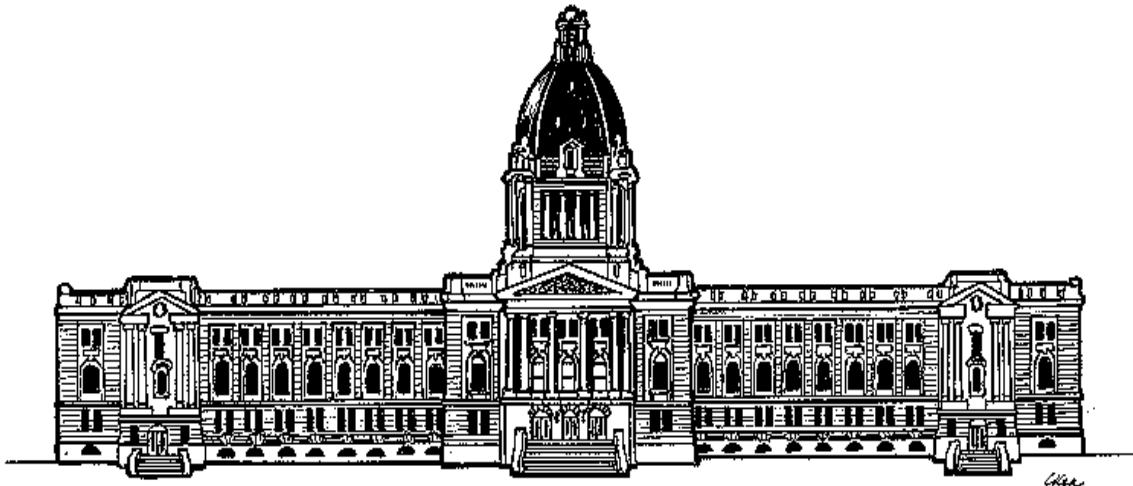




# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

**Hansard Verbatim Report**

**No. 1 – December 18, 2007**



**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

**Twenty-sixth Legislature**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE  
2007**

Mr. Delbert Kirsch, Chair  
Batoche

Ms. Deb Higgins, Deputy Chair  
Moose Jaw Wakamow

Mr. Fred Bradshaw  
Carrot River Valley

Mr. Greg Brkich  
Arm River-Watrous

Mr. Michael Chisholm  
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Ms. Joceline Schriemer  
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon  
Regina Rosemont

[The committee met at 09:10.]

**Ms. Woods:** — Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'll call the meeting of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to order. The first order of business this morning is the election of a Chair, so I will invite anyone to move a motion to nominate the member for that position. Ms. Higgins.

**Ms. Higgins:** — I would like to move a motion:

That Delbert Kirsch be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Ms. Woods:** — Thank you. Are there any further nominations? No. The question before the committee therefore is:

That Delbert Kirsch be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Are there any questions? No? I will then put the question. All those in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Ms. Woods:** — All those opposed? No? The motion is carried, and I'll invite Mr. Kirsch to take the Chair.

**The Chair:** — We will now call for nominations for Deputy Chair of this committee. Mr. Brkich.

**Mr. Brkich:** — I make a motion:

That Debra Higgins, the member from Wakamow, be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**The Chair:** — It is moved:

That Deb Higgins be elected to preside as Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Our next order of business is to establish a steering committee. Mr. Brkich.

**Mr. Brkich:** — I move a motion:

That a steering committee be appointed to establish an agenda and priority of business for subsequent meetings and that the membership be comprised of the Chair and Deputy Chair; and further

That the steering committee shall meet time to time as directed by the committee or at the call of the Chair, that the presence of all members of the steering committee is

necessary to constitute a meeting, and that the substitutions from the membership of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be permitted on the steering committee.

**The Chair:** — Will we take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Agreed. All those in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Opposed? Motion carried.

Okay. Would someone move the authorization of broadcast of committee proceedings. Mr. Brkich.

**Mr. Brkich:** —

That pursuant to rule 133(2) that the committee authorize the broadcast of its public proceedings.

**The Chair:** — Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
First Nations and Métis Relations  
Vote 25**

**Subvotes (FN02) and (FN03)**

**The Chair:** — Now in consideration of supplementary estimates for the following, and the first one is First Nations and Métis Relations, vote 25. This is on page 15 of the Supplementary Estimate book, top of the page, First Nations and Métis Relations.

I would like to welcome the minister and if she would introduce her staff.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much. And I'd like to welcome my assistant deputy minister, Ron Crowe.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much, Madam Minister. The question for the Assembly is policy coordination and support for Aboriginal organizations (FN02) in the amount of 750,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Gaming agreements (FN03) in the amount of 12,473,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for First Nations and Métis Relations, 13,223,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[Vote 25 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
Northern Affairs  
Vote 75**

**Subvote (NA04)**

**The Chair:** — Now we go to Northern Affairs, vote 25. Madam Minister, the same department.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Yes.

**The Chair:** — Okay so we have the same officials? Thank you. Then we go to page 18, top of the page. Northern Affairs, vote 75, regional operations and financial program (NA04), the sum of 4,500,000. Agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Northern Affairs, 4,500,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[Vote 75 agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — We would thank the minister and her officials for their attendance, and we would ask the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General to come forward please.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
Justice and Attorney General  
Vote 3**

**Subvotes (JU03), (JU07), (JU04), (JU08), and (JU11)**

**The Chair:** — Good morning, Mr. Minister, and we'd ask you to introduce your officials.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Good morning, Mr. Chair. I would like to introduce the deputy minister, Mr. Doug Moen. We have nothing that we're going to make by way of introductory remarks. We understand that the committee had indicated there

was not going to be questions, but we are here in any event.

