomes of what they've established.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. Yes, thank you. Now just . . . Sorry, bear with me one moment. I just have the MOU here, and I had a few specific questions, but I'm going to have to just locate them. Just one sec.

So I see here that in terms of the institutions meeting their obligations under the MOU, there's a stipulation that the institution will generally limit domestic tuition increases for credentialed programs — for example, degrees, diplomas, certificates — to a maximum of 4 per cent institution-wide average in each academic year with exemptions which will be confirmed annually as follows: the first is tuition for international students; the second, domestic tuition that falls below the peer-comparator median; and the third is any other required exemptions confirmed among the parties.

So I have some questions around that. Like, the first one, I suppose, would be . . . So there's really no obligation of the institutions to limit the tuition increases for international students under these MOUs. Is that correct?

Mr. McLoughlin: — That's correct.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. Because I know I recently saw in the news

pretty astronomical increases for, you know, at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] for new international Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] students. And so I guess, you know, you talked a lot about international students. We all know that the institutions rely on the tuition, the revenue from international tuition, in order to remain sustainable. There's a lot of reliance on that.

And so I guess my question then is, how do you expect with, you know, no limitations on the tuition increases for international students and what we're now seeing happening with the increase I just mentioned, how do you expect that . . . I suppose especially now in an environment, in a climate where we're seeing that, you know, so much of this can be done remotely in terms of post-secondary education. I mean, we always had that opportunity to an extent with, I mean, a lot of institutions, but it's just becoming more and more prevalent. And so I suppose my question is, how do you expect the institutions to remain competitive in attracting international students, given what I've just mentioned?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So I would say, Mr. Chair and committee members, that first of all the ministry doesn't set the tuition rates. That is up to each institution to decide what is reasonable and fair. And of course they have to watch that, you know, if they get extremely out of line compared to other comparators, you know, that might affect the market or those interested to come to Saskatchewan.

I will note that if you take a look at other international tuition rates around Canada, I think there's certainly room there when you compare. You mentioned the U of S compared to other similar institutions across the country. So it is market-based, those tuitions. They're obviously different than domestic tuition. They're roughly three times the rate.

I will note that my understanding is the U of S, for new grad students the enrolment is going up a fair amount. Those currently in will get a bursary back, and so it's not quite of a . . . So those students that are currently here won't see those large increases. They will be rebated back a bursary, so it's not, you know, such a burden to those folks that are already here taking those courses. So again it's a market-based thing and certainly the ministry doesn't set those tuitions. But the institutions, I think, they look at what the other institutions are doing in coming up with that, is my understanding.

Ms. Bowes: — Yes, I understand that the ministry doesn't set those rates. But you did negotiate an MOU with the institutions that essentially left out international students in capping those increases. And I guess I'm wondering what your rationale was there.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So what's in that is, up to this point we haven't seen any sort of deterrent of international students. My understanding is the quality of the programming and the experience is more important than the tuition side over the last three years. My understanding is that number of students has increased by 57 per cent. And as I think I mentioned before, I think Saskatchewan institutions are still on the low end of what's charged when compared to universities across Canada, so there's that.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. And then I guess the third bullet point there that I referred to in the MOU says, any other required exemptions confirmed among the parties. And my question would be, have there been any other exemptions confirmed to date?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — No, there's been no requests for exemptions.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. And so have . . . I just don't know this. Have all the institutions signed on the MOU now?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Yes, they have. Yes.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. All right, thanks. I think the only other comment I really have around that is, as I mentioned, while the multi-year funding is welcomed and I'm sure very much appreciated, I know, by the institutions, I think the increases . . . My understanding is that they still don't really provide for making up for the cost of inflation, increases in staffing costs. So I don't have a question directly tied to that. I guess I would just say that I think that's an important component of funding by your ministry, which unfortunately we still need to see some improvement in.

[14:45]

I have another question about capital allocation. I see that this is down, and I'm wondering why that is. And were any significant capital requests rejected?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So thanks for your patience on that. Just to your previous comment, I guess what I'd say to that is, you know, \$60 million of an increase is certainly, you know, not nothing. It's quite a commitment to the sector for a province our size.

