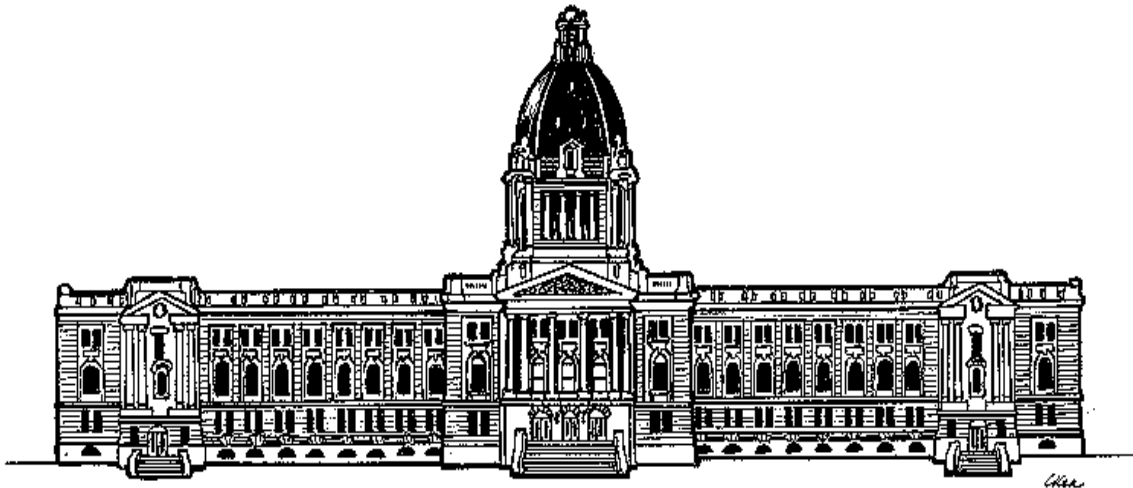




STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

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Ms. Deb Higgins, Deputy Chair
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Arm River-Watrous

Mr. Michael Chisholm
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Ms. Joceline Schriemer
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon
Regina Rosemont

[The committee met at 19:30.]

Bill No. 37 — The Parks Amendment Act, 2008

Clause 1

The Chair: — Ladies and gentlemen, being it now the appointed time we will conclude, hopefully, Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Parks Act. If the minister wishes to introduce her officials and any opening remarks.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left I have Deputy Minister Van Isman, and to his left is Jim Nick. To my right is Sharon Wood. And the description of their actual job functions probably could be read off the record from last night if that's at all possible because I don't have their job descriptions with me today. So anyway they're the officials that are learned in this particular area with respect to the parks and the proposed amendments before us here tonight. Thank you.

The Chair: — Thank you. If there are no more comments, we would ask who's going to start the questions there? Mr. Nilson. The Chair recognizes Mr. Nilson.

Mr. Nilson: — Okay. Well good evening, and good to see you again. Maybe we'll have another visit tomorrow night — we'll see — although I'm sure that the minister's not real anxious about that.

Well when we were in committee last night looking at the Bill, there were a few questions that arose. And I knew that we would be able to get some answers about them if you had some time, and so we appreciate getting some of the information just a little earlier this evening. I think the best way to deal with this is to go to those specific areas. And I'll just ask you the questions, and then you can provide us with the information so we have it on the record, and it won't take very long.

I'm not sure who will provide the answer, but we had a question about Crooked Lake Provincial Park, which is just not too far from Regina. And there was a particular part of that park that included the townsite of Greenspot and some land that was between the highway and the lake, and there's some lots that are being removed from the Crooked Lake Provincial Park land description. And could you explain who actually owns this land there in the townsite of Greenspot and what we're doing with this particular part of the Bill, which is paragraph (6) ?

Mr. Nick: — Okay. Jim Nick. The area adjacent to Greenspot subdivision is owned by the RM [rural municipality] of Grayson, and the description of the park has been defined better so that that sliver of land is — which is not actually parkland — is removed from the description.

Mr. Nilson: — So the actual lots that are in this little townsite along the lake are in the RM of Grayson as a . . . I guess not necessarily a village but an unincorporated surveyed area, and inadvertently The Parks Act had included a description which took in some of this property which shouldn't have been there. So that's the answer for that?

Mr. Nick: — That's correct.

Mr. Nilson: — Okay. Well that appears to be a good explanation, so let's move on to the next one. This is up at Makwa Lake Provincial Park, and I think the question there related to a point of land which was just south of the highway, west of the town of Makwa. And one of the questions was: given that it was a peninsula into the lake, what was the reason for excluding this part from the description of the park?

Mr. Nick: — It's a small tip of that little peninsula and it's in conflict with the Indian Reserve No. 129 and also with respect to square water issues in that, that was explained last night. There's some difficulty in actually removing the conflict by describing that small sliver of land and we've decided that it would be best to remove the interest to that peninsula as it's being treated mainly as the Indian reserve.

Mr. Nilson: — So at the present time this actually is in the park but it's not accessible except through the First Nation.

Mr. Nick: — Correct.

Mr. Nilson: — And so the net effect here is to treat it as if it was part of the First Nation and not have to deal with the boundary issues in that area.

Mr. Nick: — That's correct. But with square water it's difficult to actually know where that piece of land is because of the . . . As I mentioned last night, the virtual shoreline is what is causing a lot of difficulty as well.