**The Chair:** — Under Justice and Attorney General vote 3, we've got courts and civil justice (JU03), court services for 469,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — And then we've got marketplace regulations (JU07) for 150,000. We've got legal and policy services . . . oh the question. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Legal and policy services (JU04) for the amount of 593,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Boards and commissions (JU08) at 800,000, is that agreed? No . . . 500,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Courts capital (JU11) at 800,000, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — We would invite the member to move the following motion:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sums for Justice and Attorney General, 2,512,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

[Vote 3 agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — I would like to thank the minister and the officials for their time.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
Municipal Affairs  
Vote 30**

**Subvote (MA08)**

**The Chair:** — And we'll move on to Municipal Affairs. Good morning, Mr. Minister, and we'd ask you to introduce your officials.

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Sir, Mr. Terry Lang, deputy minister for Municipal Affairs.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. We'd go now to page 17, Municipal Relations (MA08) for the amount of 206,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. And we'd ask to move the motion that: Is that agreed?

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Municipal Affairs, 2,600,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Two hundred and six thousand. Sorry. You liked the other number better — 206,000. And it is agreed and carried.

[Vote 30 agreed to.]

**An Hon. Member:** — We get a raise before we get any money.

**The Chair:** — Yes. Big spender. We'd like to thank the minister and his staff for coming.

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport  
Vote 27**

**Subvotes (TC03), (TC11), (TC07), and (TC08)**

**The Chair:** — And we'd ask the next minister to come forward. Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, vote 27. Good morning, Madam Minister. Thank you for being here and if you'd introduce your officials please.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Certainly. This is Van Isman. He's the deputy minister.

**The Chair:** — Thank you. Okay under Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, vote 27, we have Culture (TC03) for the amount of 9,800,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Under building committees (TC11), we have 789,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Under heritage (TC07), we have 2,900,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Under Saskatchewan Communications Network (TC08), we have 500,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Now someone move the motion:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, 13,989,000.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. We'd like to thank the minister for being here.

[Vote 27 agreed to.]

**General Revenue Fund  
Supplementary Estimates — December  
Office of the Provincial Secretary  
Vote 80**

**Subvote (OP01)**

**The Chair:** — Next we have the Office of the Provincial Secretary. We'll just wait a moment until the officials come in.

Good morning, Mr. Minister. And I would ask you to introduce your staff, please.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I want to express my congratulations to you in assuming the chairmanship of this committee. It's an important committee, and we're glad to be here to make a presentation this morning.

And as I look around the room . . . I was at another committee earlier this morning. There wasn't a face there that had ever served on a committee previously. It was all newcomers. But we have one newcomer here, and a lot of . . . two newcomers, three. I should have looked around earlier.

You know, we've had a serious and significant change in the complexion of the House, and obviously the committees reflect that, and I'd like to welcome members to this committee. This is an important process. I don't know if you've heard that from anybody previously, but I think the committee's work is an essential and unique effort on behalf of this legislature for the good of the people of the province. So it's a privilege to be here this morning.

I'd like to introduce Mr. Rick Mantey on my right. He is the deputy minister associated with the Provincial Secretary's office, and I welcome him here today as well.

It's my privilege to be here today on behalf of the Office of the Provincial Secretary to review supplemental estimates for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Mr. Chair, the Office of the Provincial Secretary has a forecasted overexpenditure from budget of \$200,000 that is a direct result of our agreement to temporarily host the national coordination function of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

Since 2001, the Francophonie national function has been funded through bilateral federal-provincial agreements with post-provincial governments for two-year terms. Manitoba was the first hosting province for 2001 to 2004. And following that, New Brunswick took on the role for the period 2004 to 2007. When the national coordination position became vacant in the year 2006, the successful candidate happened to be from

Saskatoon, and the logical choice for the next hosting province was Saskatchewan.

At that time, in May 2007, the department, known then as Government Relations, requested authority for two temporary full-time equivalents and to overspend by \$200,000 in the fiscal year 2007-2008, and asked for incremental funding of \$282,000 in 2008-2009 in order to fulfill this request over the 2007 to 2009 fiscal years.

It's important to note that these expenditures will be fully reimbursed through an agreement with the province of New Brunswick which is presently acting as the signatory government for the shared funding agreement with the Government of Canada. The function being undertaken by the individual from Saskatoon reports directly to the executive committee of the officials network for the MCCF [Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie] — that's the acronym for the Francophonie — for its activities and to the hosting government, in this instance the director of the Office of French-language Co-ordination, the OFLC, for financial expenditures and on-site supervision.

I would be pleased to respond to questions if there are any. And if I can't provide adequate answers, I'm sure our deputy minister can.

**The Chair:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Under the Office of Provincial Secretary, vote 80, Provincial Secretary (OP01), the amount of 200,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I would ask somebody to move that:

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008, the following sum for Office of the Provincial Secretary, 200,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Would like to thank the minister and his officials for being here.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Vote 80 agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — The last order of business is the consideration of first report. Copies have been distributed. Any questions?

**Mr. Brkich:** — I move a motion:

That the draft first report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

**The Chair:** — Okay. The question is:

That the draft first report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be adopted and

presented to the Assembly.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

**Mr. Brkich:** — I now move a motion that we adjourn for the day.

**The Chair:** — The motion on the floor is that we adjourn. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The committee adjourned at 09:30.]