In terms of the capital side, I'd mentioned the mezzanine project is still going under way and is being funded in this budget. The two projects . . . and the reason there's a decrease, it was just fall-off and those projects have ended. And one was replacing of a roof at the U of R [University of Regina] and the other was upgrades to Griffiths Stadium at the U of S — new lights, a new field. And so those projects have come to an end, is the reason for the fall-off. Those were part of the government's \$2 billion stimulus that we put forward in the last budget.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thank you. I'm sorry if I missed this in your opening comments, but I see scholarships, that the dollars are up, and I'm just wondering if the dollars are allocated to one or more specific programs. And again, sorry if I missed that in your remarks there.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So thanks for the question. The government's going to invest \$10.6 million in scholarships in '21-22. A large part of that is the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship. Of course as you know, in the last election we campaigned to increase the annual scholarship from 500 to 750. We've also seen increased utilization. So that's \$7.1 million for that, an increase of 3.6.

We also have in this budget an increase to the Mitacs scholarship. The Scholarship of Honour for veterans continues. We don't have any budget increase for that but that continues. The

Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship, which has a requirement for each institution to match those funds. And then just recently announced the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship as well. So those are some of the main ones.

Some of them had an increase — Sask Advantage Scholarship and Mitacs — and the other ones are holding steady. And of course the graduate retention program, and that is through the Ministry of Finance. So in total, \$102 million in direct support to students this year.

Ms. Bowes: — Thanks. And what was that increase to Mitacs?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — The increase is 150,000. It went from \$400,000 to \$550,000. Mark, maybe you can talk a little bit about that. It's a program. It's been around for a while. It essentially is internships for students. And it matches business with some federal funding, you know, to try and solve problems for our industries out there. So it's a good program — leverages, like I said, private sector and federal funding. But, Mark, I don't know if you had any more comments on that.

Mr. McLoughlin: — Yes. The leveragability is anywhere between four to five times the investment. And so Mitacs does a good job in bringing industry together and providing additional supports for students.

Ms. Bowes: — Thanks. I'm going to move on a bit here. I don't know if either of you had a chance to see, but Alex Usher had a piece that he published just a couple days ago, I think on Wednesday. And it's titled "Two sets of provincial budgets," and it's taking a look at the variation in funding across provinces over one-year, kind of, periods of time, and then five-year. And so there's a graph in that piece, and it shows the real change in funding to institutions over both one- and five-year periods by province, 2021 to 2022.

So I look at Saskatchewan here and, although we can obviously see the increase reflected for the one-year period of time, we see that over five years it looks to be nearly a 5 per cent decrease. And so in terms of funding, I'd like to know if the ministry is concerned about the impact the five-year funding decline has had on these institutions in our province, and in terms of costs being borne by students through increases to tuition.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — I hadn't seen what the blog was about. I'd missed that. I had seen a few posts from that individual in the past. But I would note, operating funds to our two universities are up by 44 per cent over our time in government; 685 million in capital projects over that time as well.

[15:00]

I would note we . . . Per-pupil funding from the taxpayers through the government is the second highest per pupil in the country, just behind New Brunswick. The percentage of operating dollars received by the province in our two universities ranks very high. So as a percentage of total operating revenue, the province at the U of S supplies 59 per cent at USask, and at the U of R it is 49 per cent, and that ranks quite high.

And then you asked about tuition. So the tuition revenue is relatively low in terms of the total operating costs. At USask it's

25 per cent, and at the University of Regina it's 38 per cent. And when you consider the peer comparators, those are also very low. So in terms of the taxpayer-tuition split, I think Saskatchewan institutions rank very favourably compared to the rest of the country.

Ms. Bowes: — My next question is related to some information from Stats Canada from September 2020. So it's a little old, but they have some charts. The first one is showing a percentage increase in average tuition fees for Canadian full-time students by province and level of study, 2020-2021. And we look at the undergraduate annual change for Saskatchewan which was a 5.7 per cent increase. And so I guess my question is: with no substantial increases to operating grants or expansion of student supports, is the ministry concerned that these increases make access to post-secondary education less accessible?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So I'm not sure if our information matches in terms of Stats Canada, the 5.7 per cent tuition increase. I will note last year, '20-21, there was no increase in tuition. It was zero per cent across the board except for there was a situation that we had with the Western College of Vet Medicine. There was an increase there because there was a decrease of seats bought by the province of Alberta. There was 25 seats available and the decision was made to allow those to be filled by . . . They were essentially unsubsidized seats, which raised the tuition quite a bit. So I think a lot of that was in those unsubsidized seats at Western College of Vet Med.

And so, you know, the other thing I would say is you asked about what the effect that may or may not have in enrolment. I think Western College of Vet Med explains a lot of that. Enrolment has increased. It has increased every year and in my understanding, even in the middle of the pandemic, training for the fall, there's a fairly strong enrolment uptake. And so that doesn't appear to be the case in terms of any increases having a detrimental effect at this point. I think in one of the earlier questions I said the universities I think have to watch that and certainly be careful about that.