Mr. Nilson: — But the net effect is that the First Nation who . . . and the people that live there think this is part of their land and have used it for a long time and this is just correcting that. Would that be an accurate way to put it?

Mr. Nick: — I would agree with that.

Mr. Nilson: — But this is in actual fact a removal of a piece of land that's not very well, or not easily described . . .

Mr. Nick: — That's correct.

Mr. Nilson: — From the description of the park. And I guess from the map it appears it's actually on the other side of the lake from the main part of the park. And so it's kind of like Point Roberts is to White Rock and Tsawwassen off BC [British Columbia]. It's a little piece that belongs to the United States even though it should belong to Canada.

Okay. I think that's a good explanation of that particular one, but the clear point here is that it's actually land that arguably could be in the park but for many practical purposes and basically being a good neighbour, let's fix it so that the First Nation has it.

Mr. Nick: — Correct.

Mr. Nilson: — So then we go to the Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park, which is just north of Saskatoon on the North Saskatchewan River. And the simple question there that we had last night was, through the increased area to the park, how much land was actually being added to the park as it related to the

water's edge, and do you have an answer for that?

Mr. Nick: — It measures out to 20.94 hectares. That takes in both sides of the river.

Mr. Nilson: — Okay. So that's an extra 20, almost 21, hectares of parkland in that area. So we give a little one place, we add a little bit the next place. So that's all right.

The next questions we had related to Lac La Ronge Provincial Park. And the first one related to islands within the park and if any of these were places that were being sold or taken out. And perhaps you can describe it. I know if the public's trying to follow through on the Bills, it's all numbers and so it's quite hard actually to figure out if they went to The Parks Act, page 10. So perhaps you could explain that subparagraph (7) there on the top of page 10 and tell us exactly what's happening by all those numbers.

Mr. Nick: — I'd just like to indicate first that there's no land at all being removed from this park and that there are no islands being sold — that with this amendment there are five parcels referenced in the amendments that involve changes to the legal descriptions of land already excluded from the park and none of these parcels include an entire island.

All five changes are the results of ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] plan amendments. Specifically with clause (a) of the description of Lac La Ronge in paragraph (xxxii)(A), we're striking out the reference to lease 300022. And this is a private holding that was private prior to the park being designated in 1986 in The Parks Act — this portion of the park. And it has been sold and ISC has renamed that parcel with respect to that sale and it became parcel 'A' on plan no. 101851871. And this change is captured later in this amendment under paragraph (xxii)(B) where it references parcel 'A'.

Mr. Nilson: — That would be (xxxii)(B), I think it is.

Mr. Nick: — Okay, I'm reading it from the amendment pages, of course, of The Parks Act. Oh sorry, (xxxii)(B), you're right.

And then in (xxxii)(a)(ii), we're striking out the reference to 300491. There's a little history along this in that prior to 1986 there were several private holdings that were supposedly not to be included in the park, and we've listed several of them, but this was missed in the description. And so in 1989 there was an amendment that actually removed this parcel, and so under the current legislation it is excluded.

Originally in '86 it was owned by — this parcel, 300491 and an adjacent parcel, 300490 — were owned by the Keighley family and they had been sold jointly over the years as a joint unit. And then in 2005, the Hunter Bay Lodge purchased these lands and ISC then merged the two numbers under the single number of 300490, and that remains in the description for exclusion.

In the Wadin Bay area — this is going down to paragraph, section (xxxii)(C) — we are adding three plan numbers and those three plan numbers are a re-subdivision of the excluded Wadin Bay subdivision. So they are not in the park. They remain outside the park and we are confirming that they are

outside the park by identifying these plan numbers.

Mr. Nilson: — Okay. Well that appears to be clear to us. I'm not sure it's clear to everybody who might be watching what we're doing, but the net effect then is after looking at it carefully, it is fixing the descriptions of Lac La Ronge Provincial Park as it relates to portions of land, whether it's on the main shoreline or on one of the islands. So that when they're being dealt with in the future, there's no question which pieces are in the park and which pieces are outside the park.

And I guess the best hope that we have here tonight is that we've caught all of them, but I would suspect that given a few more years, we'll find a few more that have some anomalies, although fewer and fewer as we have the overall digital map of the province. So I think that answers all of the questions that we had last night, and I appreciate the research and work in getting that information.

One of the conclusions that I came to tonight, and it may be that — for the Chair — that one of the things that would be actually quite helpful as we move forward, given that now the department as it relates to parks, I know other . . . Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment, we have much better digital maps of the whole province. And that it may be that we actually develop as a practice in the legislature that the Bills would have attached to them digital maps of the paragraphs. Because then what would happen is none of us would have to scramble around looking and trying to figure out these things, because just as everybody's preparing the changes, they would just be attached as an appendix or as an explanatory note to the Bill. And therefore we'd end up figuring out what problems there might be much sooner.

So I think that that answers the questions that we have and this is I know a lot of hard work to deal with all these different pieces, and so we appreciate all the work that's been done. And so I want to say thank you and thank you to the committee.

The Chair: — Thank you. If there are no other questions, I guess we are prepared to vote off the Bill then. So Bill No. 37, by the short title, clause 1, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 9 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Parks Act.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — May I have a motion to report the Bill without amendment?

Mr. Bradshaw: — I so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Mr. Brkich: — I will make a motion that the committee now adjourn.

The Chair: — We have that motion. Are there any other comments before we go? If not, thank you, one and all. Good night. And see you in the Chamber tomorrow. This committee now stands adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 19:45.]