I'd also note in terms of . . . When you look in Saskatchewan, it's a little different, I think. We are a smaller province and we have, you know, less students on campus. And you know, that might be a . . . I think that's a good thing in terms of the student-teacher ratio that we have. There's not that economies of scale you might be able to see in Ontario and other places with large populations. And as we are relatively small as well, but we have some very high-priced programming as well — you know, law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and those kind of things. They tend to skew up the average tuition in our province.

So that's why I say, you know, I think we have reasonable tuition. I would also point to the graduate retention program, which can greatly decrease the total burden that no other province has in Canada to retain our students here in our province. Twenty thousand dollars if you've taken a four-year degree is certainly . . . put a large dent in those tuitions.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thank you. Actually just to clarify, I wasn't asking about enrolment. I was asking if these increases make access to post-secondary education less accessible. So I mean, just to elaborate a little bit, the riding I represent is Saskatoon University, so U of S is in the riding. So of course I talk to a lot

of students and especially during the last campaign.

And what I hear often from many students is that, you know, they're working two, three jobs just to try and have enough to eat while they're paying their tuition. So I mean, I hear consistently about a lack of affordability. And I mean, there's some people who just can't even get to that point, right. Like, they can't get to the point where it's even within grasp for them to be attaining a post-secondary education.

The other thing I wanted to note, just from the graph I had referenced, is that that 5.7 per cent increase — according to Stats Canada, their numbers — that's the second highest in Canada, just behind Alberta. Alberta was number one; we're number two. So you know, I hear your comments about the graduate retention program. Yes, I mean there are positives to that program. There's no doubt about it. But the problem is, if people can't afford to enter into post-secondary education to begin with, what does that do for them? I don't know if you have any further comments on that. If not, I can move on.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Yes, I believe I would like to comment. I think, to the committee, I would mention a lot of my previous answers. Definitely there are supports there for students, you know. Also the student aid fund is available for students that are in need for sure, and that is a program we run along with the federal government. And all the supports I talked about earlier, and enrolment, as I mentioned, has increased. It has increased. And so I'm not sure if that fits with the narrative that nobody can attend university. There's tools there that prospective students can take advantage of and use to hopefully . . . You know, that those folks that are able and want to pursue a post-secondary education, there are supports available for them.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. And I guess again to clarify, I'm not saying that no one can afford a post-secondary education. Obviously we know that's not the case. But I'm saying that, you know, with the increases, again as we've seen over the years to tuition, it's steadily rising and rising. It is making it less accessible. And I would argue that largely due to the funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, that has a huge impact on how much or whether or not institutions have to increase those tuition rates.

So I'm going to move on now to my next question, and it's related to the last. It's just a further graph, again from Stats Canada, September 2020. And this graph shows the average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students by province, and now by selected field of study for 2020 to 2021.

So you've got a breakdown by each of the provinces for social and behavioural sciences and legal studies, business management and public administration, physical and life sciences and technologies, and then humanities. And in each of these selected fields of studies, we're in the top, you know, the top four. So we're number three for the first category, number four for the second, number three for the third, and number three for the fourth. So I guess, you know, for almost every category, Saskatchewan's tuition fees are among the highest in the country.

And I'd like to know what work the ministry is undertaking to mitigate costs for students on the front end of their studies. So you spoke about the graduate retention program, but I'd like to

know more about your initiatives to make post-secondary — the cost, you know — reasonable for students on the front end of their studies.

[15:15]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So the upfront grants available to those who qualify for the Student Aid Fund: Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, \$750; the Saskatchewan Student Grant is \$1,000. Those are annual. And then as I mentioned, I think, at the top, we are integrated with the Government of Canada's student loan program, and so the Canada Student Grant is 6,000. And so that's a total of \$7,750 in upfront grants.

On the Government of Canada side there's grants available as well. If you have a disability, \$4,000. If you're a mature student, \$1,600. And if you have children, it's \$3,200. That's what's available.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you. I wanted to know too, is your ministry giving any consideration to expanding direct student supports as a result of the financial impact of the pandemic on student finances?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So supports to students as a result of the pandemic, there's a few things I'd like to note. I had mentioned earlier about the Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship which is annually \$3 million. \$1.5 million of that was redirected to direct student supports as a result of the pandemic in the form of bursaries. This also leveraged institutional help to those students. I don't have an exact number, but I think it leveraged roughly 2,400 bursaries, and a lot of those went to international students.

There was a student loan repayment moratorium for six months. We worked with the Government of Canada, the student loan side, to increase the student loan limits. And as we talk about the federal government, they certainly had some significant programs. Seventy-nine million dollars for the student benefit; 18,530 students took advantage of that, roughly worked out to \$4,200 per student of benefit or help. And my understanding is some of the students were able to also benefit from CERB [Canada emergency response benefit]. I don't have an exact number on that. So those are the programs that were available to students as a result of the pandemic.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. So just if you don't mind, in future, I'm really just asking about the provincial government, not about the federal government. A question then about that 1.5 million to direct student supports: can you let us know, can you let the committee know how quickly those funds were used up? Like how long did that last?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — That money started flowing, I understand, almost immediately in April of 2020.

Ms. Bowes: — Right. And my question was, at what point was that money used up?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Sorry for the delay there. So by late June more than 2,400 bursaries had been provided, totalling approximately 2.2 million, including the repurposed dollars I mentioned and existing dollars and funds raised through the

institutions. By late 2020, several institutions indicated that the SIOS, Sask Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship funding was depleted. Other institutions had a low number of requests for emergency aid and opted to use the funding for different scholarships. So as I think I said before, international students benefited from the available emergency funding, particularly at the universities.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. And so how many total institutions told you that their funding had been depleted at a certain point?

[15:30]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — According to my information here, USask, Sask Poly, Gabriel Dumont, Great Plains, Carlton Trail. And that is the list of those institutions that indicated they had told their students the funding had run out. However some use internal funding for students in unique circumstances.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. So once your ministry determined that the funds were depleted for these institutions, was there any further expansion of direct student supports?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So at that time, I guess we were coming to the end of the school year in the summertime, and it was also at that point where the CERB and the CESB [Canada emergency student benefit] started to kick in from the federal government. So at that point nothing provincially directly as a result of the pandemic.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. And just to return to my original question, the question was, is there any consideration of now expanding direct student supports as a result of the financial impact of the pandemic on student finances, and just direct student supports?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So just what I talked about before, you know, the increase in the Student Aid Fund and the Sask Advantage Scholarship, etc., etc. I could go over those again, but the committee's heard that a couple of times now.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. I mean the reason I'm asking all these questions is that we heard from many students, particularly international students, who had significant issues with paying their bills and keeping food on the table over the last year. So can I then ask what targeted funding was provided directly to students or to universities throughout the pandemic? Like what programs or funding streams? And that would be aside from the 1.5 million that we've discussed.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So what I point to in terms of our government's response is the 1.5. But also you'd mentioned the institutions, the increase of \$30 million this year, \$30 million next year to base operating funding. And the loans and grants that we had canvassed before, those have increased by \$115 million — that aid available to students who need it — and of course that's based on need and income and well generally those two things. That has increased substantially so that the help that's available out there to students in need is certainly available to them through the Student Aid Fund.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. So switching gears a little bit, students are the whole reason for our advanced education sector, and it seems to me that at times we've forgotten their importance.

Their education is the investment we make today to ensure a strong and healthy future economy.

So a couple questions here about student aid, first of all. In this time where students are faced with an inability to find jobs, it appears that in this budget the government needs to be doing more. Yet because of the level of funding, we see tuition increases. And this means that in a COVID economy, students are struggling. What I see in this budget is that government has not increased the budget at all for student aid. And I'd like to know, why is that? It looks to be completely flat to me.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So the 27 million you talked about is what is budgeted, what is the budgeted amount for this year that we think might be the case. If there is an increase in demand, we would come back for supplementary estimates if that was the case. So if, you know, we're at 27 million, we don't tell the next kid in line, "too bad, you're on your own." It's based on utilization, and that's just sort of what we think might happen based on previous years. But again we would come back if there was a need for it based on utilization.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. That's good to hear. So I guess to just touch on that a bit further. Like, I see that scholarship funding, you know, it's increased. It is still though 5 million less than the amount the government actually spent on student scholarships in '18-19, again at a time when students are having trouble finding jobs to pay for their education. So yes, I mean I'm glad to hear that you'll consider if utilization warrants it for student aid. But I guess from what I've been hearing, I expect that will be there.

I want to move on now to talking about training. Some general questions to start. What exactly is the ministry's role in aligning training programs with labour force needs?

[15:45]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So it's a bit of a mixed bag here, I guess I'd say, Mr. Chair. We work closely with the Ministry of ICT [Immigration and Career Training] for the labour market attachment side of things and their training programs and the training that goes along with the labour force needs.

Of course, as you know, we provide operating funding to our institutions, particularly our two universities. So by legislation they're autonomous institutions and they work on that. I know they have an eye to the growth plan as well, though, Mr. Speaker. In the conversations I've had with them, they understand the importance of the growth plan, and you know, having our students having jobs as they come out the other side of it.

And with Sask Poly though, I think there's a bit of a closer connection there, so we approve any new training programs. So the ITC side, you know, they fund the ABE and some of those apprentice training programs. But again, generally speaking, I think Advanced Ed covers the operating funding for our institutions, but more closely work with Sask Poly on some of those things.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. I was wondering, like, what other ministries Advanced Ed would meet with on this front. Like for instance, specifically I'm wondering about if you've done any work with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training and

also Health.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So yes, for sure the ministry works with other ministries as well. In my previous answer, I talked about Immigration and Career Training, TED [Trade and Export Development], as well as the Health ministry.

So you know, I would mention for a little more background there on health human resource planning, there's the Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network, which is post-secondary stakeholders along with the folks in Health — they look for facilitating inter-system planning, direction, and accountability — and the advisory council steering committees on health human resource priorities. There's the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Dean's forum.

You know, we also collaborate on the health sciences education seats. We talked about that in my opening comments, about the work that's done to understand where the labour market needs may be. For example, the registered psych nurses in the new hospital in North Battleford. There's a brokerage agreement between North West regional college and Sask Poly, and we were able to increase the number of seats in that area because of that collaboration.

So to answer your question, yes, we do collaborate with other ministries for their expertise on what's happening in the labour market.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. So my next question was going to be, is this formalized in any way? But you're saying through the health HR [human resources] planning and then health sciences training seats, that would be sort of like the formalized approach for Health for instance?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Could you repeat that? There's a formalized approach, sorry?

Ms. Bowes: — Yes, like the work with different ministries. My question was going to be, is it formalized in any way? And I mean, you spoke a bit to the Health, like with the health HR planning and also the health sciences training seats. Is there anything additional just that you hadn't mentioned about formalized relationships with other ministries?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So on the formal side, my understanding is we work with ICT on the training sector planning committee. And that includes Advanced Ed, ICT, Sask Poly, regional colleges, and DTI. You know, I think a lot of that work on ICT is with industry more so.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay, thanks. And then next question was, how does the ministry track vacancies in the public sector, for example with Health and Crowns? And how does that inform funding decisions?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Yes, so on the Health side it's that Health human resource planning, those tables that I talk about, Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network, the advisory council, steering committee on health human resource priorities, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, dean's forum. And so that's how we kind of keep plugged in to the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority]. And then on the Crown side there's no formal

situation where that is tracked.

Ms. Bowes: — I want to ask some now specific questions about training related to the health care sector. Obviously we all know there's been a lot of strain, especially over this past year, on our health care workers. And I think it's shown some of the gaps, especially in certain classifications.

And just one I had a few questions about was medical laboratory technicians. My understanding . . . I actually represented MLTs [medical laboratory technologist] prior to being elected, and what we saw is a lot of issues with recruitment and retention. And also we can see that since 2014 at least, year over year the number of MLTs is going down.

So my questions are: what exactly has Advanced Education's response been to this trend? And are there any plans to expand training seats? And is there any work on this front with the Ministry of Health?

[16:00]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So in terms of medical lab technologists, we doubled the seats from 20 to 40 in 2019. And that sort of works, you know, in connection with the Ministry of Health, SHA. And you know, we monitor where the needs are and where we can possibly try to expand. And we were able to do that with medical laboratory technology that was identified as a need.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. And so no plans to expand seats further beyond what's been done in 2019, then?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So we just, as I mentioned, recently increased those seats, those numbers of students annually by 20. We'll wait and see how that goes and, you know, see if that's an appropriate amount. I think we've shown, our government's shown as I can point to also an increase for the combined laboratory and X-ray technologist program and that was also increased by 20 recently. And so that's another increase based on what we're hearing from those tables I talked about with that.

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. Thank you. I just want to move on now to continuing care aids. It was another classification I used to represent before elected. And we of course have heard the Premier and the minister indicate the promise for CCAs [continuing care aid] for this fiscal year had to be deferred because there isn't an adequate labour supply. So a couple of questions there: what conversations have you had with the Ministry of Health on this issue? And are there any planned adjustments to training seats for this year for CCAs?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So right now across the sector, there is capacity for 519 training seats, 333 full-time and 160 part-time. My understanding, there's currently 183, however, enrolled. You can be employed but work towards a degree part-time online however. And so I think that's the reason that they're able to . . . Sask Poly and the regionals are able to train more than seats available is my understanding.

So we are, you know, the post-secondary institutions are increasing training capacity. You know, as I mentioned, there's the ongoing monitoring and assessment of training needs in the

province through the training sector planning tables, Advanced Ed, ICT, Sask Poly, the regionals, DTI, and through the multi-year business planning submissions. So you know, the enrolments have continued to trend upward and, you know, that work continually happens but work is under way, is my understanding, to increase the number of CCAs, not only in the seats but also in getting more people interested in the health care sector that that work continues. And so, yes, that work is ongoing and under way.

[16:15]

Ms. Bowes: — Okay. So in December the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion announced 23.2 million in funding for Colleges and Institutes Canada to develop and implement an accelerated online program to train approximately 4,000 new personal support worker interns.

The questions I have attached to that are, what is the ministry's position on this program? Secondly, is the ministry looking at how this could be bridged to training through our institutions? And lastly, is the ministry concerned this might be a quick fix to a problem that has existed for a long time and might undermine efforts to train, recruit, and retain enough CCAs to meet the demand?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So this federal funding, 23.2 million you mentioned, didn't flow through Advanced Education at all. It went through we think ICT. And my understanding is Sask Poly is working on some programming that might help with the parameters of this federal program, as I mentioned. So you know, they're working on that, is my understanding, but they'll need approval from ICT before those funds would flow to them.

I just want to clarify, 23 million didn't come to Saskatchewan. That was the entire program right across the country, okay. I didn't want to mislead the committee that ICT received 23. No, we got our portion. That was the whole country. Sorry.

Ms. Bowes: — I'm sorry. What was that proportion again? You said, I know, but I just missed that there. What's the proportion here again?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — We'd have to get that from ICT. We don't know exactly. Normally I think it's fair to say it's roughly based on population, you know, with Saskatchewan being 3 per cent, but I don't have an exact figure on that. Sorry. That's, as I said, flowed through another ministry.

Ms. Bowes: — I'm running out of time here and I'm not going to get to nearly all my questions, as is often the case. But I'm just going to skip around quickly because I do want to get to this one. I'll probably come back later to . . . So the one I do have, and I know you and I have had a letter back and forth on midwifery in Saskatchewan. And so I think in your reply . . . I don't have it in front of me, your letter, but you had indicated I believe that if there was a proposal put forward, it would be considered. And, Minister, I know this was before your time in this role, but Mr. McLoughlin, I'm wondering if you can comment here.

My understanding in speaking to the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan — just a little background information that they

provided me — was that in 2014, through the Faculty of Nursing, the U of R had put forward a proposal for a midwifery education program. And then in 2015 this proposal was refused. And so I'd like to know what the rationale for that refusal was, and if you can give me a bit more detail as to why that was not something that the ministry was willing to support.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — So again, not being in this file in 2014, but I guess I'd say just in general, you know, you look at the cost of a program versus the labour market out there and, you know, some of the upfront cost of a faculty and space to train, etc., etc.

So my understanding is, there are 20 funded positions in the SHA and there's been an increase and there's been increases over time, you know. But again the high cost I think is why it wasn't moved forward versus the amount of spots. In my understanding, there isn't a private sector part of midwifery in Saskatchewan, at this point anyways. So you know, like I think I said in my letter, it has to be viable and based on the cost, you know.

Well I don't want to speak too much on behalf of the health side, but again they certainly increased the number of seats available. But those two things have to be in line in order for us to put public dollars towards a dedicated college of midwifery.

Ms. Bowes: — Thanks for that. I mean, my understanding is that, you know, a lot of the infrastructure is already there for instance under the Faculty of Nursing at the U of R. So you know, I understand what you're saying about the cost, but as I've sort of mentioned to you in letters and otherwise, the cost savings to the health care system — I know that is not your ministry — are substantial. And so if you look at that over the long term, I think it is a really prudent investment. And I guess I would ask you to take another look at that. I don't need any other responses from you today, but I really would encourage you to.

Like I've said before, it's a program that is extremely popular with women across our province. The wait-lists are astronomical, you know, to the point where I've got women who are telling me, like, they find out they're pregnant and before they even tell their spouse, they're trying to get on the list. And there's no availability. So the demand is there. The cost savings, from anything I've read, very much appear to be there. So I just ask you, Minister, to take a look at that again.

I'm running extremely low. I have two minutes. So what does that give me? One more question maybe? Okay. So I'll try and choose wisely here.

Okay. So again still related to health care, we believe that your government would benefit from meaningful consultation with critical players in the health sector. And a health human resource strategic council could assist in the planning and forecasting of labour force needs for health. This would involve consultation between ministries, with SHA and the learning facilities, together with the health care unions.

So I know you've, you know, been approached on this before, but so far this suggestion has been rejected. And I'd like to know, why does the government continue to refuse this much-needed assistance when we see the challenges in our health care system, and especially during this pandemic but really over the last 10 years, we've been seeing huge issues with understaffing?

And I can tell you, Minister, that when I represented health care workers for several years, the most common complaint I got from health care workers . . . And this was across the board; this wasn't one or two classifications. This was consistent across not just classifications but also locations in the province whether we're talking urban or rural. And the number one concern was understaffing and not being able to keep up and honestly, huge concerns with mental health and burnout, just straight burnout.

And so I guess, you know, this has been offered to your government. And I would like to know, why wouldn't the government take different groups up on these offers? I know we've called for it as the opposition. I know, you know, the health care unions have been calling for it, and perhaps others. So interested to hear your response.

[16:30]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Well I think I've mentioned before in our examination here, that does take place. I'm not sure if it's in the exact format you would like to see, but again those health human resource tables do exist, and we work closely with the institutions, the Ministry of Health, obviously the SHA, and some other ministries as well. So I think that work does take place, and I think the result has been fairly strong.

You know, I'd point to the increase in the seats at the College of Medicine. We did early in our government, you know, double the number of seats on the medical side at the College of Medicine and a big increase in funding corresponding to that. Occupational therapy has increased 166 per cent; respiratory therapists, 33 per cent increase. I don't know what some of these are exactly. Diagnostic magnetic . . . [inaudible] . . . doubled the number of seats; we've talked about the CLXT [combined laboratory and X-ray technologist] program, doubled the number of seats; medical lab technologists, doubled those seats; the undergrad medical and the postgrad medical as well.

So we've worked hard in that area on the education side. I'd note also the 10 seats in this budget, as well we hope to pass here, to increase those folks to help supply that labour market here in our province. We've seen some success. Certainly more to do in the future, and that work will continue with the successes we've had. So I think that's our record, and we'll continue in this direction, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, Ms. Bowes. Having reached our agreed-upon time for consideration of these estimates today, we will now vote off the estimates, lending and investing activities estimates, and supplementary estimates no. 2 for the Ministry of Advanced Education. Just before we do that, before we begin the voting process, Minister, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Well I'd like to thank the committee for being here and the good questions from the committee, and thank the officials for the hard work they've done in this past year. And as well our institutions and our students for making the best of a tough situation. So thanks, everyone.

The Chair: — Ms. Bowes.

Ms. Bowes: — Thanks. I'd like to also again thank you, Minister,

for your time. It was nice to meet you and nice to be able to have a conversation with you. And thank you to the officials as well. Thanks for the staff that coordinate this time together for us in committee here and to the other committee members as well. I appreciate learning more about this role. Of course I'm new to the critic role, and so this has been quite instructive. And thank you for your time.

The Chair: — Well thanks very much, Ms. Bowes. And thank you, Minister, and Mr. McLoughlin, and your officials. Much appreciated.

We will now turn our attention to the 2021-22 estimates under vote 37, Advanced Education. Central management and services, subvote (AE01) in the amount of \$16,570,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Post-secondary education, subvote (AE02) in the amount of \$678,542,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Student supports, subvote (AE03) in the amount of \$39,840,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$138,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for informational purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

So Advanced Education, vote 37 — \$734,952,000. 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, '22, the following sums for Advanced Education in the amount of \$734,952,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

General Revenue Fund Lending and Investing Activities Advanced Education Vote 169

The Chair: — All right. We'll now turn our attention to vote 169, Advanced Education. It's on page 156. Loans to student aid fund, subvote (AE01) in the amount of \$80,000,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Advanced Education, vote 169 — \$80,000,000. I now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2022, the following sums for Advanced Education in the amount of \$80,000,000.

Mr. Domotor. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — No. 2
Advanced Education
Vote 37**

The Chair: — All right, we'll now turn our attention to the 2020-21 supplementary estimates no. 2, vote 37, Advanced Education located on page 11. Post-secondary education, subvote (AE02) in the amount of \$1,800,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Advanced Education, vote 37 — \$1,800,000. 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, 2021, the following sums for Advanced Education in the amount of \$1,800,000.

Ms. Ross. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, colleagues. We will now move to proceed to vote off the rest of the committee resolutions for the '21-22 estimates and the 2020-21 supplementary estimates no. 2. Minister, you and your official are free to leave if you wish. But you can stay. I'm just reading my note. Again, thank you. Have a good weekend. Thank you.

**General Revenue Fund
Education
Vote 5**

The Chair: — 2021-22 estimates, vote 5, Education, page 39. Central management and services, subvote (ED01) in the amount of \$13,765,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. K to 12 education, subvote (ED03) in the amount of 2,108,692,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Teachers' pensions and benefits, subvote (ED04) in the amount of 23,591,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Early years, subvote (ED08) in the amount of 100,754,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Provincial library and literacy, subvote (ED15) in the amount of \$14,437,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$389,000. Non-appropriated expense adjustments are non-cash adjustments presented for information purposes only. No amount is to be voted.

Education, vote no. 5 — 2,261,239,000. 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, 2022, the following sums for Education in the amount of \$2,261,239,000.

Mr. Meyers. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Health
Vote 32**

The Chair: — All right. We'll be turning our attention to vote 32, Health, page 71. Central management and services, subvote (HE01) in the amount of \$10,183,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Saskatchewan Health Services, subvote (HE03) in the amount of 4,358,019,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Provincial health services and support, subvote (HE04) in the amount of \$263,370,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Medical services and medical education programs, subvote (HE06) in the amount of 1,059,252,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Drug plan and extended benefits, subvote (HE08) in the amount of \$434,189,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$129,000. Health, vote 32 — \$6,125,013,000. 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, 2022, the following sums for Health in the amount of \$6,125,013,000.

Mr. Nerlien. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. That's a lot of money.

**General Revenue Fund
Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Vote 20**

The Chair: — Now I'll turn our attention to vote 20 in Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. Central management and services, subvote (LR01) in the amount of \$5,171,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Occupational health and safety, subvote (LR02) in the amount of 10,060,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Employment standards, subvote (LR03) in the amount of \$3,171,000, is that agreed?

[16:45]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Labour relations, subvote (LR04) in the amount of \$1 million, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Labour relations and mediation, subvote (LR05) in the amount of \$745,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Workers' Advocate, subvote (LR06) in the amount of \$1,063,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$92,000.

Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, vote 20 — \$21,210,000. 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, 2022, the following sums for Labour Relations and Workplace Safety in the amount of \$21,210,000.

Mr. Fiaz. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Social Services
Vote 36**

The Chair: — All right. We'll turn our attention to vote 36,

Social Services, page 117. Central management and services, subvote (SS01) in the amount of 55,877,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Income assistance services, subvote (SS03) in the amount of \$618,775,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Client support, subvote (SS05) in the amount of \$12,952,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Child and family services, subvote (SS04) in the amount of \$353,756,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Housing, subvote (SS12) in the amount of \$12,701,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Disability programs and services, subvote (SS14) in the amount of \$283,182,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Non-appropriated expense adjustment in the amount of \$8,047,000.

Social Services, vote 36 — \$1,337,243,000. 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, 2022, the following sums for Social Services in the amount of \$1,337,243,000.

Mr. Domotor. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — No. 2
Education
Vote 5**

The Chair: — All right. Now we'll move to the supplementary estimates no. 2, 2020-2021, vote 5, Education. It's on page 11. Teachers' pension and benefits, subvote (ED04) in the amount of \$222,000. There is no vote as this is statutory.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — No. 2
Health
Vote 32**

The Chair: — Vote 32, Health, page 12. Saskatchewan health services, subvote (HE03) in the amount of \$178,264,000, is that

agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Medical services and medical education programs, subvote (HE06) in the amount of \$1,284,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Health, vote 32 — 179,548,000. 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, 2021, the following sums for Health in the amount of \$179,548,000.

Ms. Ross. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. All right, committee members you have before you a draft of the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services. We require a member to move the following motion:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Mr. Nerlien: — So moved.

The Chair: — Mr. Nerlien. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Well, colleagues, that concludes our business for this afternoon. I'd like to thank Ms. Bowes for her questioning this afternoon, and all colleagues for your participation.

I would ask that a member move a motion of adjournment. Mr. Meyers has moved. All agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. This committee stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.

[The committee adjourned at 16:53.]